

Acts 9:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

Analysis

And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. Saul's acceptance into Jerusalem church fellowship demonstrates restored relationships through credible testimony and the comprehensive nature of Christian community.

With them indicates full incorporation—not probationary membership but complete acceptance as brother. The phrase coming in and going out is Hebrew idiom for complete life participation (Deuteronomy 28:6, Psalm 121:8). Saul wasn't merely tolerated but embraced, participating fully in community's daily life.

This marks remarkable transformation from Acts 9:26—from feared outsider to welcomed insider through Barnabas's advocacy (Acts 9:27). Reformed theology emphasizes church as covenant community where members bear responsibility for one another. Barnabas's intervention exemplifies this duty—established believers helping incorporate new converts.

The fellowship's restoration foreshadows Saul's ministry theme: reconciliation through Christ breaks down dividing walls (Ephesians 2:14-16). Saul experienced this personally—former enemy welcomed as family. This gospel pattern repeats: hostile parties reconciled through Christ's cross, demonstrated in church fellowship transcending natural divisions.

Historical Context

Saul's Jerusalem visit lasted fifteen days (Galatians 1:18-19), spent with Peter and meeting James, Jesus' brother. The phrase coming in and going out suggests public ministry alongside private fellowship. Acts 9:29 specifies he debated Hellenistic Jews—same group that killed Stephen (Acts 6:9-14).

Saul's bold witness among Stephen's killers fulfilled providential pattern—replacing fallen witness. However, this provoked murderous opposition (Acts 9:29), forcing hasty departure to Tarsus (Acts 9:30). The brief Jerusalem stay around 37 CE established Paul's legitimacy with apostolic leadership while demonstrating that even Jerusalem wasn't safe for this controversial convert. God was directing Saul toward his true calling—Gentile apostleship beyond Palestine.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does full church fellowship ('coming in and going out') demonstrate genuine acceptance of new converts?
2. What responsibilities do established believers bear for integrating new members into community?
3. In what ways does church fellowship model gospel's reconciling power to watching world?
4. How should converts with notorious pasts demonstrate transformed lives within Christian community?
5. What does Saul's acceptance teach about forgiveness and restoration overcoming historical grievances?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἦν μετ' αὐτῶν εἰσπορευόμενος καὶ ἐκπορευόμενος
And he was with them coming in And going out
G2532 G2258 G3326 G846 G1531 G2532 G1607
ἐν Ἱερουσαλήμ
at Jerusalem
G1722 G2419

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:21 (Parallel theme): Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

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