

Signs, Wonders and Miracles

Mark 16.9-20 these signs shall follow them that believe, confirming the word with signs following

1. In my name they shall cast out devils
2. They shall speak with new tongues
3. They shall take up serpents, if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them
4. They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover

Perception

Impressions:

That Christ initiated an era of miracles, a Holy Spirit dispensation

That the church was, would be, and should be continuously filled with miraculous gifts

That being healed or speaking in tongues was the sign of true conversion

That believers were healed of all serious infirmities, physically and mentally restored

That physical health/healing is a birthright of believers (as well as prosperity and miraculous deliverances)

That the churches should seek miracles, miraculous gifts, healing, tongues

(Many churches place no importance on miracles, and don't seek them, don't believe in them, deny them, criticize them.)

Christ initiates signs and miracles

John 2.11 first miracle in Galilee

John 2.23 miracles in the feast

John 3.2 no man can do these miracles except God be with him

John 4.45 Galilaeans received him, having seen things he did at Jerusalem at the feast

John 4.46-8 come out of Judaea, besought heal his son, Except ye see signs and wonders will not believe

John 4.54 second miracle in Galilee (a man from Capernaum)

Luke 4.14-15 (first Galilee tour) fame of him through region, he taught in their synagogues

Luke 4.23 we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country (first tour included Capernaum? Or heard about nobleman's son?)

Luke 4.30-32 came to Capernaum, taught on Sabbath days, astonished at his doctrine (33-39 unclean spirit, Peter's M in law)

Luke 4.40-41 sun setting brought sick, healed every one of them

Mark 1.23-28 unclean spirit, immediately his fame all the region about Galilee

Mark 1.32 sun did set, all the city gathered at the door, healed sick, cast out devils

Mark 4.23-25 healing all manner of sickness, his fame throughout all Syria

Christ empowers disciples

Mat 10.1 twelve disciples gave them power against unclean spirits, and to heal all manner of sickness

Mark 3.13-15 ordained twelve to preach, to heal, to cast out devils

Luke 9.1-2 called twelve and gave them power and authority over all devils, to cure diseases

Luke 9.51-62 time was come, set his face to go to Jerusalem, several wish to follow (begins Judean Tour)

Luke 10.1 appointed other seventy also (similar instructions as to the twelve in Mat 10)

Luke 10.17 seventy returned with joy, devils subject unto us through thy name

Luke 10.19 I give power to tread on serpents and scorpions, over all power of the enemy, nothing shall hurt you

Christ prophesies further signs

John 14.12 he that believeth on me, the works I do shall he do also, and greater works

Mark 16.15-20 these signs shall follow them that believe

Apostles empowered (*apostles were witnesses of resurrection, there were more than the original 12, perhaps the other 70, as many as 500 of 1 Cor 15.6, possibly all the early believers in Jerusalem, numbered 120 in Acts 1.15, certainly including Joseph Barsabas and Matthias, but likely also including the early leading men such as Barnabas, Mark, Philip and Stephen. Significantly, other than speaking in tongues, there is no indication of miracles performed by anyone who had no possible connection to the resurrected Christ, such as a Gentile convert.*)

Acts 2.1-4 began to speak with other tongues

Acts 2.43 many wonders and signs done **by the apostles**

Acts 3.6-11 lame man healed (4.16,22)

Acts 4.30 grant that signs and wonders may be done by the name of Jesus

Acts 5.12-16 **by the apostles** were many signs and wonders wrought

Acts 6.8 **Stephen** did great miracles

Acts 8.6-7,13 people gave heed unto **Philip**, seeing the miracles which he did

Acts 9.32-38 **Peter** heals Aeneas and Dorcas

Acts 14.3 Lord gave testimony unto the word and **granted** signs and wonders to be done **by their hands**

Acts 15.12 declaring what miracles and wonders God wrought among the Gentiles **by them**

Acts 19.11-12 God wrought special miracles **by Paul**

Acts 28.1-6 shook off the beast into the fire and felt no harm

Acts 28.8 Paul entered in, and prayed, laid hands, healed him

Rom 15.19 mighty signs and wonders by the power of the Spirit (**wrought by me**)

Signs and miracles mentioned in the Epistles

Power over devils and to heal diseases was specifically given by Christ to the 12 and then to the 70, and possibly to the 120 (Acts 1.8 power with John 15.26,27). Those mentioned by name in Acts with such power besides the 12 were Stephen, Philip and Barnabas, all of which were

leading men in the early Jerusalem church. Healings and miracles are mentioned among the gifts in the church, but at no point in the Bible do we read of miracles by someone not apostolic in character (without the possibility of having seen Christ personally and receiving that power from him directly). Since such power is called the “signs of an apostle” (2 Co 12.12), we can assume it was limited to the apostles, i.e. those directly connected to Christ in the flesh and empowered by him. If it were not limited to apostles, Paul could not have used his signs as proof of his apostleship.

