

## Summary of 1 Corinthians 15-16, 2 Corinthians 1

In chapter 15, Paul brings the letter to its theological climax by centering everything on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He reminds the Corinthians of the gospel he preached, the gospel they received, and the gospel by which they are saved—Christ died for sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day, all in accordance with the Scriptures. The resurrection is not an abstract doctrine or optional belief; it is the foundation of Christian faith. If Christ has not been raised, preaching is empty, faith is futile, sin remains undefeated, and hope collapses. Paul then moves from theology to implication, showing that Christ’s resurrection guarantees the future resurrection of believers and the ultimate defeat of death. Because resurrection is real, Christian labor is not wasted, suffering is not meaningless, and perseverance matters. The chapter closes with a call to steadfastness—to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor in Him is not in vain.

In chapter 16, Paul turns from doctrinal instruction to practical obedience and relational concern. He challenges the church to be prepared for a collection to support God’s people, emphasizing intentionality, generosity, and consistency rather than emotional impulse. Giving is framed as worshipful participation in God’s work, not mere obligation. Paul also shares personal travel plans, commends faithful coworkers, and issues final exhortations to be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act courageously, and do everything in love. The chapter closes with warmth and urgency, reminding the church that sound theology must produce tangible faithfulness and relational commitment.

In 2 Corinthians 1, Paul opens the letter by praising God as the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. From the outset, he reframes suffering not as a contradiction to faith, but as a context in which God’s comfort is most clearly revealed. Paul repeatedly pairs suffering and comfort, emphasizing that the comfort believers receive from God equips them to comfort others in their affliction. This is not theoretical encouragement—it flows out of Paul’s own experience of deep hardship, pressure, and despair.

Paul explains that the intensity of their suffering forced them to abandon self-reliance and depend fully on God, “who raises the dead.” This is the key theological insight of the chapter: suffering exposes the limits of human strength and redirects trust toward divine power. What felt overwhelming was purposeful—it trained their hearts to rely not on themselves, but on God alone. Paul’s reflection sets the tone for the entire letter: authentic Christian leadership is not marked by constant triumph, but by faith-filled endurance, transparent weakness, and confident hope in God’s sustaining grace.

## Reflection Questions

1. In what ways does the resurrection of Jesus move your faith beyond belief into action, perseverance, and endurance when life is difficult?
2. Paul says, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.” What practical differences would exist in your daily life if the resurrection were not true—and what differences should exist because it *is* true?
3. How does Paul’s call in 1 Corinthians 15:58 to be “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” challenge areas where you may have grown weary, distracted, or complacent?
4. In 1 Corinthians 16, Paul connects generosity, planning, and faithfulness. What does your approach to giving reveal about your trust in God and your commitment to His mission?
5. Paul highlights the importance of ordinary faithfulness—collections, travel plans, relationships, encouragement. How do you tend to separate “spiritual” things from everyday responsibilities, and how does Paul challenge that divide?
6. In 2 Corinthians 1, Paul repeatedly emphasizes God as the “God of all comfort.” How have seasons of suffering shaped your understanding of God’s character and presence?
7. Paul says that God comforts us so that we can comfort others. Who has God placed in your life that may need the comfort you’ve received through hardship?
8. Verse 9 says suffering taught Paul “not to rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.” Where in your life is God inviting you to release self-reliance and deepen dependence on Him?