

Acts 1:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

Analysis

The appeal to God as 'heart-knower' (Greek 'kardiognostes') acknowledges that leadership selection requires divine insight beyond human perception. This prayer demonstrates the early church's submission to God's sovereignty in decision-making, refusing to trust human wisdom alone for apostolic appointment.

Historical Context

This prayer preceded choosing Matthias to replace Judas, restoring the apostolic twelve. The practice of casting lots (Acts 1:26) was common in Judaism but notably absent in later church decisions after Pentecost, suggesting Spirit guidance replaced external methods.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you seek God's wisdom when making important leadership decisions?

2. What role should prayer play in church governance and appointment of leaders?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	προσευζάμενοι	εἶπον,	Σὺ	κύριε	καρδιογνώστα		
And	they prayed	and said	Thou	Lord	which knowest the hearts		
G2532	G4336	G2036	G4771	G2962	G2589		
πάντων	ἀνάδειξον	ἐκ	τούτων	τῶν	δύο	ἓνα	ὃν
of all	men shew	of	these	G3588	two	whether	G3739
G3956	G322	G1537	G5130		G1417	G1520	
ἐξελέξω							
thou hast chosen							
G1586							

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 16:7 (References Lord): But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Acts 15:8 (Parallel theme): And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

Jeremiah 17:10 (References Lord): I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Revelation 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Acts 6:6 (Prayer): Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

Acts 14:23 (Prayer): And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Romans 8:27 (Parallel theme): And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

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