

Signs and Wonders Follow Those Who Believe and Speak the Word

The Holy Spirit is power.

Acts 1:8a

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."

1 Thessalonians 1:5

Because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (Paul's words)

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Luke 24:49

Stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

1 Corinthians 4:20

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

Micah 3:8

But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Acts 10:38

[You know] how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Testimony is important.

Philemon 1:6

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

Romans 15:17-19

Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

2 Timothy 1:7-8a

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline. (KJV a sound mind) So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.

Isaiah 63:7

I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us.

Acts 4:20

For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.

2 Corinthians 5:11

Since, then, we know what it is to fear [hold in awe and reverence] the Lord, we try to persuade men.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Scriptures assure us of the truth that signs and wonders follow those who believe and witness to Christ. We carry the Word to the lost. If we don't carry it, it doesn't get done. If we could just pray the lost in, we wouldn't be commanded to "Go". Note that signs and wonders follow the preaching of the Word, not individuals. Give out the Word and signs and wonders take care of themselves. Keep seeking after the Giver of the gifts, not the signs and wonders.

Mark 16:15, 17-18

He said to them "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." (KJV signs shall follow)

John 14:12

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."

Hebrews 2:3-4

How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Acts 14:3

So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.

Mark 16:20

And the Lord worked with them [the believers] and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Acts 8:6-7, 13

When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

Acts 19:11-12

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

Acts 4:30-31 (the disciples' prayer)

Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.

Acts 5:12a, 15-16

The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

Acts 6:8

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

Jesus himself sent out the 12 and the 72, just as he sends us out.**Matthew 10:1**

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matthew 10:8

"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons."

Luke 10:9, 19 (Jesus sending out the 72 in pairs)

"Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'the kingdom of God is near you.'" "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."

Matthew 28:19-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

John 17:18

As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. (Jesus' final prayer for his disciples)

Some will doubt even when they see. They even doubted Jesus. The Jews doubted Moses. And some will doubt the truth coming through us.**Matthew 11:21, 23b**

Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.

John 4:48

"Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

John 6:48, 60b, 66 (following the miracle of the loaves and fishes and Jesus' walking on the water to his disciples' boat)

"I am the bread of life. He who feeds on this bread will live forever." "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" "From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him."

John 10:32

"I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

John 10:25-27 (regarding the unbelief of the Jews about if Jesus was the Christ)

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice."

John 8:47

"He who belongs to God hears what God says."

Acts 5:38-39

Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.

Yet Jesus had compassion on those who needed to see miracles to believe.

John 20:27

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

John 20:29

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

But be careful you don't believe only based on signs and wonders.

Matthew 24:24

For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect if that were possible.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

1 Thessalonians 5:19, 21

Do not put out the Spirit's fire. Test everything. Hold on to the good.

1 John 4:1-3

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.

1 Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God, says "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Points to ponder

Are developing nations different than the USA? Why so many signs and wonders there and not so much here?

- 1) They are more familiar with evil spirits and oppression. They don't fight the concept that sickness and disease come from Satan and are part of the curse, not the blessing God intends for his children.
- 2) They don't believe God leaves them sick to punish them, teach them a lesson, or use them as testimony to others. They let God receive glory through his healing as only a Sovereign God can.
- 3) They have fewer alternatives readily and affordably available like doctors, medicines, hospitals, surgeries, and insurance; so it's easier to seek God himself for miraculous healings.
- 4) They don't nullify the word of God by tradition handed down to them. For example, they don't rule out healing because they have been in the church all their lives and it has never been preached and witnessed to.
- 5) They ask believing that God can and will act on their behalf. The Bible teaches that you do not have because you do not ask, and that you must ask in faith without wavering. (**James 1:5-8**)