**When Opportunity Knocks …**

1 Corinthians 16:1-24

**1 Corinthians 16:1 (ESV)**Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

**1 Corinthians 16:2 (ESV)**On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

**1 Corinthians 16:3 (ESV)**And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

**1 Corinthians 16:4 (ESV)**If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

**1 Corinthians 16:5 (ESV)**I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia,

**1 Corinthians 16:6 (ESV)**and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go.

**1 Corinthians 16:7 (ESV)**For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.

**1 Corinthians 16:8 (ESV)**But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,

**1 Corinthians 16:9 (ESV)**for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

**1 Corinthians 16:10 (ESV)**When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am.

**1 Corinthians 16:11 (ESV)**So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

**1 Corinthians 16:12 (ESV)**Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

**1 Corinthians 16:13 (ESV)**Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

**1 Corinthians 16:14 (ESV)**Let all that you do be done in love.

**1 Corinthians 16:15 (ESV)**Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints—

**1 Corinthians 16:16 (ESV)**be subject to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer.

**1 Corinthians 16:17 (ESV)**I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence,

**1 Corinthians 16:18 (ESV)**for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people.

**1 Corinthians 16:19 (ESV)**The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 16:20 (ESV)**All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

**1 Corinthians 16:21 (ESV)**I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.

**1 Corinthians 16:22 (ESV)**If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!

**1 Corinthians 16:23 (ESV)**The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

**1 Corinthians 16:24 (ESV)**My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**As we trust and obey the Lord, He provides us with …**

1. **Opportunities to Give to Others**

**1 Corinthians 16:1 (ESV)**Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

**1 Corinthians 16:2 (ESV)**On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

**1 Corinthians 16:3 (ESV)**And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

**1 Corinthians 16:4 (ESV)**If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

1. **Opportunities to Connect Together**

**1 Corinthians 16:5 (ESV)**I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia,

**1 Corinthians 16:6 (ESV)**and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go.

**1 Corinthians 16:7 (ESV)**For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.

1. **Opportunities to Spread the Gospel**

**1 Corinthians 16:8 (ESV)**But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,

**1 Corinthians 16:9 (ESV)**for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

1. **Opportunities to Encourage Each Other**

**1 Corinthians 16:10 (ESV)**When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am.

**1 Corinthians 16:11 (ESV)**So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

**1 Corinthians 16:12 (ESV)**Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

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**1 Corinthians 16:18 (ESV)**for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people.

1. **Opportunities to Remain Strong in Our Faith**

**1 Corinthians 16:13 (ESV)**Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

1. **Opportunities to Demonstrate God’s Love**

**1 Corinthians 16:14 (ESV)**Let all that you do be done in love.

**1 Corinthians 16:22 (ESV)**If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!

**1 Corinthians 16:23 (ESV)**The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

**1 Corinthians 16:24 (ESV)**My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.