

Acts 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Analysis

Jesus' command to wait for the Spirit reveals the essential relationship between promise and power in Christian ministry. The Greek 'perimenein' (wait for) suggests active expectation rather than passive delay. This establishes that effective witness requires divine empowerment beyond human ability, a theme central to Acts' narrative of Spirit-empowered mission.

Historical Context

Spoken during the 40 days between resurrection and ascension (circa AD 30), this command kept the disciples in Jerusalem despite persecution risks. The 'promise of the Father' refers to Joel's prophecy and Jesus' earlier teachings about the Comforter.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does waiting on God's timing differ from human impatience in your ministry or calling?
2. What 'promises of the Father' are you actively expecting in your spiritual life?

Interlinear Text

καὶ συναλιζόμενος παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς ἀπὸ
And **being assembled together** **them commanded** **them** **from**
G2532 G4871 G3853 G846 G575

Ἱεροσολύμων μὴ χωρίζεσθαι ἀλλὰ περιμένειν τὴν
Jerusalem **not** **depart** **but** **wait** G3588
G2414 G3361 G5563 G235 G4037

ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρὸς ἣν ἠκούσατέ μου
for the promise G3588 **of the Father** **which** **saith he ye have heard** **of me**
G1860 G3962 G3739 G191 G3450

Additional Cross-References

Luke 24:49 (Covenant): And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

John 14:16 (Parallel theme): And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 15:26 (Parallel theme): But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 7:39 (Parallel theme): (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Acts 2:33 (Covenant): Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

John 20:22 (Parallel theme): And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

Luke 12:12 (Parallel theme): For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

Luke 11:13 (Parallel theme): If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Acts 10:41 (Parallel theme): Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

Matthew 10:20 (Parallel theme): For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.