

Philippians 1:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Analysis

Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me (τὸν αὐτὸν ἀγῶνα ἔχοντες οἷον εἶδετε ἐν ἐμοὶ καὶ νῦν ἀκούετε ἐν ἐμοί, ton auton agōna echontes hoion eidete en emoi kai nyn akouete en emoi)—Agōna ("struggle, contest, conflict") gives us 'agony'—athletic/military struggle. Ton auton ("the same") identifies shared experience between Paul and Philippians. They're fellow-combatants in the same spiritual warfare.

Which ye saw in me (οἷον εἶδετε ἐν ἐμοί, hoion eidete en emoi) recalls Acts 16:19-40—Paul and Silas beaten, imprisoned in Philippi. **Now hear to be in me** (νῦν ἀκούετε ἐν ἐμοί, nyn akouete en emoi) refers to current Roman imprisonment. Witness to Paul's past suffering and reports of present suffering create solidarity. Paul models the costly discipleship he calls them to. Shared suffering creates profound Christian community—the 'fellowship of his sufferings' (3:10).

Historical Context

The Philippian church's founding involved Paul's miraculous jailbreak after beating and imprisonment (Acts 16). They witnessed his suffering firsthand. Now, over a decade later, he suffers again—this time in Rome. The continuity of Paul's suffering throughout his ministry validated his teaching: gospel-proclamation brings opposition. Shared persecution bonded early churches into resilient communities.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'conflict' (agōna) do you share with fellow believers in your context?
2. How does witnessing leaders' faithful suffering strengthen your own perseverance?
3. In what ways does shared suffering create deeper Christian fellowship than shared prosperity?

Interlinear Text

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|-------|----------|----------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| τὸν | αὐτὸν | ἀγῶνα | ἔχοντες | οἷον | ἴδετε | ἐν | ἐμοί | καὶ |
| G3588 | the same | conflict | Having | which | ye saw | in | me | and |
| | G846 | G73 | G2192 | G3634 | G1492 | G1722 | G1698 | G2532 |
| νῦν | ἀκούετε | ἐν | ἐμοί | | | | | |
| now | hear | in | me | | | | | |
| G3568 | G191 | G1722 | G1698 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 2:2 (Parallel theme): But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

2 Timothy 4:7 (Parallel theme): I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Hebrews 12:4 (Parallel theme): Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

John 16:33 (Parallel theme): These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Revelation 12:11 (Parallel theme): And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

1 Timothy 6:12 (Parallel theme): Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

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