

Romans 15:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Analysis

Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God (ἐν δυνάμει σημείων καὶ τεράτων, ἐν δυνάμει πνεύματος θεοῦ, en dynamei sēmeiōn kai teratōn, en dynamei pneumatōs theou)—Sēmeiōn kai teratōn (signs and wonders) is standard biblical language for miracles authenticating divine messengers (Exod 7:3, Deut 6:22, Acts 2:22, 43). Paul's ministry included miracle-working power, not self-generated but en dynamei pneumatōs theou (in/by the power of the Spirit of God). The Spirit, not the apostle, is the power source. This authenticates Paul's apostleship: true apostles manifest Spirit-empowered signs confirming their message (2 Cor 12:12, Heb 2:3-4).

So that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ (ὥστε με ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλὴμ καὶ κύκλῳ μέχρι τοῦ Ἰλλυρικοῦ πεπληρωκέναι τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ Χριστοῦ, hōste me apo Ierousalēm kai kyklō mechri tou Illyrikou peplērōkenai to euangelion tou Christou)—Paul summarizes his apostolic circuit: from Jerusalem (Acts 9, Gal 1:18) through Asia Minor and Greece to Illyricum (modern Balkans, northwest of Macedonia). Peplērōkenai (have fully preached) means completed, fulfilled—he's established churches throughout this region, completing his pioneer work (v. 20) in the eastern Mediterranean.

Historical Context

Illyricum represents the western/northern limit of Paul's mission by AD 57. Acts doesn't record ministry in Illyricum specifically, but Paul's summary here indicates broader travels than Luke narrates. The arc from Jerusalem to Illyricum traces Paul's three missionary journeys, establishing the geographic scope of his Gentile mission.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do 'signs and wonders' function in confirming the gospel message, and what role (if any) do they play in the church's mission today?
2. What does Paul's summary of extensive missionary travel reveal about apostolic priorities and commitment?
3. How can the Spirit's power be manifested in your ministry context, even if not through the same miraculous signs Paul experienced?

Interlinear Text

ἐν	δυνάμει	σημείων	καὶ	τεράτων	ἐν	δυνάμει
Through	mighty	signs	and	wonders	Through	mighty
G1722	G1411	G4592	G2532	G5059	G1722	G1411
πνεύματος	θεοῦ·	ὥστε	με	ἀπὸ	Ἰερουσαλὴμ	καὶ
of the Spirit	of God	so	I	that from	Jerusalem	and
G4151	G2316	G5620	G3165	G575	G2419	G2532
κύκλῳ	μέχρι	τοῦ	Ἰλλυρικοῦ	πεπληρωκέναι	τὸ	
round about	unto		Illyricum	have fully preached		
G2945	G3360	G3588	G2437	G4137	G3588	
εὐαγγέλιον	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ				
the gospel		of Christ				
G2098	G3588	G5547				

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 12:12 (Parallel theme): Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

Hebrews 2:4 (Spirit): God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Galatians 3:5 (Spirit): He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

2 Timothy 4:17 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.