

Acts 13:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

Analysis

Many Jews and 'religious proselytes' followed Paul and Barnabas after the synagogue service, seeking further instruction. The apostles' exhortation to 'continue in the grace of God' emphasizes that Christian life begins and continues by grace. This phrase guards against both legalistic additions to grace and presumption that takes grace for granted, maintaining gospel balance.

Historical Context

The 'religious proselytes' were Gentile converts to Judaism who had undertaken full law-observance. Paul's message that grace, not law, sustains spiritual life offered them freedom they hadn't known.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you 'continue in the grace of God' without either adding works or presuming on God's kindness?
2. What does this teach about grace as both entry point and ongoing sustenance for Christian life?

Interlinear Text

λυθείσης	δὲ	τῆς	συναγωγῆς	ἠκολούθησαν	πολλοὶ	
was broken up	Now	G3588	when the congregation	followed	many	
G3089	G1161		G4864	G190	G4183	
τῶν	Ἰουδαίων	καὶ	τῶν	σεβομένων	προσηλύτων	τῷ
G3588	of the Jews	and	G3588	religious	proselytes	G3588
	G2453	G2532		G4576	G4339	
Παύλῳ	καὶ	τῷ	Βαρναβᾶ	οἵτινες	προσλαλοῦντες	αὐτοὺς
Paul	and	G3588	Barnabas	who	speaking	them
G3972	G2532		G921	G3748	G4354	G846
ἔπειθον	αὐτοὺς	ἐπιμένειν	τῇ	χάριτι	τοῦ	θεοῦ
persuaded	them	to continue	G3588	in the grace	G3588	of God
G3982	G846	G1961		G5485		G2316

Additional Cross-References

Acts 11:23 (Grace): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Acts 14:22 (Kingdom): Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

2 John 1:9 (References God): Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Hebrews 13:9 (Grace): Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Hebrews 12:15 (Grace): Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Acts 2:10 (Parallel theme): Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

Acts 14:3 (Grace): Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Acts 17:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

Acts 13:50 (References Paul): But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

Acts 28:23 (Kingdom): And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.