

Acts 12:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

Analysis

But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. The sorcerer's active opposition—withstanding and attempting to turn Sergius Paulus away—demonstrates Satan's strategy to prevent influential converts through entrenched false teachers.

Historical Context

Elymas (Arabic origin, meaning wise man or sorcerer) is Greek name for Barjesus. Withstood (Greek: anthistēmi) means actively resisted, not passive disagreement. False teachers profit from maintaining adherents' deception. Around 47-48 CE, this confrontation established pattern—gospel advance meets opposition from those benefiting from religious deception. Elymas's influence over proconsul gave him access and prestige he'd lose if Sergius Paulus converted.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What motivates false teachers to actively resist gospel truth?
2. How do entrenched religious authorities feel threatened by gospel?
3. In what ways does Satan use false religion to prevent conversion?
4. Why does seeking influential convert provoke intense opposition?
5. What does this confrontation teach about spiritual warfare in evangelism?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν τε ὁ ἄγγελος πρὸς αὐτῷ Περίζῶσαι καὶ
said **And** ^{G3588} **the angel** **unto** **him** **Gird thyself** **And**
G2036 G5037 G32 G4314 G846 G4024 G2532

ὑπόδησαι τὰ σανδάλιά σου ἐποίησεν δὲ οὕτως καὶ
bind on ^{G3588} **sandals** **thee** **he did** **And** **so** **And**
G5265 G4547 G4675 G4160 G1161 G3779 G2532

λέγει αὐτῷ Περιβαλοῦ τὸ ἱμάτιόν σου καὶ ἀκολούθει
he saith **him** **Cast** ^{G3588} **thy garment** **thee** **And** **follow**
G3004 G846 G4016 G2440 G4675 G2532 G190

μοι
me
G3427