

Acts 4:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Analysis

Peter's rephrasing of their question - 'If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man' - exposes the absurdity of prosecuting charitable healing. The Greek 'anakrinometha' (examined) is forensic terminology for formal investigation. Calling healing a 'good deed' (Greek 'euergesia,' benefaction) highlights the council's moral bankruptcy: they oppose manifest good. 'By what means he is made whole' shifts from their question about authority to focus on salvation's means.

Historical Context

Roman law distinguished harmful magic (maleficium) from beneficial healing. Peter's framing places apostles within legal healing category while implying council opposes public welfare. The healed man standing with them (v. 14) provided irrefutable evidence, frustrating council's prosecution.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the gospel's demonstrable good works expose opponents' malicious intent?
2. What does Peter's rhetorical skill teach about engaging hostile interrogation wisely?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	ἡμεῖς	σήμερον	ἀνακρινόμεθα	ἐπὶ	εὔεργεσίᾳ
If	we	this day	be examined	of	the good deed done
G1487	G2249	G4594	G350	G1909	G2108

ἀνθρώπου	ἀσθενοῦς	ἐν	τίνι	οὗτος	σέσωσται
man	to the impotent	by	what means	he	is made whole
G444	G772	G1722	G5101	G3778	G4982

Additional Cross-References

Acts 3:7 (Parallel theme): And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

John 10:32 (Good): Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

1 Peter 4:14 (Parallel theme): If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.