

Series: Together Toward Maturity

Inductive Bible Study Guide: 1 Corinthians 16



Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Read **1 Corinthians 16** slowly and carefully. In this final chapter, Paul gives practical instructions about generosity, ministry relationships, and faithful Christian living.

Observation Prompts

- What instructions does Paul give about giving?
- What travel plans and ministry opportunities does Paul describe?
- Who does Paul mention by name?
- What commands does Paul give to the church?
- How does Paul close the letter?

Read the passage and note what you see:

What instructions does Paul give about the collection for believers in **verses 1–4**?

What does Paul say about his travel plans and ministry opportunities in **verses 5–9**?

What instructions does Paul give regarding Timothy and Apollos in **verses 10–12**?

What commands does Paul give the church in **verses 13–14**?

What examples of faithful service does Paul highlight in **verses 15–18**?

How does Paul conclude his letter in **verses 19–24**?

Step 2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?

Paul ends his letter with practical instructions that reflect what a healthy church looks like in everyday life. Generosity, partnership in ministry, encouragement of leaders, spiritual alertness, and love are all marks of maturity in Christ.

He also reminds the Corinthians that they belong to a larger family of churches and are called to support one another. His closing words emphasize both **devotion to the Lord** and **affection for the church**.

Questions to Explore:

Why does Paul encourage regular, intentional giving to support other believers?

What does Paul's description of an "open door" for ministry teach us about recognizing opportunities to serve?

Why does Paul encourage the church to support leaders like Timothy and honor servants like the household of Stephanas?

What do Paul's commands in verses 13–14 reveal about the character of a mature Christian community?

Why does Paul end his letter with both a warning and a blessing in verses 22–24?

Word Study Suggestions:

- **Collection (v.1):** a financial offering gathered to support believers in need
- **Open door (v.9):** a God-given opportunity for effective ministry
- **Stand firm (v.13):** remain steady and faithful in belief and practice
- **Be watchful (v.13):** stay spiritually alert and aware of danger or distraction
- **Devoted (v.15):** committed wholeheartedly to serving the church

Step 3: Application – How should I respond?

Paul's closing instructions remind believers that faithfulness is lived out through generosity, courage, service, and love. Mature Christians are not only grounded in truth but actively engaged in building up the body of Christ.

Personal Reflection:

How can I grow in intentional generosity toward the needs of others?

Where might God be opening doors for me to serve right now?

Am I encouraging and supporting those who lead and serve in the church?

What does it look like for me to “stand firm in the faith” in my current season?

How can I make love the defining mark of my relationships within the church?

Summary Truths:

- Generosity is a practical expression of unity in the church.
 - God opens doors for ministry even in the presence of opposition.
 - Faithful leaders should be supported and honored.
 - Spiritual maturity includes watchfulness, courage, and love.
 - Devotion to Christ shapes how believers live and serve together.
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Optional Memory Verse:

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”
— *1 Corinthians 16:13–14 (ESV)*

Prayer Prompt:

“Lord, help me live faithfully in the everyday details of my life. Teach me to be generous, courageous, watchful, and loving as I follow You. Use me to strengthen Your church and serve Your people.”

For Further Study:

- **2 Corinthians 8:1–7** — Generosity as an expression of grace
- **Colossians 4:2–6** — Watchfulness and wisdom in daily living
- **Hebrews 6:10** — God remembers faithful service
- **1 Peter 4:8–11** — Serving one another in love