

Galatians 5:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

Analysis

This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. Paul identifies the source of their deception. "This persuasion" (hē peismonē, ἡ πεισμονή)—this persuasive influence, this convincing that led them to embrace Judaizers' teaching. The word can mean persuasion or obedience. "Cometh not of" (ouk ek, οὐκ ἐκ)—doesn't originate from, doesn't have as its source. "Him that calleth you" (tou kalountos hymas, τοῦ καλοῦντος ὑμᾶς)—the one calling you, God who called them to salvation through the gospel (1:6).

Present tense "calleth" emphasizes God's ongoing call. Their persuasion to embrace law didn't come from God. Since God authored the gospel of grace they initially believed, any teaching contradicting it has a different source. Implicitly: demonic or human origin, not divine. This tests all teaching: does it align with God's revealed gospel, or does it originate elsewhere? The Judaizers claimed divine authority for their message; Paul declares it's not from God who called the Galatians. True calls from God are consistent with His revealed truth in Christ.

Historical Context

False teachers always claim divine authority—"God showed me," "The Spirit led me," "This is deeper revelation." Paul insists on consistency: God doesn't contradict Himself. If teaching conflicts with the gospel of grace, it's not from God regardless of claimed authority. This principle guards against mystical deception and authoritarian control. Test everything against Scripture (Acts 17:11, 1 John

4:1). The Bereans were noble for examining Paul's teaching; the Galatians were foolish for accepting the Judaizers' without scrutiny.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you test teaching and spiritual experience to determine if it's truly from God or from another source?
2. What role does consistency with the gospel play in evaluating new teachings, prophecies, or spiritual insights?
3. Have you been persuaded by teaching that, while seemingly spiritual, doesn't align with God's revealed truth in Christ?

Interlinear Text

ἡ	πεισμονή	οὐκ	ἐκ	τοῦ	καλοῦντος	ὑμᾶς
G3588	This persuasion	cometh not	of	G3588	him that calleth	you
	G3988	G3756	G1537		G2564	G5209

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 1:6 (Parallel theme): I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: