

Acts 2:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Analysis

The statement 'fear came upon every soul' describes holy awe at God's manifest presence, not terror. The Greek 'phobos' encompasses reverence, respect, and recognition of God's awesome power. This fear coexisted with joy (v. 46), demonstrating biblical fear's compatibility with love. 'Many wonders and signs were done by the apostles' authenticated their message, validating the new covenant's inauguration.

Historical Context

Signs and wonders (Greek 'terata kai sēmeia') marked major redemptive eras: Exodus, prophetic ministry, Christ's ministry, and apostolic age. These miracles weren't random displays but purposeful attestations of divine authority (Hebrews 2:3-4), establishing the church's foundation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you cultivate holy fear of God without losing joy in His presence?

2. What role did apostolic signs play in establishing the church that differs from modern expectations?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγίνετο δὲ πάσῃ ψυχῇ φόβος πολλά τε τέρατα καὶ
came upon And every soul fear many and wonders and
G1096 G1161 G3956 G5590 G5401 G4183 G5037 G5059 G2532

σημεῖα διὰ τῶν ἀποστόλων Ἐγίνετο
signs by the apostles came upon
G4592 G1223 G3588 G652 G1096

Additional Cross-References

John 14:12 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Luke 8:37 (Parallel theme): Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.

Luke 7:16 (Parallel theme): And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

Mark 16:17 (Parallel theme): And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Jeremiah 33:9 (Parallel theme): And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.