

2 Thessalonians 3:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

Analysis

And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you—we have confidence in the Lord (pepoithamen en Kyriō, πεποίθαμεν ἐν Κυρίῳ)—trust anchored in Christ, not human ability. **Touching you** (eph' hymas, ἐφ' ὑμᾶς, concerning you): **that ye both do and will do** (poieite kai poiēsete, ποιεῖτε καὶ ποιήσετε, present and future obedience).

Paul expresses confidence they're currently obeying **the things which we command** (ha parangellomen, ἡ παραγγέλλομεν, authoritative orders) and will continue. This isn't flattery but faith in God's work in them. The upcoming sharp rebuke (vv. 6-15) about idleness is addressed to a minority; Paul trusts the majority will respond rightly.

Historical Context

Pastoral ministry requires balancing encouragement and correction. Paul affirms the faithful majority before confronting the disobedient minority. This prevents corporate discouragement while addressing specific sin. Modern church discipline should follow this pattern.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does confidence 'in the Lord' regarding others differ from naive optimism about human nature?
2. What commands of Scripture are you currently obeying and committed to continuing?
3. How can you encourage fellow believers' obedience while still addressing sin?

Interlinear Text

πεποίθαμεν	δὲ	ἐν	κυρίῳ	ἐφ'	ὑμᾶς	ὅτι	ἃ
we have confidence	And	in	the Lord	touching	you	that	the things which
G3982	G1161	G1722	G2962	G1909	G5209	G3754	G3739

παραγγέλλομεν	ὑμῖν, καὶ	ποιήσετε	καὶ	ποιήσετε
we command	you and	do	and	do
G3853	G5213 G2532	G4160	G2532	G4160

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 4:10 (Parallel theme): And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

Philippians 1:6 (Parallel theme): Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

2 Corinthians 2:3 (Parallel theme): And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all.

Philippians 2:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Philemon 1:21 (Parallel theme): Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

2 Thessalonians 3:12 (References Lord): Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (References Lord): Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.