



## PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

<sup>2</sup> Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. <sup>3</sup> I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. <sup>4a</sup> I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have pride in you; <sup>4b</sup> I am filled with **encouragement**. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with **joy**. <sup>5</sup> For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. <sup>6</sup> But God, who **encourages** the downcast, **encouraged** us by the coming of Titus, <sup>7</sup> and not only by his coming but also by the **encouragement** with which he was **encouraged** by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I **rejoiced** still more. <sup>8</sup> For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. <sup>9</sup> As it is, I **rejoice**, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. <sup>10</sup> For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. <sup>11</sup> For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. <sup>12</sup> So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.

<sup>13a</sup> Therefore we are **encouraged**. <sup>13b</sup> And besides our own **encouragement**, we **rejoiced** still more at the **joy** of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. <sup>14</sup> For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. <sup>15</sup> And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. <sup>16</sup> I **rejoice**, because I have complete confidence in you.

*2 Corinthians 7:2-16*

*(ESV, with modifications in blue)*

## SUMMARY

When we sin, God the Holy Spirit brings His correction to us through the Scriptures—sometimes as we read our Bible and sometimes as other believers speak into our lives. We, then, are faced with a choice—we can, in our self-focus, chose to respond with worldly sorrow, which leads to death . . . or we can respond with godly sorrow, which leads to repentance. And repentance, which is to turn from our sin and self-salvation efforts to God Himself, leads to maturity and joy.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where are you prone to respond to God's correction with worldly sorrow? What practical steps will you take to allow God to change you?
2. We can ignore or push back when we are corrected because it threatens our self-esteem. How can knowing that our identity is in Christ - that we are justified and fully accepted by God - change the way we receive correction?
3. Read Proverbs 3:12. How will knowing the truths from this verse change the way we receive correction?
4. How has our lesson on 2 Corinthians 7:2-16 changed your thinking about: **a)** repentance, **b)** maturity in Christ; and **c)** joy?

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