

Philippians 1:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

Analysis

That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again (ἵνα τὸ καύχημα ὑμῶν περισσεύῃ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ διὰ τῆς ἐμῆς παρουσίας πάλιν πρὸς ὑμᾶς, hina to kauchēma hymōn perisseuē en Christō Iēsou en emoi dia tēs emēs parousias palin pros hymas)—Kauchēma ("boasting, rejoicing, ground of confidence") can be positive (boasting in the Lord) or negative (fleshly boasting). Here it's positive: the Philippians' joy in Christ will overflow (perisseuē) at Paul's return.

The phrase **in Jesus Christ** (ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, en Christō Iēsou) qualifies the rejoicing—Christ-centered, not man-centered. **For me** (ἐν ἐμοί, en emoi) means "on my account" or "because of me." Paul's release and return would demonstrate God's faithfulness and answer to prayer (1:19), prompting Christ-focused celebration. Parousia ("presence, coming") here refers to Paul's arrival, but the word's eschatological overtones (used of Christ's return) remind readers that all earthly reunions are foretastes of the ultimate reunion.

Historical Context

Ancient letters often expressed hope for reunion. Paul's expected visit would reverse the sorrow of his imprisonment and absence. The Philippians' financial support and prayer for his release (1:19) created anticipation for his return. Reunions after dangerous travels or imprisonments were occasions for celebration and thanksgiving in ancient Mediterranean culture.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you ensure your rejoicing over ministry leaders is 'in Christ Jesus' not personality worship?
2. What answers to prayer in others' lives have caused your joy to 'abound' recently?
3. How do earthly reunions with fellow believers point to the ultimate reunion at Christ's parousia?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα τὸ καύχημα ὑμῶν περισσεύῃ ἐν Χριστῷ
That ^{G3588} **rejoicing** **your** **may be more abundant** **for** **Christ**
G2443 G2745 G5216 G4052 G1722 G5547

Ἰησοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ διὰ τῆς ἐμῆς παρουσίας πάλιν πρὸς
Jesus **for** **me** **by** ^{G3588} **my** **coming** **again** **to**
G2424 G1722 G1698 G1223 G1699 G3952 G3825 G4314

ὑμᾶς
you
G5209

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 1:14 (References Jesus): As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are our's in the day of the Lord Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:12 (Parallel theme): For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

