

## Encouragement

When looking at current news reports, one can become increasingly despondent and fall into stress, anxiety and depression (SAD). Herman has a series on this on the website. Julie is currently taking the audio from the [springvalleybiblechurch.org](http://springvalleybiblechurch.org) website and formatting it for Facebook and Youtube.

One way of helping other believers stay free of SAD is to encourage them in their faith walk. Paul expresses this in today's lesson from Romans chapter 1.

Paul has a purpose for coming to Rome. That is clearly expressed. Indeed, he goes to unexpected length to express his deep desire and emotion to visit the church at Rome. Jerusalem has been the center of Christian activity. Rome is the center of the empire and political activity. Now Paul has a chance to connect the two.

There are two purpose clauses in our passage. The clauses both begin with the Greek word *hina* plus an indefinite pronoun *tis*. In both verse 11 and again in verse 13, it is translated "so that some." It expresses purpose.

In verse 11, "I long to see you so that...some..."

In verse 13, "I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that...some..."

It is not immediately evident in the English translations that "some" follows immediately after "so that" in the Greek. But that is what the Greek has. It is clear, to me at least, that this was intentional in Paul's mind so that the parallelism would be evident.

Encouragement  
Romans 1:11-13

**Purpose #1:**

**Romans 1:11 For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;**

**I long to.** I desire greatly. The word is a compound from “desire” + “upon.” This is more than just an everyday desire. This is extra desire.

**So that.** Purpose #1.

**Impart.** To share. This is also a compound word from “to give” and “change.” The idea is to share. There is mutual benefit in this sharing. Jesus uses this word when asked “What should we do?” by a Jewish crowd.

**Luke 3:11 And he would answer and say to them, “The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise.”**

This is like cutting an apple in two and sharing with a friend. Except in the spiritual world, sharing can mean you don’t have to cut the apple in two. You both get an apple. And the result might be more and bigger apples. That is a grace operation.

Paul can share spiritual insights. He can do this from his spiritual gift of apostleship. As we will see, the Roman church will be strengthened and encouraged as will Paul.

**Spiritual gift.** Although the words, “spiritual gift” are similar to those used in 1 Corinthians chapter 13, that is not what is meant here. First, the Holy Spirit is the one who imparts spiritual gifts at the point of salvation. Second, the word for impart emphasizes “sharing.” As Robby Dean says,

**Encouragement**  
**Romans 1:11-13**

“Paul is not the one to impart spiritual gifts; it is the Holy Spirit who gives spiritual gifts at the instant of salvation. What Paul is talking about here is to impart to them something from his spiritual gift which will provide edification and spiritual blessing for those in Rome: that there will be the basis on which they will be able to grow. So it should be understood to mean something like, “I long to see you that I may impart to you something from my spiritual gift so that you may be established.” This is the best way to understand the use of this particular term.<sup>1</sup>”

Paul is going to share from his spiritual gift of apostleship and perhaps other gifts and his great insight into Scripture. In a sense, Paul is sharing his insights with us through the book of Romans. We are benefiting from the book of Romans.

**That you may be established.** This indicates a result of the spiritual gift: that they be established, strengthened. Learning who God is and our relationship to Him, we become stabilized in our spiritual lives. Spiritual gifts, whether they are Paul’s or the congregation in Rome or even your spiritual gifts, they are meant for the building up of the church. Your gifts may need Bible information for their proper use. But they are meant to be used, not to be left idle.

**1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.**

**1 Corinthians 12:5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.**

**1 Corinthians 12:6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.**

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/romans-menuitem/message/2010-romans-007b/read>

**1 Corinthians 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

**Common good.** This is a single compound word. It is made up of *sum* (together)+ *phero* (bring) = together bring or better, to bring together. From a usage perspective this means “profit.” The idea is that the spiritual gifts are for common profit or to bring the believer closer to God and closer to the Church. It is for the building up of the Church.

Moving on to encouragement...

**Romans 1:12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other’s faith, both yours and mine.**

**That is.** This is a break in the text to expand on verse 11. It explains a logical sequence of benefits. The way I see these two verses:

**impart spiritual gift → strengthen you → we are all encouraged by our (inclusive) faith**

And this is because our faith is mutually encouraging.

I remember when I first attended Spring Valley Bible Church. I had been looking for a church that taught from the Bible similar to how R. B. Thieme taught. All of a sudden, I found that church. Spring Valley Bible Church. Here were people like me, that believed what I believed. That was hugely encouraging.

**Encouraged.** Greek is *sum* (with) *parakaleo* (exhort, comfort). The word for the Holy Spirit, Paraclete, is derived from this verb. Sometimes Paraclete is translated as The Comforter. Here the basic verb to comfort is combined with the word for with/together. So Paul is saying that Paul and the Roman church can encourage each other in their faith. This

**Encouragement**  
**Romans 1:11-13**

particular word is used only here in the New Testament. The more common word is simply *parakaleo*.

Just as a side note, based upon our study here, we might even call the Holy Spirit, not just the Comforter, but the Encourager.

Now that I am teaching at Spring Valley Bible Church, I derive much encouragement in teaching. I try to teach like Herman taught. I find that kind of teaching helpful to my spiritual growth. So I intend that my teaching will help with our spiritual growth. When I study in order to put together a lesson, I learn many things.

