

John 17:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

Analysis

I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me (τὰ ῥήματα ἔδωκάς μοι δέδωκα αὐτοῖς)—Jesus' ministry centers on transmitting the Father's revelatory rhēmata (spoken words), not independent teaching. The perfect tense "gavest" (ἔδωκάς) emphasizes the Father's completed revelation to the Son; the aorist "have given" (δέδωκα) stresses Christ's faithful delivery to the disciples. This chain of divine revelation—Father to Son to apostles—undergirds apostolic authority and Scripture's inspiration (cf. 2 Peter 1:21).

They have received them (ἔλαβον)—not mere intellectual assent but personal appropriation. The disciples moved from confusion to conviction through receiving God's words. **Known surely** (ἔγνωσαν ἀληθῶς) indicates settled, experiential knowledge that Jesus came forth from the Father—His divine origin confirmed by His divine words. **Believed that thou didst send me**—faith (pisteuo) completes knowledge; they now trust not just what Jesus said but who He is: the Father's apostle (one sent with authority).

Historical Context

This verse comes from Jesus' High Priestly Prayer (John 17), spoken between the Upper Room Discourse and His arrest in Gethsemane. The disciples had spent

three years receiving Jesus' teaching, but only post-resurrection would they fully comprehend (John 2:22, 12:16). Jesus prays this on the eve of His crucifixion, interceding for those who will soon deny and abandon Him—yet He affirms their genuine faith and reception of divine truth.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the chain of revelation (Father → Son → Apostles → Scripture) shape your view of the Bible's authority and reliability?
2. What is the difference between merely hearing God's words and truly "receiving" them as the disciples did, and how does reception lead to assurance?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	τὰ	ῥήματα	ἃ	δέδωκα	μοι	δέδωκα	αὐτοὶ	καὶ
For	G3588	the words	which	I have given	me	I have given	unto them	and
G3754		G4487	G3739	G1325	G3427	G1325	G846	G2532
αὐτοὶ		ἔλαβον	καὶ	ἔγνωσαν	ἀληθῶς	ὅτι	παρὰ	
unto them		they have received	and	have known	surely	For	from	
G846		G2983	G2532	G1097	G230	G3754	G3844	
σοῦ	ἐξῆλθον	καὶ	ἐπίστευσαν	ὅτι	σύ	με	ἀπέστειλας	
thee	I came out	and	they have believed	For	thou	me	didst send	
G4675	G1831	G2532	G4100	G3754	G4771	G3165	G649	

Additional Cross-References

John 17:14 (Word): I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 15:15 (Parallel theme): Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

John 16:30 (Faith): Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

John 16:27 (Faith): For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (Faith): For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

1 John 4:14 (Parallel theme): And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

John 8:42 (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

John 17:21 (Faith): That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Proverbs 1:3 (Parallel theme): To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

John 12:49 (Word): For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.