

Acts 19:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Analysis

Paul 'went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.' The combination of 'disputing' (Greek 'dialegomai' - reasoned dialogue) and 'persuading' (Greek 'peithō' - convincing) shows Paul's method: intellectual engagement aimed at conversion. Three months of sustained teaching demonstrates patient, thorough ministry.

Historical Context

Paul's three-month synagogue ministry in Ephesus was longer than in most cities, suggesting greater initial receptivity. Ephesus's large Jewish population provided substantial audience for messianic argumentation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How should gospel proclamation combine reason and persuasion?

2. What does sustained teaching in one place accomplish?
3. How can we balance boldness with patient, thorough instruction?

Interlinear Text

Εἰσελθὼν	δὲ	εἰς	τὴν	συναγωγὴν	ἐπαρέβησιάζετο	
he went	And	into	G3588	the synagogue	and spake boldly	
G1525	G1161	G1519		G4864	G3955	
ἐπὶ	μῆνας	τρεῖς	διαλεγόμενος	καὶ	πείθων	τὰ
for the space	months	of three	disputing	and	persuading	G3588
G1909	G3376	G5140	G1256	G2532	G3982	
περὶ	τῆς	βασιλείας	τοῦ	θεοῦ		
the things concerning	G3588	the kingdom	G3588	of God		
G4012		G932		G2316		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:3 (Kingdom): To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Acts 28:23 (Kingdom): And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

Jude 1:3 (Parallel theme): Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.