

Acts 15:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

Analysis

Peter's testimony that God 'put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith' articulated salvation's essential principle. The cleansing comes through faith alone, not through law-keeping or ritual observance. This 'no difference' between Jew and Gentile became foundational to Paul's theology (Romans 3:22-23) and remains Christianity's core claim.

Historical Context

Peter's reference to God's gift to Gentiles recalled Cornelius's household (Acts 10). His testimony that God directly gave the Spirit to uncircumcised Gentiles proved divine acceptance apart from law-keeping.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does 'purifying hearts by faith' challenge religious systems that add requirements to simple trust in Christ?

2. What does the 'no difference' principle mean for how you view yourself and other believers?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐδέν	διέκρινεν	μεταξὺ	ἡμῶν	τε	καὶ	αὐτῶν	τῇ
And	no	difference	between	us	G5037	And	their	G3588
G2532	G3762	G1252	G3342	G2257		G2532	G846	
πίστει	καθαρίσας	τὰς	καρδίας	αὐτῶν				
by faith	purifying	G3588	hearts	their				
G4102	G2511		G2588	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 3:6 (Parallel theme): That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Acts 10:28 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

Acts 11:12 (Parallel theme): And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:

Colossians 3:11 (Parallel theme): Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Romans 3:22 (Faith): Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

1 Corinthians 1:2 (Parallel theme): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

Galatians 5:6 (Faith): For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Acts 10:34 (Parallel theme): Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Galatians 3:28 (Parallel theme): There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 1:22 (Parallel theme): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

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