The situation in the world today is not encouraging. It is the Devil's rule that causes so much suffering. But we have the Word and the Holy Spirit. And we have each other's faith that can encourage us.

That is partly my task: to encourage you in your faith. If I were to point to the terrible things happening in the world today without teaching about the tremendous assets we have in Christ, I wouldn't be doing my job. We have walking in faith dependence on the Holy Spirit, we have our spiritual gifts, we have promises and we have prayer which we offer up on behalf of each other. We encourage one another.

We find the more common word, *parakaleo*, used multiple times by Paul in 1 Thessalonians. I am providing extended quotes to provide the context and the reasoning behind Paul's use of this word for encouragement.

**1 Thessalonians 2:10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;**

**1 Thessalonians 2:11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and**

**Encouragement  
Romans 1:11-13**

**imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,**

**1 Thessalonians 2:12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.**

**1 Thessalonians 3:1 Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone,**

**1 Thessalonians 3:2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,**

**1 Thessalonians 3:3 so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive**

**Encouragement  
Romans 1:11-13**

**and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up (or snatched) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**1 Thessalonians 5:10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.**

**Encouragement**  
**Romans 1:11-13**

Notice the other words used alongside: exhorting and encouraging, strengthening and encouraging, comfort one another with these words, encourage one another and build up one another.

This brings me to an illustration of the Christian life and the encouragement needed. This, in part, results from our vision/longing for the future Rapture and eternal life with Jesus Christ. That illustration is the “race” we run in the Christian life.

**Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,**

The writer of Hebrews, likely not Paul, possibly Apollos, had just written about the faith heroes in chapter 11 (the faith Hall of Fame). For those heroes which have extended narratives in the Old Testament, you will read of their failures as well as their successes. Just because someone failed doesn't mean they are done in the Christian life. We learn from our failures. We leave our failures behind, looking forward to blessings waiting for us while we walk by faith. Those heroes are now witnesses as to what is possible in the faith-life. In addition, we are in the Angelic Conflict and there is a multitude of angelic beings, both good and fallen that are watching God's plan unfold in our individual lives. We are being watched, all the time.

**Endurance.** This is a word for patience, *hupomone*.

**The race.** The word for race is the same word from which we get the English word “agony.” Kenneth Wuest, a Greek scholar of the last century said concerning this word, “The natural and correct inference is



**Encouragement**  
**Romans 1:11-13**

that he is thinking of the Greek games here, the spectators in the tiers upon tiers of seats, the athletes competing in the stadium, the latter speaking of the Christian life as a contest and a race, and the former, the saints of chapter eleven.<sup>2</sup>”

**Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

This race is not against human contestants in the spiritual life. God has a race for each one of us to endure. At the end, we win rewards and crowns.

**Purpose #2:**

**Romans 1:13 I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.**

**Unaware.** Ignorant. The word is where we get “agnostic.”

Often I have planned. Yet again, Paul is emphasizing his desire to visit the church at Rome. With his repetition he is manifesting his great emotion.

Have been prevented. The overruling Will of God.

**So that.** Purpose #2

---

<sup>2</sup> Kenneth Samuel Wuest (1966). Word studies in the Greek New Testament.

**Encouragement**  
**Romans 1:11-13**

**May obtain.** This is the verb to “have.” Thieme sometimes likes to translate this as “to have and to hold.” It can mean to possess. We know that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is spiritual fruit. There is an immediate fruit as a result of the filling of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22) There appears to be fruit that “grows” as a result of maturity. As Robby Dean points out, typically, many fruit trees do not produce fruit for many years. It requires maturity. In the spiritual realm, the rapidity with which a believer reaches maturity depends on constant faith dependence on the Holy Spirit. This goes back to my story of the college girl who asked a pastor how she could grow quickly in the Christian life. His answer was “Ask for lots of suffering.” That was not the answer she was expecting. I must also add, that there must be Bible information and promises with which to face this suffering.

Don’t worry. God can provide the suffering but also the means to bear the suffering. There may be great suffering waiting for each of us. Yet, God has provided promises and the filling of the Holy Spirit to weather any storm we may encounter.

**James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren,  
when you encounter various trials,**

**James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your  
faith produces endurance.**

**James 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect  
result, so that you may be perfect and  
complete, lacking in nothing.**

If for some reason you endure great suffering, say losing your job, know that God is not surprised by that event. He already has made adjustments to support you. The point is, you must trust Him. Depend on the actions of the Holy Spirit in your life. Use those promises.

**Encouragement**  
**Romans 1:11-13**

**James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.**

The result of successfully enduring life's suffering is a crown of life. In Paul's time, at the various athletic games, the "crown" was a wreath or garland. As Paul said, the wreath won in athletic games was perishable. The crown of life awarded by God to the believer who perseveres in suffering is imperishable (1 Corinthians 9:25).

**James 4:8a Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.**

Don't be afraid to go boldly before God the Father to ask for specific things.

**Romans 1:14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.**

**Romans 1:15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.**

My desire had been to quickly go through the first four chapters of Romans. However, by taking our time, we encountered some doctrines that are important to know:

Resurrection (more on this on Resurrection Sunday)

Will of God

Encouragement