

When Service Calls!

June 28, 2026

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:1-9, *New International Version (NIV)*

Supporting Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1;
2 Corinthians 9:12-15; Philemon 1:7; Galatians 2:10

Part 2: "Opposition Is Our Opportunity"

After completing the major teaching portions of his letter, Paul turns his attention by shifting from theology to practical, everyday Christian living. Moreover, as he has done throughout the letter, Paul opens chapter 16 by responding to a concern within the Corinthian church (see 1 Corinthians 7:1,25; 8:1; 12:1). Additionally,

- Paul details instructions for an organized offering to support impoverished believers,
- shares his upcoming travel plans, and
- challenges the church to remain steadfast in faith and do everything rooted in love.

His strategic approach to ministry shows us that planning is not just practical but also spiritual as he embraces the opportunity to do ministry. The Greek word "θύρα" (thyra) for "door" symbolizes an opportunity for ministry (see v. 9).

Beloved, one of the many takeaways from this message is the value of planning with purpose and intention. Paul's moves were intentional, yet he submitted them to the Lord's guidance and direction (see v. 7). Another takeaway is to leave room for God to redirect, refine, and even interrupt our plans. Though life often brings unexpected changes, a heart surrendered to His leading can transform those moments into divine opportunities for growth, obedience, and service.

By aligning our plans with God's will, we can be more effective in our endeavors. Take time to prayerfully plan your days, seeking God's guidance in all your decisions (see vv. 5-9).¹

Content: 1 Corinthians 16:1-9 (NIV)

Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. ³ Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me. ⁵ After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you—for I will be going through Macedonia. ⁶ Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go.

Submits Himself To The Lord's Will

⁷ For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.

Ministry-Oriented

⁸ But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost,

Prepared In Spite Of...

⁹ because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

Mission Statement

To love and serve God through Jesus Christ, our Savior, by the power of the Holy Spirit. To be committed to reshaping the lives of our families, our church, and our communities through *biblical worship, discipleship, and evangelism*.

¹ https://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/16.htm