

# 2 Corinthians 8:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you.

## Analysis

---

**For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you**—Paul explains that Titus edexato tēn paraklēsin (ἐδέξατο τὴν παράκλησιν, 'received/welcome the appeal') but exceeded expectations. The adversative alla ('but') introduces surprising information: spoudaioteros hyparchōn (σπουδαιότερος ὑπάρχων, 'being more earnest/zealous'), Titus acted authairetos (αὐθαίρετος, 'of his own accord/voluntary'). The same word described Macedonian giving in v. 3—spontaneous, uncoerced initiative motivated by love.

Paul's description elevates Titus: he's not a reluctant delegate but an enthusiastic volunteer. The phrase exēlthen pros hymas ('he went out to you') indicates Titus had already departed for Corinth when Paul wrote this letter. Paul simultaneously commends Titus and prepares Corinth to receive him warmly. By highlighting Titus's voluntary zeal, Paul removes any impression of coercion—Titus goes because he wants to, having caught Paul's vision for Christian unity expressed through the collection. This models kingdom leadership: authority exercised through persuasion, delegation empowering rather than controlling, leaders motivated by love rather than power.

## Historical Context

---

Titus's voluntary mission to Corinth demonstrated the relational bonds that held the early church together across vast distances. Without denominational

structures or institutional authority, churches depended on personal relationships and shared gospel conviction. Titus's willingness to travel hundreds of miles to complete a financial collection showed the depth of Christian commitment in an era when travel was dangerous, expensive, and slow.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

---

1. What ministry opportunities have you accepted not just willingly but enthusiastically?
2. How does Titus's 'of his own accord' service challenge hired professionalism in ministry?
3. When has God called you to go beyond requested duty to voluntary, zealous service?

## Interlinear Text

---

ὅτι	τὴν	μὲν	παράκλησιν	ἐδέξατο	σπουδαιότερος	δὲ
<b>For</b>	G3588	<b>indeed</b>	<b>the exhortation</b>	<b>he accepted</b>	G4705	<b>but</b>
G3754		G3303	G3874	G1209		G1161

ὑπάρχων	αὐθαίρετος	ἐξῆλθεν	πρὸς	ὑμᾶς
<b>being</b>	<b>of his own accord</b>	<b>he went</b>	<b>unto</b>	<b>you</b>
G5225	G830	G1831	G4314	G5209

## Additional Cross-References

---

**2 Corinthians 8:6** (Parallel theme): Inasmuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

**Hebrews 13:22** (Parallel theme): And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.

**2 Corinthians 8:10** (Parallel theme): And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)