



“Come Further Up, Come Further In”

2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-13

DAVID HINKLE

*"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here.  
This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never  
knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia is  
that it sometimes looked a little like this. Bree-hee-hee!  
Come further up, come further in!"*

*Jewel the Unicorn, The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle, p. 196*

1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 3 We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; 7 by truthful speech, and the power of God with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything. 11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. 12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. 13 In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

8 Thus says the Lord:

“In a time of favor I have answered you;  
in a day of salvation I have helped you;  
I will keep you and give you  
as a covenant to the people,  
to establish the land,  
to apportion the desolate heritages,

Isaiah 49:8 (ESV)

## I. Paul’s First Fatherly Call to the Church

“Don’t Receive God’s Grace in Vain... Now is the Day of Salvation.”

## II. Paul’s Example of the Christian Life

- A. Enduring Suffering (9)
- B. Experiencing Life in the Spirit (8)
- C. Contrasting False Perception with What is True (10)

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,  
7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary  
the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith,  
knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.  
10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in  
Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and  
ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:6-11 (ESV)

## III. Paul’s Second Fatherly Call to the Church

“Open Wide Your Hearts for Us and Each Other.”

*“He shook his mane and sprang forward into a great gallop—a Unicorn’s gallop, which in our world,  
would have carried him out of sight in a few moments. But now a most strange  
thing happened. Everyone else began to run, and they found, to their astonishment,  
that they could keep up with him...The air flew in their face as if they were driving fast in  
a car without a windscreen. The country flew past as if they were seeing it from the  
windows of an express train. Faster and faster they raced, but no one got hot or  
tired or out of breath.”*

*From The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle, pp. 196-97.*

**At Tomball Bible Church, We Share a Call...**

**“Come Further Up! Come Further In!”**

**Learn** to know God. **Live** life together in community. **Lead** others to do the same.