

Acts 11:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

Analysis

Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? Peter's rhetorical question demonstrates theological conclusion—Spirit's equal giving proves God accepts Gentiles, making human resistance futile and wrong.

Historical Context

Like gift refers to Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-46), identical to Pentecost. Peter's argument around 40 CE was irrefutable—if God gave Spirit without requiring circumcision, who are humans to demand more? What was I indicates proper humility before divine initiative. This reasoning became foundational for Acts 15 Jerusalem Council's decision accepting Gentile believers without Jewish ceremonial requirements.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Spirit's equal giving prove God's acceptance?
2. What does withstanding God reveal about resisting divine initiatives?

3. In what ways does theological reasoning follow observable divine action?
4. How should human religious requirements defer to God's demonstrated acceptance?
5. What role does humility play in accepting God's surprising directions?

Interlinear Text

Ἐξῆλθεν δὲ εἰς Ταρσὸν ὁ Βαρνάβας ἀναζητῆσαι
departed **Then** **to** **Tarsus** **G3588** **Barnabas** **for to seek**
G1831 G1161 G1519 G5019 G921 G327

Σαῦλον

Saul

G4569

Additional Cross-References

Acts 9:11 (Parallel theme): And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

Acts 9:30 (Parallel theme): Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

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