

2 Thessalonians 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work.

Analysis

Comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work—Paul prays for two results: **comfort your hearts** (parakalesai hymas tas kardias, παρακαλέσαι ὑμᾶς τὰς καρδίας, encourage your inner person) and **establish you** (stērixai, στηρίξαι, fix firmly, establish). The sphere: **every good word and work** (panti ergō kai logō agathō, παντὶ ἔργῳ καὶ λόγῳ ἀγαθῷ).

Stability isn't passive but manifests in active righteousness—both speech (**word**) and conduct (**work**). God's comfort energizes obedience rather than producing passivity. Eschatological hope doesn't lead to escapism but ethical transformation. Those confident of glorification work most diligently now.

Historical Context

Some Thessalonians stopped working, claiming Christ's return was imminent (3:6-12). Paul counters: hope in Christ's coming should stabilize you in productive labor, not excuse idleness. True eschatological faith produces present faithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How has God comforted your heart recently, and did it lead to increased obedience?
2. What 'good work' has doubt or fear prevented you from attempting?
3. How does confidence in future glory free you for present sacrifice?

Interlinear Text

παρακαλέσαι ὑμῶν τὰς καρδίας καὶ στηρίξαι ὑμᾶς ἐν
Comfort your G3588 hearts and establish you in
G3870 G5216 G2588 G2532 G4741 G5209 G1722

παντὶ λόγῳ καὶ ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ
every word and work good
G3956 G3056 G2532 G2041 G18

Additional Cross-References

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (Parallel theme): But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (Parallel theme): To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 3:2 (Parallel theme): And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

Colossians 2:7 (Parallel theme): Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Romans 15:13 (Parallel theme): Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 1:8 (Parallel theme): Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 1:24 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Hebrews 13:9 (Good): Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Isaiah 66:13 (Parallel theme): As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 57:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

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