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## Trusting God with Our Finances and Plans

*By Taylor Braswell on April 21, 2021*

**TODAY'S READING:** 1 Corinthians 16

Paul's instructions to collect money from the churches in verse 1 is something we should not overlook. Many Christians had been persecuted during this time and had no money or possessions. The church collected money to take care of their leaders, and each other. Our tithes are not just an act of obedience, but they help advance God's kingdom all over the world! Are you being faithful with what God has given you? Do you know of any believers in need? God has placed you where you are, with your specific resources for a reason.

In verses 5-8, Paul talks about his plans for traveling. If we read too quickly, we may miss the phrase "if the Lord permits" in verse 7. Paul was making plans to continue spreading the gospel wherever he went and acknowledged that God was in control of it all. Like Paul, we should hold onto our plans loosely, being ready to be obedient in whatever situation we find ourselves.

In verse 9, Paul wants to take advantage of an opportunity God has given him even though he knew there would be opposition. Paul knew his life was in danger, but he continued to be obedient in encouraging those around him and pointing people to Christ. In verse 13, Paul commands us to be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, and be strong. "Act like men" was a phrase that encouraged soldiers to act courageously. Brothers and sisters, we all must watch for opportunities to be obedient to what God has called us to do. We can stand firm in our faith and be strong because we trust in the God who is in control of every detail of our lives!

**PRAYER:** God, you alone are sovereign and all powerful! Thank you for giving me the resources and life that I have. Thank you for waking me up today and filling my lungs with air. Show me areas of my life where I am not being obedient to you. Forgive me for holding onto my own plans, wants, and desires so tightly. Give me the strength to stand firm in my faith each day.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** 2 Corinthians 1

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