

THE APOSTLES MIRACLES, SIGNS, AND WONDERS

The Christian faith from the beginning has been accompanied with the demonstration of the power of God. Jesus introduced and trained His disciples in the area of signs, wonders, and miracles. They saw the dead raised, the lepers cleansed, a small food supply multiplied to feed a multitude and many other phenomenal sights. They were commissioned to go out under Jesus' authority and name and announce the kingdom of God to the Jewish people by a demonstration of His power.

"These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them saying,; Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But to rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."
Matthew 10:5-8

The working of miracles made the Jewish people ever more accountable for their outright rejection of Jesus.

"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me: but if I do though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." Therefore they sought again to seize Him but He escaped out of their hand." John 10:37-39

Jesus told His disciples that they and all true believers would do even greater things as they bore witness of his soon to be resurrection and ascension into heaven.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also, and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father." John 14:12

The baptism of the Holy Spirit would be the means whereby the disciples would receive the faith and power to access this miraculous dimension.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
Acts 1:8

The Book of Acts is a record of the actions of the Apostles. It is replete with miraculous signs and wonders. Consider this sketchy summary of extra ordinary events.

Speaking in Tongues 2:6-8 Miracles by the Apostles 2:43 Lame man healed 3:6,7
Shaking of the Place of Prayer 4:31 Death of Ananias and Sapphira 5:5,10
Mass Healing's 5:15,16 The Apostles Released From Prison By An Angel 5:17-20
Stephen's Ministry 6:8 Philip at Samaria 8:5-8 Philip's Translation 8:39
Aeneas Healed 9:34 Dorcus Raised from the Dead 9:40,41,

Peter Released from Prison by an Angel 12:6-10 Elymas Smitten with Blindness 13:9-11
At Iconium 14:3 Crippled Healed 14:8-10, Sorceress Delivered 16:16-18
Prison Opened Again 16:25,26 Unusual Miracles 19:11,12 No Harm Snake Bite 28:5,6
Publius' Father is Healed 28:8.

Miracles were used to first of all to signify the Lordship of Jesus, that He is the Son of God. They were also used to show the authority he vested in the Apostles.

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know.."
Acts 2:22

"Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds." II Corinthians 12:12

Signs and wonders are not used to satisfy the curious or to promote a person's wealth. Misused they can lead people to believe a lie.

"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." II Thessalonians 2:9,10

The Gospel (the message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus) is certified as truth by the signs that follow it.

"And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen." Mark 16:20

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?" Hebrews 2:3,4

We can have the utmost confidence in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For it is the power of God unto salvation. As long as the Gospel is preached with power, miracles in some measure will happen. Let us join the New Testament Church in their prayer:

"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." Acts 4:29,30

CHRIST CHURCH, POCATELLO – BIBLE STUDIES

Pocatello, Idaho 1245 N Arthur - 83202

PASTOR, STEPHEN R. YADON