

Acts 19:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

Analysis

'The evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?' This demonic testimony is startling - demons recognize genuine spiritual authority while rejecting pretenders. The demon 'knew' (Greek 'ginōskō') Jesus intimately and 'understood' (Greek 'epistamai') Paul's authority, but dismissed these charlatans. Spiritual authority comes from union with Christ, not techniques or formulas.

Historical Context

Demons' testimony to Jesus appears throughout the Gospels (Mark 1:24, 5:7). Their recognition of Paul shows apostolic authority was spiritually discernible. The exorcists' failure exposed their fraudulence.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does demonic recognition of Jesus teach about spiritual reality?
2. How is genuine spiritual authority distinguished from religious pretense?

3. Why do demons sometimes speak theological truth?

Interlinear Text

ἀποκριθὲν δὲ τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ πονηρὸν εἶπεν Τὸν
answered **And** G3588 **spirit** G3588 **the evil** **and said** G3588
G611 G1161 G4151 G4190 G2036

Ἰησοῦν γινώσκω καὶ τὸν Παῦλον ἐπίσταμαι ὑμεῖς δὲ
Jesus **I know** **and** G3588 **Paul** **I know** **ye** **And**
G2424 G1097 G2532 G3972 G1987 G5210 G1161

τίνες ἐστέ
who **are**
G5101 G2075

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:34 (Evil): And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

Mark 1:24 (References Jesus): Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.