

# 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

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**Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord**—The Greek *parrhēsia* (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

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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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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ἰκανὸν	μὲν	οὖν	χρόνον	διέτριψαν	παρρησιαζόμενοι		
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

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**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.