

2 Thessalonians 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Analysis

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure—Paul boasts (enkauchaometha, ἐγκαυχώμεθα) about them to other congregations. Their hypomonē (ὑπομονή, endurance/patience) and pistis (πίστις, faith) shine through **all your persecutions** (diōgmois, διωγμοῖς, active pursuit by enemies) **and tribulations** (thlipsesin, θλίψεσιν, crushing pressures).

The present tense **ye endure** (anecheste, ἀνέχεσθε) indicates ongoing suffering, not past trials. Faith isn't theoretical belief but active trust in God amid real danger. Paul elevates their example to encourage other churches—suffering believers are the church's crown jewels, not its failures.

Historical Context

The Roman Empire tolerated many religions but demanded ultimate allegiance to Caesar. Christians' refusal to participate in emperor worship, civic festivals, and trade guild ceremonies marked them as subversive. Economic boycotts, social ostracism, and mob violence were common consequences.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does your faith hold up under pressure compared to when circumstances are comfortable?
2. What would Paul boast about regarding your church if he visited today?
3. Are you willing to endure social and economic loss for Christ, or only mild inconvenience?

Interlinear Text

ἄστε ἡμᾶς αὐτοὺς ἐν ὑμῖν καυχᾶσθαι ἐν ταῖς
So that we ourselves in you glory in G3588
G5620 G2248 G846 G1722 G5213 G2744 G1722

ἐκκλησίαις τοῦ θεοῦ ὑπὲρ τῆς ὑπομονῆς ὑμῶν καὶ
the churches of God for patience your and G3588
G1577 G3588 G2316 G5228 G5281 G5216 G2532

πίστεως ἐν πᾶσιν τοῖς διωγμοῖς ὑμῶν καὶ ταῖς
faith in all G3588 persecutions your and G3588
G4102 G1722 G3956 G1375 G5216 G2532

θλίψεσιν αἵς ἀνέχεσθε
tribulations that ye endure
G2347 G3739 G430

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 10:36 (References God): For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

1 Thessalonians 2:14 (References God): For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (Parallel theme): For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

2 Corinthians 7:14 (Parallel theme): For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 (Faith): Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

Revelation 14:12 (Faith): Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 7:17 (References God): But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.