

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.