

Acts 14:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

Analysis

The same heard Paul speak—The crippled man's faith arose from hearing gospel proclamation, illustrating Romans 10:17: 'faith cometh by hearing.' Paul's action—**stedfastly beholding him** (Greek atenisas autō)—describes intense, penetrating gaze, the same verb used of Peter's look at the lame man (Acts 3:4). Paul **perceived that he had faith to be healed** (Greek echei pistin tou sōthēnai). The verb sōthēnai means both physical healing and spiritual salvation, showing how physical miracles in Acts point to spiritual redemption. Paul's discernment parallels Jesus' recognition of faith before healing.

Historical Context

In pagan Lystra, this man likely knew nothing of Jewish Messianic hope. His faith arose purely from Paul's gospel preaching, demonstrating that saving faith transcends cultural or religious background. The public nature of this healing would profoundly impact the watching pagan audience.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you cultivate spiritual discernment to recognize when God is preparing someone for healing or salvation?
2. What does the phrase 'faith to be healed' teach about the relationship between human faith and divine power?

Interlinear Text

οὗτος	ἠκούεν	τοῦ	Παύλου	λαλοῦντος·	ὅς	άτενίσας	
The same	heard	G3588	Paul	speak	who	stedfastly beholding	
G3778	G191		G3972	G2980	G3739	G816	
αὐτῷ	καὶ	ἰδὼν	ὅτι	πίστιν	ἔχει	τοῦ	σωθῆναι
him	and	perceiving	that	faith	he had	G3588	to be healed
G846	G2532	G1492	G3754	G4102	G2192		G4982

Additional Cross-References

Acts 3:4 (Parallel theme): And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

Matthew 15:28 (Faith): Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.