

Acts 5:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Analysis

And we are his witnesses of these things—The apostles ground their authority in eyewitness testimony to Christ's resurrection and ascension. The Greek 'martyres' (witnesses) later came to mean 'martyrs' because witnessing often led to death. **And so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him**—the Spirit's presence confirms apostolic testimony, making God himself a co-witness. The phrase 'them that obey' (τοῖς πειθαρχοῦσιν) uses the same verb as 'obey' in verse 29, creating ironic wordplay: they obey God by disobeying men. The Spirit's gift both validates and empowers witness.

Historical Context

Continues Peter's Sanhedrin defense. By claiming the Holy Spirit as witness, Peter implicitly charges the council with opposing God himself—a bold accusation that 'cut them to the heart' and nearly resulted in execution (v.33). Only Gamaliel's intervention spared them (vv.34-40). The 'obey him' condition distinguished Spirit-filled believers from unbelieving religious leaders.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the Holy Spirit 'witness' to Christ's truth in believers' lives today?
2. What does 'given to them that obey' teach about the relationship between obedience and the Spirit's work?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἡμεῖς ἐσμεν αὐτῷ μάρτυρες τῶν ῥημάτων τούτων
And **we** **are** **him** **witnesses** ^{G3588} **things** **of these**
G2532 G2249 G2070 G846 G3144 G4487 G5130

καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα δὲ τὸ ἅγιον ὃ ἔδωκεν ὁ
And ^{G3588} **Ghost** **so is also** ^{G3588} **the Holy** **whom** **hath given** ^{G3588}
G2532 G4151 G1161 G40 G3739 G1325

θεὸς τοῖς πειθαρχοῦσιν αὐτῷ
God ^{G3588} **to them that obey** **him**
G2316 G3980 G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:29 (References God): Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Acts 13:31 (Witness): And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

Acts 15:28 (Holy): For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

Acts 1:8 (Holy): But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:4 (Holy): And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

John 7:39 (Holy): (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

1 Peter 1:12 (Holy): Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

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