

# 2 Timothy 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

## Analysis

**Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.** Though humans abandoned Paul, God remained faithful. "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me" (ho de kyrios moi parestē, ὁ δὲ κύριος μοι παρέστη). Paristēmi (παρίστημι) means stand beside, stand with—same verb describing humans who didn't stand with Paul (v. 16). While people failed, the Lord stood faithfully. This recalls God's promises to never leave nor forsake (Hebrews 13:5).

"And strengthened me" (kai enedynamōsen me, καὶ ἐνεδυνάμωσέν με)—endynamoō (ἐνδυναμώω) means empower, make strong, invigorate. God supplied supernatural strength enabling Paul to testify boldly despite opposition. The purpose: "that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear" (hina di' emou to kērygma plērophorēthē kai akousōsin panta ta ethnē, ἵνα δι' ἐμοῦ τὸ κήρυγμα πληροφορηθῇ καὶ ἀκούσωσιν πάντα τὰ ἔθνη). Paul's trial became platform for gospel proclamation before Roman officials representing nations. God used persecution to advance witness.

"And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion" (kai errysthēn ek stomatos leontos, καὶ ἐρρύσθην ἐκ στόματος λέοντος). Ryomai (ρύομαι) means rescue, deliver. "Mouth of the lion" likely metaphorical for imminent death or Satan (1

Peter 5:8), though some suggest literal deliverance from arena execution. Paul was delivered from immediate execution at preliminary hearing, though he knows final execution approaches (v. 6). God's timing is sovereign—He delivered Paul temporarily to fulfill further purposes, but ultimate deliverance awaited through martyrdom into glory.

## Historical Context

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Roman trials were public spectacles where defendants could address officials and onlookers. Paul used his trial as evangelistic opportunity, proclaiming gospel before Gentile authorities who otherwise wouldn't hear. His boldness despite abandonment and chains demonstrated gospel power. Similar pattern occurred throughout Acts: arrests and trials became witnessing opportunities (Acts 24-26). Early Christians saw persecution not as defeat but as providence—God strategically using opposition to spread truth. The "lion's mouth" imagery recalled Daniel's deliverance (Daniel 6), Psalm 22:21, and biblical metaphors for deadly danger. Paul experienced similar supernatural rescue.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. When people abandon you, do you recognize and rely on the Lord's faithful presence and strengthening?
2. How can you view opposition, persecution, or trials as opportunities for gospel witness rather than mere suffering to endure?

3. In what areas do you need to trust God's sovereign timing—delivering sometimes, allowing suffering other times, always accomplishing His purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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ὁ	δὲ	κύριος	μοι	παρέστη	καὶ	ἐνεδυνάμωσέν	
G3588	Notwithstanding	the Lord	with me	stood	and	strengthened	
	G1161	G2962	G3427	G3936	G2532	G1743	
με	ἵνα	δι'	ἐμοῦ	τὸ	κήρυγμα	πληροφορηθῇ	καὶ
me	that	by	me	G3588	the preaching	might be fully known	and
G3165	G2443	G1223	G1700		G2782	G4135	G2532
ἀκούσῃ	πάντα	τὰ	ἔθνη	καὶ	ἐρρύσθην	ἐκ	
might hear	that all	G3588	the Gentiles	and	I was delivered	out of	
G191	G3956		G1484	G2532	G4506	G1537	
στόματος	λέοντος						
the mouth	of the lion						
G4750	G3023						

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Peter 5:8** (Parallel theme): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

**Psalms 22:21** (Parallel theme): Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

**1 Samuel 17:37** (References Lord): David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

**Acts 9:15** (References Lord): But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

**Daniel 6:22** (Parallel theme): My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

**Hebrews 11:33** (Parallel theme): Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

**Psalms 109:31** (Parallel theme): For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul.

**Acts 23:11** (References Lord): And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

**Isaiah 41:14** (References Lord): Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

**Isaiah 41:10** (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.