



# The Notes

## Thriving in Exile

### Part 4: “In-By-As-Yet”

**July 28, 2024**  
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*“We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”*

**2 Corinthians 6:3-10 (NKJV)**

Paul is describing the troubles that accompany his mission. He makes the statement that we commend ourselves. This is a way of saying that he remained steady, true and reliable. He is saying that the work that he did in ministry did not suffer or become derailed because of

the difficulties that he experienced as he served Christ's mission.

We live "IN" difficulties, so what is it that keeps them from undoing or overwhelming us?

**THERE ARE RESOURCES WE MUST LIVE  
\_\_\_\_ SO WE ARE NOT OVERWHELMED  
THROUGH THE THINGS WE LIVE \_\_\_\_\_.**

It is "BY" certain guiding and enabling resources that we live well in these difficult circumstances.

The thing to notice here, is that the Holy Spirit, the power of God and armor of righteousness are expected on a list like this. How do you live in times of confusion and limitation? (the stock Christian answer is by the Word and power of the Holy Spirit). That is a true and right answer... but it's not all of the answer.

**MANY TIMES, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS  
PROVIDING \_\_\_\_\_ RATHER  
THAN \_\_\_\_\_.**

What that means is the help for you to not be beat down by the things you are living *in* might be found in a decision to take the path of purity, or seeking knowledge, or choosing to sincerely love.

Notice that none of these are self-protective. They are guiding, giving, forward-moving resources.

Verse 8 contains two transitional statements. Paul is still describing the resources that give you the capacity to live “in” less than ideal circumstances. But in these two statements he shifts from values and resources to the world of perception: how it is that people see you as you live “in” these circumstances, “by” these resources

***“...by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report”***

**2 Corinthians 6:8**

As much as we would like to say that we don't care about the opinions of others, these perceptions (good or bad) do weigh into our souls.

**YOU WILL THRIVE IN DIFFICULTIES BY  
HEAVEN'S RESOURCES AND BE BOTH**

**AND \_\_\_\_\_  
BY \_\_\_\_\_.**

When Paul uses the word “by” in front of honor/dishonor and evil report/good report, he is not suggesting “by means of” or “by the help of” as he has been through the previous section. This “by” is emphasizing being in the middle of something.

Despite the perceptions of people (both good and bad) go forward living by these resources so you would not be crushed by the difficulties.

**The small and important word YET**

The false conclusions of other people do not overcome our true state of being... and they can distract you from tending the true, gentle convictions of the Holy Spirit.

The “yet” in these statements allow us to remain confident in doing and being the best person we are able to be and let that be enough. You don’t have to wear the labels. You don’t have to defend or prove that you are different than who they have concluded you are.

**Your “YET” is the result of God’s faithful work in your life.**

\_\_\_\_\_ FROM THERE, \_\_\_\_\_ FROM  
THERE, \_\_\_\_\_ FROM THERE.