

Romans 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

Analysis

For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

Paul explains his motivation for visiting: *epipothēō gar idein humas* (ἐπιποθῶ γὰρ ἰδεῖν ὑμᾶς, 'for I long to see you'). *Epipothēō* (long for/yearn) expresses intense desire, not casual interest. The purpose is *hina ti metadō charisma humin pneumatikon* (ἵνα τι μεταδῶ χάρισμα ὑμῖν πνευματικόν, 'that I may impart to you some spiritual gift'). *Metadō* (impart/share) suggests giving from what one has received. *Charisma pneumatikon* (spiritual gift) is somewhat ambiguous—likely not a miraculous sign gift but apostolic teaching, encouragement, and pastoral care that strengthens faith.

The ultimate goal is *eis to stērichthēnai humas* (εἰς τὸ στηριχθῆναι ὑμᾶς, 'that you may be established'). *Stērichthēnai* (be established/strengthened/confirmed) implies stability, rootedness, and perseverance. Paul's apostolic ministry aimed at building up believers to maturity (Ephesians 4:11-14). Despite Rome being a thriving church, Paul saw room for growth and wanted to contribute to their spiritual stability. This verse balances apostolic authority (Paul has something to give) with humility (he desires mutual encouragement, as v. 12 clarifies).

Historical Context

The early church relied heavily on apostolic teaching and personal discipleship. Without the completed New Testament canon, believers depended on apostolic tradition passed down orally and through letters. Paul's desire to visit churches in person for extended teaching was crucial for doctrinal stability and protection against false teachers. The face-to-face nature of Christian discipleship remains vital despite modern technology.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'spiritual gifts' (χαρίσματα πνευματικά) has God given you to impart to others for their strengthening?
2. How are you being 'established' (στηρίζω) in your faith, and who is God using to stabilize and mature you?
3. In an age of digital connection, how important is physical presence and face-to-face ministry for spiritual growth?

Interlinear Text

ἐπιποθῶ	γὰρ	ἰδεῖν	ὑμᾶς	ἵνα	τι	μεταδῶ	χάρισμα
I long	For	to see	ye	that	some	I may impart	gift
G1971	G1063	G1492	G5209	G2443	G5100	G3330	G5486
ὑμῖν	πνευματικὸν	εἰς	τὸ	στηριχθῆναι	ὑμᾶς		
unto you	spiritual	to the end		may be established	ye		
G5213	G4152	G1519	G3588	G4741	G5209		

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 1:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

Romans 16:25 (Parallel theme): Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

Romans 15:29 (Parallel theme): And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (Parallel theme): But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

Acts 19:6 (Spirit): And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

1 Peter 5:12 (Parallel theme): By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.

1 Peter 5:10 (Parallel theme): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Acts 16:5 (Parallel theme): And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

2 Chronicles 20:20 (Parallel theme): And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

2 Thessalonians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.