

# 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 pneumatos 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 pneumatos 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** (ῶστε 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

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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

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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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

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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 Ἱερουσαλὴμ 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 G3588 Illyricum have fully preached G3588  
G2945 G3360 G2437 G4137  
εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ Χριστοῦ  
the gospel of Christ  
G2098 G3588 G5547

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.