

Acts 28:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

Analysis

And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not (οἱ μὲν ἐπείθοντο... οἱ δὲ ἡπίστουν)—This divided response typifies gospel preaching's inevitable result. The Greek contrasts 'epeithonto' (were persuaded/believed) with 'epistoun' (disbelieved/rejected). Same message, same evidence, opposite responses—demonstrating that conversion requires more than intellectual persuasion; it requires divine illumination (2 Corinthians 4:4-6). This split response fulfills Simeon's prophecy that Christ would be 'set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel' (Luke 2:34). Acts ends as it began: some embrace the word, others reject it.

Historical Context

The Roman Jewish community's split response mirrored every previous audience in Acts. This pattern—believing remnant amid broader rejection—characterized the church's relationship to Judaism throughout Acts' narrative, showing continuity with Israel's history of prophetic response.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the divided response to Paul's message prepare you for similar results in your witness?
2. What does this teach about the Holy Spirit's necessary work in conversion beyond human eloquence or evidence?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οἱ	μὲν	ἐπείθοντο	τοῖς	λεγομένοις	οἱ	δὲ
And	G3588	some	believed	G3588	the things which were spoken	G3588	and
G2532		G3303	G3982		G3004		G1161

ἡπίστουν·

some believed not

G569

Additional Cross-References

Acts 14:4 (Parallel theme): But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.

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