

Romans 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Analysis

That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Paul immediately qualifies his statement in verse 11 to avoid appearing condescending: *touto de estin sunparaklēthēnai en humin dia tēs en allēlois pisteōs humōn te kai emou* (τοῦτο δέ ἐστιν συμπαρακληθῆναι ἐν ὑμῖν διὰ τῆς ἐν ἀλλήλοις πίστεως ὑμῶν τε καὶ ἐμοῦ, 'that is, that I may be mutually encouraged together with you through each other's faith, both yours and mine'). The compound verb *sunparaklēthēnai* (to be mutually encouraged/comforted together) emphasizes reciprocity—Paul will give and receive.

Dia tēs en allēlois pisteōs (through each other's faith) shows that genuine faith is visible, shareable, and mutually strengthening. Paul, despite his apostolic authority and profound theology, expected to be encouraged by the faith of believers in Rome. This models Christian humility and the interdependence of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). No believer, regardless of maturity or giftedness, is self-sufficient. We need each other's testimonies, struggles, and growth to spur us on in faith (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Historical Context

Ancient culture was strongly hierarchical—patrons and clients, masters and slaves, elders and youth. Paul's expression of mutual encouragement with those he had

not met was countercultural. In the church, the ground is level at the foot of the cross. While offices and roles differ, all believers share the same faith and are fellow heirs of grace (1 Peter 3:7). This mutual encouragement was vital for persecuted Christians facing marginalization and suffering.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's model of mutual encouragement challenge your tendency toward spiritual self-sufficiency or celebrity culture in the church?
2. From whom has God unexpectedly used to strengthen your faith, and how have you expressed gratitude?
3. What barriers (pride, busyness, theological differences) prevent you from experiencing 'mutual faith' (ἐν ἀλλήλοις πίστις) with other believers?

Interlinear Text

τοῦτο	δέ	ἐστιν	συμπαρακληθῆναι	ἐν	ὑμῖν	διὰ
G5124	That	is	that I may be comforted together	with	you	by
G1161		G2076	G4837	G1722	G5213	G1223

τῆς	ἐν	ἀλλήλοις	πίστεως	ὑμῶν	τε	καὶ	ἐμοῦ
G3588	with	the mutual	faith	of you	both	and	me
G1722		G240	G4102	G5216	G5037	G2532	G1700