

{ Day 350 }

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. For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause. **—2 Corinthians 5:12-13, KJV**

Paul was challenging the mentality of some who were looking on outward things and not properly discerning the heart of a certain matter at hand. What could this matter have been? The next verse tells us. Paul reveals that this controversy centered around two different general states of being that he and other believers were experiencing periodically. This first mode he called being “beside ourselves.” The only other time that this Greek word is used in the New Testament is when the people of Nazareth accused Jesus of being mad. We get our English word ecstatic from a Latin word that means “being outside oneself.” Paul seems to be referring to what are classically understood as ecstatic spiritual experiences and phenomena. He was exhorting the Corinthian believers to not stumble over this genuine holy activity that didn’t appear dignified or even always rational. Instead he challenged them to glory—that is, to rejoice greatly—that such visitations were occurring among them and releasing greater passion in their hearts for God. Visible joy upon believers is possibly the best advertisement for the gospel.

{ PRAYER STARTER }

Spirit, reveal Yourself to me through whatever method You choose. Make me willing to be “beside myself” with the joy of Your presence. Release greater power and passion in my heart for Christ, and let others see Your love in my life.

We are to serve the Lord with gladness.