1 Cor 12.4-11 diversity of gifts, including healing, miracles, tongues

1 Cor 12.28-31 apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healings, helps, governments, tongues, covet best

1 Cor 14.1-3 spiritual gifts, but rather prophesy (prophesying is not a “spiritual gift”?)

Gal 3.5 he that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you

James 5.14-15 **pray over him**, prayer of faith shall save the sick

Emphasis on the word

Mat 28.18-20 all power given me, go therefore and teach (to observe whatsoever I have commanded you)

Acts 1.8 ye shall receive power, Holy Ghost, ye shall be witnesses unto me

Acts 4.33 with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection

Acts 11.19-26 scattered preaching, hand of the Lord (signs?), great number believed, seen the grace of God

Acts 12.24-25 word of God grew and multiplied, returned from Jerusalem

Acts 13.1 in the church prophets and teachers

Eph 4.8-11 gave gifts unto men, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers

Suspiciously normal afflictions among believers

Rom 15.1 strong bear infirmities of the weak

1 Cor 11.30 for this cause (taking Lord’s supper unworthily) many are weak and sickly among you

1 Cor 2.3 I was with you in weakness, fear, trembling

1 Cor 4.10 we are weak, ye are strong

2 Cor 6.4 in afflictions, necessities

2 Cor 10.10 bodily presence is weak

2 Cor 11.23-30 weariness, painfulness, fastings (hunger), cold, nakedness, mine infirmities

2 Cor 12.5-10 Paul’s infirmities

2 Cor 13.4 crucified through weakness, we also are weak in him

2 Cor 13.9 glad when we are weak and ye are strong

Gal 4.13-15 through infirmity of the flesh I preached at the first

Php 2.26-27 sick nigh unto death, God had mercy on him

Col 1.24 my sufferings for you, afflictions of Christ in my flesh

1 Th 5.14 comfort feebleminded, support the weak

1 Tim 5.23 use a little wine for thine often infirmities

2 Tim 4.20 Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick

Purpose

To Fulfill Scripture and Prove Messiahship

Isa 29.18 in that day shall the deaf hear, eyes of the blind opened

Isa 35.4-6 God will come, eyes of blind opened, etc.

Isa 42.7 to open the blind eyes, bring out the prisoners

Isa 42.16 will bring the blind by a way they knew not, make darkness light

Mal 4.2 Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings

Ps 103.3 who healeth all thy diseases

Ps 147.3 healeth the broken in heart, bindeth up their wounds

Jer 33.6 I will bring it health and cure (Jerusalem)

Mal 4.2 Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings

Isa 53.5 with his stripes we are healed

1 Pe 2.24 by whose stripes ye were healed

To Manifest his glory

Num 14.22 men seen my glory, my miracles which I did in Egypt

Mat 9.8 multitudes saw it, they marvelled and glorified God

John 2.11 beginning of miracles, disciples believed on him, manifested his glory

John 5.20 greater works that ye may marvel

John 9.2 works of God manifest in him

John 11.40 if thou wouldest believe thou shouldest see the glory of God

To Prove Christ’s power and authority

Mat 9.1-7 that ye may know hath power to forgive sins (Mk 2.10, Lk 5.24)

Mat 11.2-6 Art thou he? Blind receive sight, blessed he who shall not be offended in me (Lk 7.20-23)

Mat 12.28 if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then kingdom of God is come unto you (Lk 11.20)

John 3.2 no man can do these miracles except God be with him

John 4.25 when Christ cometh he will tell us all things

John 5.36 greater witness than of John, the works bear witness

John 6.27 for him hath God the Father sealed

John 9.33 if this man were not of God he could do nothing
Acts 2.22 Jesus approved of God by miracles, wonders and signs

To Attract multitudes

Mat 4.24,25 his fame, he healed them, followed him great multitudes (8.1,18, 12.15, etc)
Mat 15.30 great multitudes having lame, blind... and he healed them
Mark 3.8 a great multitude when heard what great things he did
Luke 5.15 went a fame abroad, great multitudes came
John 6.2 great multitude followed him because they saw the miracles
John 12.17-19 heard he had done this miracle, world gone after him
John 11.47-48 if we let him alone all men will believe on him

To Establish authority of apostles

Acts 15.12 multitude kept silence and gave audience, declaring what miracles wrought by them
Rom 15.18,19 wrought by me, to make Gentiles obedient through signs
2 Cor 12.12 the **signs of an apostle** were wrought among you, signs, wonder, mighty deeds
Heb 2.4 God bearing them witness with signs, wonders, miracles, gifts of the Holy Ghost

To Persuade unbelievers

John 2.23 many believed in his name when they saw the miracles
John 6.14 when they had seen the miracle, said This is of a truth that prophet
John 7.31 when Christ cometh, will he do more miracles?
John 9.16 how can a sinner do such miracles?
John 10.37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not
John 14.11 Believe me for the very works' sake

