

# διά

Meaning:

- Through
- Because
- On account of

Preposition that relates to movement through space, time, means or cause.

When used with the genitive case, διά emphasizes the means or channel by which something happens.

When used with the accusative case, διά emphasizes the reason or cause behind something that happens.

## Meaning by case

| Case governed | Basic meaning             | Expanded sense                                    | Example (Greek)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Translation                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Genitive      | through, by means of      | Instrumental or agency — through, by, by means of | δι’ αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο πάντα (John 1:3plugin-autotooltip_default plugin-autotooltip_bigJohn 1:3<br><br>Greek πάντα δι’ αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν ESV All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. NIV Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. NLT God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.) | “All things were made <b>through him.</b> ” |
| Accusative    | because of, on account of | Causal — because of, for the sake of              | διὰ τὴν ἀνομίαν (Matthew 24:12plugin-autotooltip_default plugin-autotooltip_bigMatthew 24:12<br><br>Greek καὶ διὰ τὸ πληθυνθῆναι τὴν ἀνομίαν ψυγήσεται ἡ ἀγάπη τῶν πολλῶν. ESV And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. NIV Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, NLT Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.)                                   | “Because of lawlessness.”                   |

## Theological Significance

In the New Testament, διά often highlights agency or intermediacy, especially in divine action:

| Theological Theme              | Phrase                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Meaning                                |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Creation through Christ</b> | πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο ()                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Salvation <b>through Jesus Christ</b>  |
| <b>Faith as means</b>          | δικαίωσις διὰ πίστεως ( <a href="#">Romans 5:1</a> plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigRomans 5:1<br><br>Greek Δικαιωθέντες οὖν ἐκ πίστεως εἰρήνην ἔχωμεν πρὸς τὸν θεὸν διὰ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ESV Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,)                                              | Justification <b>through faith</b>     |
| <b>Grace as channel</b>        | χάρις διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ( <a href="#">John 1:17</a> plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigJohn 1:17<br><br>Greek ὅτι ὁ νόμος διὰ Μωϋσέως ἐδόθη, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο. ESV For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. NIV For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. NLT For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.) | Grace came <b>through Jesus Christ</b> |

This shows διὰ's central role in expressing mediation - everything God does, He does through someone or something.

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