

Acts 14:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord—The Greek *parrhēsiazomenoi* (speaking boldly) describes fearless, frank speech despite opposition, a term repeatedly used in Acts for Spirit-empowered witness under pressure. The phrase **in the Lord** shows their boldness derived from union with Christ, not personal courage. The Lord's response—**granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands**—authenticated their message with divine credentials. These *sēmeia kai terata* (signs and wonders) validated apostolic authority, demonstrating that God endorsed their controversial gospel.

Historical Context

The 'long time' (Greek *hikanon chronon*) suggests months of sustained ministry despite mounting opposition. The combination of bold preaching and miraculous confirmation paralleled Jesus' own ministry pattern and fulfilled His promise in Mark 16:20.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What enables 'speaking boldly in the Lord' when circumstances demand silence or compromise?
2. How do you discern when to persist in hostile environments versus when to withdraw to more receptive fields?

Interlinear Text

ἰκανὸν μὲν οὖν χρόνου διέτριψαν παρόρθησιαζόμενοι
Long therefore G3767 time abode they speaking boldly
G2425 G3303 G5550 G1304 G3955

Ἐπὶ τῶν κυρίῳ τῶν μαρτυροῦντι τῶν λόγῳ τῶν
in which the Lord which gave testimony which unto the word which
G1909 G3588 G2962 G3588 G3140 G3588 G3056 G3588

χάριτος αὐτῶν καὶ διδόντι σημεῖα καὶ τέρατα γίνεσθαι
grace their and granted signs and wonders to be done
G5485 G846 G2532 G1325 G4592 G2532 G5059 G1096

διὰ τῶν χειρῶν αὐτῶν
by which hands their
G1223 G3588 G5495 G846

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 2:4 (Witness): God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Acts 20:32 (Grace): And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Acts 20:24 (Grace): But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Mark 16:20 (Kingdom): And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Acts 5:32 (Witness): And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 2:22 (Word): Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Romans 1:16 (Parallel theme): For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1 Thessalonians 2:2 (Parallel theme): But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

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