

**September 30**

**Scriptures:** Read 1 Corinthians 16

**Key Verse:** “For they refreshed my spirit and yours; therefore acknowledge such men.”  
(1 Corinthians 16:18)

## **Overview**

There is a difference between being driven and being committed. Commitment springs from conviction, whereas “drivenness” is the product of some sort of neurotic compulsion. One can never be driven and sleep well at night—because driven ness betrays an inner discontent. Commitment, on the other hand, can be fully embraced even while “peace that passes understanding” floods the soul—your work is the out flowing of a deep well within.

But even the content person gets tired once in a while. It could simply be volume of work, distractions of some sort, or occasional overextension. Whatever the reason, sometimes we need to be refreshed.

That’s why I like what Paul says about Stephanus, Fortunatus, and Achaicus—they “refreshed my spirit”. What they did, Paul doesn’t say. Maybe they just sat around and talked with him, not about doctrine, but about smaller things. Maybe they had a great sense of humor and made Paul laugh. Maybe they prayed with him or put on a hearty barbeque and encouraged Paul to eat his fill. Who knows? The point is, they came like a fresh breeze into Paul’s life. They took some of the burden from his shoulders and gave him the opportunity to relax, to “let his hair down”.

“Such men deserve recognition”, declares Paul—and rightly so. Too often in the Lord’s work we make much of spiritual leaders and, in so doing, laid a heavy burden on their shoulders. They’re only human, too, and feel almost obliged to fulfill our expectation of them. They need a few people friends—with whom they can just be who they are, without any ministry agenda. Let’s applaud friends like these! They have a key role in the health of the church. They’re content and refreshing.

## **Prayer**

Lord, help us today to focus our prayer on the challenges given by the apostle for us as Your followers. We desire to be faithful to You and to the support of Your work in these last days. Help us to truly watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave and strong, letting all we do be done in love.