

Galatians 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Analysis

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Paul's pathos-filled questions. "Ye did run well" (etrochete kalōs, ἐτρέχετε καλῶς)—you were running excellently. Athletic imagery: Christian life as race (1 Corinthians 9:24, Philippians 2:16, Hebrews 12:1). Imperfect tense suggests continuous past action: you were running well for a time. They started strongly, making gospel progress, growing in grace and truth. Then something changed.

"Who did hinder you" (tis hymas enekopsen, τίς ὑμᾶς ἐνέκοψεν)—who cut in on you, obstructed you? Enkoptō (ἐγκόπτω) means to cut into, impede, hinder—like cutting into a runner's lane, blocking their path. The Judaizers disrupted their progress. "That ye should not obey the truth" (tē alētheia mē peithesthai)—so that you don't obey/trust the truth. The gospel truth they initially embraced, they now disobey by embracing false teaching. Paul's grief is palpable: you were doing so well! What happened? Implied answer: the Judaizers happened, cutting in, leading you astray.

Historical Context

The Galatians' rapid apostasy from clear gospel teaching troubled Paul deeply (1:6). Athletic metaphors were common in Greco-Roman culture and Paul's writings. The Christian race requires perseverance, focus, stripping off hindrances (Hebrews 12:1-2). The Galatians stumbled because false teachers deliberately obstructed them. This pattern continues: promising young Christians often

derailed by plausible-sounding but false teaching. The remedy: know the truth well enough to recognize error, and run with enduring focus on Christ.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Who or what has 'hindered' your spiritual race, causing you to slow down or veer off course?
2. How do you maintain spiritual momentum and resist those who would obstruct your progress in the gospel?
3. What does it mean practically to 'obey the truth' versus merely knowing or agreeing with it?

Interlinear Text

Ἐτρέχετε καλῶς· τίς ὑμᾶς ἀνέκοψεν τῇ ἀληθείᾳ μὴ
Ye did run well who you did hinder the truth not
G5143 G2573 G5101 G5209 G348 G3588 G225 G3361

πείθεσθαι

obey
G3982

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 9:24 (Parallel theme): Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Galatians 3:1 (Truth): O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Hebrews 12:1 (Parallel theme): Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Matthew 13:21 (Parallel theme): Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

Romans 2:8 (Truth): But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Romans 6:17 (Parallel theme): But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (Parallel theme): Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

1 Peter 1:22 (Truth): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

2 Thessalonians 1:8 (Parallel theme): In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 5:9 (Parallel theme): And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;