

Acts 15:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Analysis

Paul 'went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.' The verb 'confirming' (Greek 'epistērizō') means strengthening, establishing, making firm. This pastoral follow-up demonstrates that Paul's evangelistic zeal was matched by concern for church stability. Gospel proclamation must be accompanied by doctrinal grounding.

Historical Context

Syria and Cilicia contained churches from Paul's earlier ministry (Acts 9:30, 11:25-26). This visit strengthened these churches before Paul ventured into new territory in Asia Minor and Greece.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How should new churches be strengthened and established in the faith?
2. What role does doctrinal instruction play in church stability?
3. How can you help confirm and strengthen other believers?

Interlinear Text

διήρχετο	δὲ	τὴν	Συρίαν	καὶ	τὴν	Κιλικίαν
He was passing through	then	the	Syria	and	the	Cilicia
G1330	G1161	G3588	G4947	G2532	G3588	G2791
ἐπιστηρίζων	τὰς	ἐκκλησίας				
strengthening	the	churches				
G1991	G3588	G1577				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:23 (Parallel theme): And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

Acts 15:32 (Parallel theme): And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.

Acts 21:3 (Parallel theme): Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden.

Acts 6:9 (Parallel theme): Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

Galatians 1:21 (Parallel theme): Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;

Acts 18:18 (Parallel theme): And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.