To satisfy the Jew

1 Cor 1.22 Jews require a sign
Mat 12.28 Master, we would see a sign
Mat 16.1 Pharisees with Saducees desired a sign from heaven
Mar 8.11 Pharisees seeking of him a sign from heaven
Luk 11.16 tempting him sought a sign from heaven
John 2.18 Jews said What sign shewest thou
John 4.48 except ye see signs and wonders ye will not believe

To Confirm the word

Deu 18.22 if the thing follow not, not spoken
1 Ki 13.3 gave a sign same day, altar shall be rent
Isa 44.26 confirmeth the word of his servant, performeth counsel of messengers
Eze 13.6 Lord hath not sent them, made others hope they would confirm the word
Mark 16.20 confirming the word with signs
Acts 4.29,30 grant boldness to speak thy word by signs and wonders (33 great power)
Acts 14.3 Lord gave testimony unto the word, granted signs and wonders
Heb 2.3 spoken by Lord, confirmed unto us by them with signs

Precedent

John 10:41 John did no miracle (miraculous signs started up with Jesus)
Acts 7.36 shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt
Exo 4.17 take this rod wherewith thou shalt do miracles
Exo 4.28-30 Moses told Aaron all the signs commanded him, did the signs
Exo 7.9-10 Pharoah demands a miracle
Exo 10.1-2 hardened his heart that I might show these my signs, ye know I am the LORD
Num 14.22 men seen my glory, my miracles which I did in Egypt
Deu 4.34,35 take him a nation by signs and wonders, that mightiest know LORD is God
Deu 6.21,22 say unto son, LORD showed signs, great and sore
Deu 7.19 the signs and wonders, so shall God do to the people of whom thou art afraid
Deu 11.1-7 your eyes have seen all the great acts of the Lord (26.8)

Signs ceased

Judg 6.13 if Lord with us, where be all his miracles which fathers told us of
1 Sam 3.1 the word was precious in those days, there was no open vision
Exo 12.24-27 when your children say, what mean ye by this service
Exo 13.14-15 when thy son asketh thee in time to come, what is this?
Deu 4.9 take heed lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, teach them thy sons' sons
Josh 4.6,7 your children ask fathers in time to come, what mean ye by these stones?
Ps 44.1 our fathers have told us what work thou didst in their days, times of old
Ps 78.1-7 shewing to the generation to come his wonderful works that he hath done

Priority

The epistles mention signs and wonders, and even working of miracles, but the clear priority in all the epistles is the spiritual blessings in Christ. We were expected to seek the "best gifts."

Mat 9.2 thy sins be forgiven thee

Mat 16.1-4 no sign given it but of Jonas

Luke 10.18-20 I give you power, rejoice not, but because your names are in heaven

John 4.48 Except ye see signs and wonders ye will not believe

John 6.26-27 seek because ye saw the miracles, labor not for meat that perisheth

John 17.2 power-eternal life

1 Cor 12.31 covet earnestly the best gifts

1 Cor 14.1 desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy

Prediction

That signs and wonders would cease (after the apostles?)

Ps 74.8,9 we see not our signs, no more any prophet

Isa 28.9,10 whom make to understand doctrine? Weaned, for precept upon precept, line upon line

1 Cor 13.8-13 prophecies shall fail, tongues shall cease

2 Cor 12.12 signs of an apostle

Problems

Facts

That signs and wonders were exceptional, even during the ministry of the apostles

That signs and wonders were continually diminishing during the apostolic ministry

Historically believers have acknowledged that signs and wonders are not happening like they did before

Even today, healers don't expect significant miracles

Fraud

That there were false apostles, and false signs from the beginning

Exo 7.11 Pharaoh called the sorcerers, they also did in like manner

Gen 41.8, 38 dream, only Joseph

Isa 19.11-12 wise men

Isa 47.12-13 stargazers

Dan 2.1-14, 27,28 I know ye would gain the time, ye have prepared lying and corrupt words

Dan 4.5-7 the soothsayers, they did not make known unto me the interpretation

Dan 5.7-11 bring in the astrologers, but they could not read the writing

Acts 19.14 sons of Sceva

Acts 8.9-11 Simon used sorcery, bewitched the people,

Deu 13.1-3 false prophets

Mat 7.22,23 Lord, in thy name have cast out devils, wonderful works, I never knew you

Mat 24.24 arise false Christs, and false prophets, shew great signs and wonders, deceive the elect

2 Th 2.9 lying wonders

Rev 13.11-15 doeth great wonders, deceiveth by miracles

Rev 19.20 the false prophet that wrought miracles

1 Tim 4.1 seducing spirits, doctrines of devils

Failure

That signs and wonders did not work very long

Exo 10.3 Thus saith the LORD, how long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me

Num 14.11 how long ere they believe me for all the signs

Deu 1.31-32 God bare thee as a man his son, yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD

Deu 29.3-4 great temptations ye saw, great miracles, yet not given a heart to perceive

Ps 78.22,32,41,42 they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works

Ps 106.24 they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word

Isa 28.10-13 with another tongue, yet they would not hear

John 10.38,39 believe the works, they sought to take him

John 12.37 though done so many miracles, yet they believed not on him