

Philemon 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Analysis

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen—ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν. ἀμήν (hē charis tou kyriou hēmōn Iēsou Christou meta tou pneumatos hymōn. amēn)—Paul's characteristic benediction. χάρις (charis, grace) is the letter's theological foundation and closing word. The entire Philemon situation requires grace: unmerited favor toward Onesimus (forgiveness), toward Paul (granting his request), toward all (gospel transformation of slavery).

μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν (meta tou pneumatos hymōn, with your spirit)—plural ὑμῶν (hymōn, your) addresses entire house church (v. 2), not just Philemon. πνεῦμα (pneuma, spirit) is human spirit needing divine grace's empowerment. ἀμήν (amēn, truly/so be it) ratifies prayer. Grace's presence with their spirits enables impossible obedience—forgiving runaway slaves, receiving them as brothers, transforming societal structures through gospel.

Historical Context

Ancient letters ended with health wishes or brief farewells. Paul Christianizes closing with grace benediction, appearing in all thirteen epistles. Grace is Christianity's signature—unmerited divine favor demonstrated supremely in Christ (2 Corinthians 8:9), applied personally through Spirit, producing transformed relationships. Philemon epitomizes grace applied: master forgiving slave, social superior receiving inferior as equal, property owner releasing claim because gospel transcends cultural categories.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does grace (unmerited favor) function as your operating principle in difficult relationships and conflicts?
2. In what situations do you need Christ's grace "with your spirit" to enable otherwise impossible forgiveness or obedience?
3. How does Philemon's entire message apply Christ's grace to your current relationships—who is your "Onesimus" requiring grace-filled restoration?

Interlinear Text

Ἐχάρις τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ
G3588 The grace G3588 Lord of our Jesus Christ be with G3588
G5485 G2962 G2257 G2424 G5547 G3326

πνεύματος ὑμῶν ἀμήν.

spirit your Amen
G4151 G5216 G281

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 4:22 (Grace): The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Romans 16:23 (Parallel theme): Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

Romans 16:20 (Grace): And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Galatians 6:18 (Grace): Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

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