

7. χαρὰν γὰρ πολλὴν^a ἔσχον^a καὶ παράκλησιν
^b ἐπὶ τῇ ἀγάπῃ^b σου, ὅτι τὰ σπλάγχνα^① τῶν
 ἁγίων ἀναπέπαιτα^c διὰ σοῦ, ἀδελφε.

-1. Apparently the bowels, or inner organs, in Apostolic days at least, symbolized the deeper parts of the inner man where emotion is keenly felt. (Similar expressions are in use today: "My chest tightened...", "My stomach fell...", "My heart fell...") In this case there is a common area of meaning with the word "heart" but this usage is still current and does not fully interpret the Apostle's language completely when we note that in other circumstances he uses the term heart distinctly. Weymouth, and others, equate the two but it seems to deprive force from the word in view. "The very depths of the beings of the saints have been refreshed through you."

(A note on the verb "refresh" is found on verse 20.)

-a..a "For I am in a state of continually having great joy," says Paul. This would seem to be representative of the constative use of the aorist as viewing an action in its entirety. The phrase "I have great joy" sees an existing state as proceeding from that which has gone before and continues beyond the present.

-b..b The locative of sphere is used here in connection with the genitive of source. "I have great joy and fellowship in the sphere of the love which stems from you." In effect Paul basks in the love which stems from Philemon.