

2 Corinthians 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

Analysis

Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also—The Macedonian example prompted Paul to request that Titus complete (epitelesē, ἐπιτελέσῃ, 'bring to completion/finish') in Corinth what he had started. The verb suggests bringing to mature fruition, not mere conclusion. The phrase tēn charin tautēn ('this grace') again designates giving as charis—a gift of God's enabling power, not human achievement. Paul tactfully reminds the Corinthians they had previously begun this 'grace' but hadn't finished.

Titus appears as Paul's trusted delegate, a pattern seen throughout 2 Corinthians (2:13, 7:6-16, 12:18). The apostle wisely avoids handling money himself (8:20-21), instead commissioning tested leaders. The phrase kathōs proenērxato ('as he had begun before') indicates Titus had previously initiated the collection in Corinth, likely during the 'severe letter' visit (2 Corinthians 2:3-4). Now Paul wants completion, using Macedonian generosity to inspire Corinthian follow-through without resorting to command.

Historical Context

Titus served as Paul's troubleshooter in Corinth, successfully resolving prior conflicts (2 Corinthians 7:5-16). His diplomatic skills and pastoral wisdom made him ideal for the sensitive task of collecting funds from a congregation that had questioned Paul's motives and authority. The collection had apparently stalled

during the church conflict; Paul now seeks to revive it through positive example rather than apostolic coercion.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What spiritual 'graces' have you begun but not completed?
2. How can accountability relationships (like Paul-Titus-Corinth) help finish what God starts?
3. Why is it important that giving be 'finished' and not just occasionally attempted?

Interlinear Text

εἰς	τὸ	παρακαλέσαι	ἡμᾶς	τίτον	ἵνα	καθὼς
Insomuch	G3588	desired	that we	Titus	that	as
G1519		G3870	G2248	G5103	G2443	G2531
προενηρξάτο	οὕτως	καὶ	ἐπιτελέσῃ	εἰς	ὑμᾶς	καὶ τὴν
he had begun	so	also	finish	Insomuch	you	also
G4278	G3779	G2532	G2005	G1519	G5209	G2532
χάριν	ταύτην					
grace	G3778					
G5485						

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 12:18 (Parallel theme): I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?

2 Corinthians 8:4 (Parallel theme): Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

2 Corinthians 8:19 (Grace): And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind:

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