

Signs, Wonders & Miracles

Acts 2:22 - Jesus was attested or approved by God by miracles, wonders and signs. So what were his miracles, wonders and signs? That's what we will look at tonight.

Jesus said in Jn. 14:12, Jesus said that those who believe in Him, they will do the works that Jesus did and even greater works because He was going to His Father. So what are the works that we will work? Will they be different to what Jesus worked?

First, let's look at the signs, wonders and miracles of Jesus.

Jn. 2:11 – Turned water into wine at a wedding. This states that this was the beginning of signs that Jesus did.

Jn. 2:18-19 – The Jews asked Him for a sign to show them who He was. He remarked that the sign would be concerning His death and resurrection three days later. He also made similar comments later on when the Pharisees demanded that He work a sign proving who He was to them. Mt. 12:38-41; Rom. 1:4; Acts 2:32,36. The fact that Jesus would be put to death and rise on the third day was declared to be a sign by Jesus.

Jn. 4:46-54 – The second sign. Notice, Jesus desires for us to believe, not only after we see a sign. Jn. 20:24-29 – We can believe the Word without needing signs and wonders. God actually is more blessed because we believe the Word simply because God said it. Notice that God doesn't have a problem with true healings, miracles and signs, but it is His Word that will ultimately be what causes us to believe. Lk.16:27-31 – The rich man wanted Abraham to send back Lazarus the beggar back from the dead to his brothers so that the miracle or sign would cause his brothers to repent. Abraham said that if they will not hear and believe the Word, they would not be persuaded even if someone would come back from the dead.

Jn. 6:2 – The signs were healings. Jn. 6:4-14 – Story of Jesus multiplying the 5 loaves and 2 fish. Vs. 14 states that multiplying food was a sign.

Jn. 11 – Story of Lazarus being raised from the dead. Jn. 12:9, 17-18 – declares that Lazarus being raised from the dead was a sign.

Jn. 20:30-31; 21:25 – This is simply stating that not every one of Jesus' miracles, signs and wonders were recorded; not that they were different in type from what was written. What was written in Scripture was the full range of the types of miracles, signs and wonders that Jesus performed. What was recorded is all we need to know in order to learn and believe what is necessary to be assured that Jesus is in fact who He said He is.

So Jesus did work signs, wonders and miracles. But Jesus is not impressed or desirous to have a bunch of people who need to be constantly entertained and convinced about His Word by having to see signs before they will believe. **Someone who must see a sign in order to believe the Word is a perfect candidate for deception.** All a false teacher would need to do is work some sort of sign after they preach false doctrine and that type of person will believe the message, not because the teaching agreed with Scripture, but because they saw some sign. They put more weight on a sign than on the Word.

I also want you to notice that there is an absence of certain types of signs and wonders that seem to be getting people's attention today. There is no gold dust, angel feathers, oil dripping from His pores, precious stones, manna, etc., mentioned as signs and wonders in the

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Scriptures. When you read the gospels, you won't find any of those types of signs and wonders. They are always limited to demons being cast out, healings, raising the dead, multiplying food when necessary, etc. Remember that Jesus fulfilled everything in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms that was written about Him. (Lk. 24:27, 44-45) It is always God's method of operation or MO, to record in Scripture, what we should expect and how He operates. The Apostles in the Book of Acts, used the Scripture proving that Jesus was the Christ, not a sign. (Acts 17:2-3; 18:28)

They did have signs, wonders and healings, and we can too, but it is the Word that has the final authority over a sign. If the sign follows false teaching, God expects us to reject the sign and the teaching. (Dt. 13:1-5) If we receive true teaching that agrees with the Word, but we see no sign, that doesn't disprove the authenticity of the Word. The Word always trumps a sign and a wonder every time. The Word is true regardless of whether there are signs and wonders following or not. If you preach the Gospel and there are no healings and miracles but people repent, that is also a sign that followed the preaching of the Word according to Jesus. (Mt. 12:38-41)

Mk. 16:15-20 – Noticed that Jesus lists the types of signs that would follow those who believe. Also, notice that the signs are in accord with the preaching of the Gospel to people, not in the local church to keep the people entertained and interested. Now, certainly there can be healings and miracles in the local church, etc.

Acts 2:43 – The apostles saw the Lord work many wonders and signs when they preached the Word. Signs and wonders didn't cease with the completion of the NT as some teach; they are still for today, but I think we need to focus on the types of signs that Jesus told us would follow those of us who believe.

There can be false signs and wonders, we need to be aware of that. Mt. 7:15-23 – A sign, a wonder or a healing is not the test of whether something is of God. Many sangomas, Hindu pundits, etc., can work so-called healings. Signs and Wonders are not fruit or proof that God is doing the work according to Jesus. Fruit of the Spirit and the manner of life of the minister that proves that Jesus has changed the minister's heart, are the fruit that Jesus is talking about. Heb. 13:7; 1 Th. 1:5 – Yes, God healing people when the true Gospel is preached is an assurance that the Bible is true but notice that Paul states that the people also knew what manner of a man he was.

1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:13; 4:3; 2 Th. 2:9; Rev. 13:13-14 – Notice that Elijah called down fire from heaven. That sign is in the Word, but the message that that sign was accompanying is profane and not in the Word. We only Worship God.

Rev. 16:14; 19:20; Mt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22; Ezek. 28:12-14; Rev. 17:4