

Acts 21:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

Analysis

The mention of Philip's 'four daughters which did prophesy' highlights the Spirit's distribution of gifts regardless of gender. The Greek 'propheteuō' indicates they regularly exercised prophetic gifting, though within the ordered structure Paul elsewhere describes. This demonstrates the early church's recognition of women's Spirit-empowered ministry within appropriate boundaries.

Historical Context

Prophetic gifting among women was predicted by Joel (Joel 2:28-29) and affirmed at Pentecost. These daughters likely ministered within the Caesarean church community, continuing the Old Testament tradition of prophetesses like Deborah and Huldah.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does your church recognize and encourage diverse spiritual gifts while maintaining biblical order?

2. What does this passage teach about the Holy Spirit's distribution of gifts across all believers?

Interlinear Text

τούτω	δὲ	ἥσαν	θυγατέρες	παρθένοι	τέσσαρες
the same man	And	had	daughters	virgins	four
G5129	G1161	G2258	G2364	G3933	G5064

προφητεύουσαι
which did prophesy
G4395

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:17 (Prophecy): And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Revelation 2:20 (Prophecy): Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Exodus 15:20 (Prophecy): And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

Luke 2:36 (Prophecy): And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

Joel 2:28 (Prophecy): And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Acts 13:1 (Prophecy): Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Nehemiah 6:14 (Prophecy): My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

2 Kings 22:14 (Prophecy): So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her.

Judges 4:4 (Prophecy): And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.