

SIGNS, WONDERS, MIRACLES AND THE CHURCH HEB. 2:3-4

Signs & Wonders	Miracles, <u>no</u> signs & wonders	<u>No</u> miracles~
Open & gullible	Open but <u>not</u> gullible	Closed <u>not</u> gullible

The **early** church era obviously experienced not only miracles but also signs and wonders.

What does Scripture teach?

I. Signs & wonders were (always) by God's sovereign will

Hebrews 2:4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1 Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

1 Corinthians 12:24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: **1 Corinthians 12:25** That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. **1 Corinthians 12:28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Matthew 6:10** Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Luke 22:41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

These texts clearly tell us:

- God has a will
- God's will is determinative / decides
- Believers pray for God's will to be done / accomplished
- Believers submit to god's will
- This was true even in the first century
- God's will determined all – then and now

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Ephesians 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

II. Signs & wonders were for a very specific purpose

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; **Hebrews 2:4** God also bearing them witness (συνεπιμαρτυροῦντος), both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

The purpose of signs and wonders was always to confirm new revelation – specifically to bear witness with & upon the apostolic message.

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of (ἀποδεδειγμένον) God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you (ἐν μέσῳ ὑμῶν), as ye yourselves also

know (καθώς και αὐτοὶ οἶδατε): Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: **Acts 2:24** Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. **Acts 2:43** And fear came upon every soul: **and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.**

Acts 5:12 And **by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people;** (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

Acts 15:12 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to **Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.**

Acts 19:11 And God wrought special miracles **by the hands of Paul:** **Acts 19:12** So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly **the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.**

Thoughts:

- **Signs and wonders are found in the early church**
- **Signs and wonders are *exclusively* connected to Jesus, the Apostles and their delegates**
- **Signs and wonders bear witness to Christ and the Apostles – authenticating their message and ministry.**

John 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, **Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles (ταῦτα τὰ σημεῖα) that thou doest, except God be with him.**

John 5:31 **If** I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. **John 5:32** There is **another** that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. **John 5:33** Ye sent unto John, and **he** bare witness unto the truth. **John 5:34** But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. **John 5:35** He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. **John 5:36** But I have **greater witness** than that of John: for **the works** which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. **John 5:37** **And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me....****John 5:38** And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

John 7:31 And many of the people believed on him, and said, **When Christ cometh, will he do *more* miracles (σημεῖα) than these which this man hath done?**

John 9:16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do **such miracles (τοιαῦτα σημεῖα)**? And there was a division among them.

John 11:45 Then **many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.** **John 11:46** But **some** of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. **John 11:47** Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, **What do we? for this man doeth many miracles (πολλὰ σημεῖα ποιεῖ).** **John 11:48** If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

John 12:37 **But though he had done so many miracles (σημεῖα) before them, yet they believed not on him:**

John 15:24 **If** I had not done among them the works **which none other man did**, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

- **Signs and wonders ceased when their purpose was accomplished**

A. Apostolic Gospel was authenticated

B. Church was established

C. NT revelation was given & completed

- **Miracles &/ God's mighty deeds continue in answer to prayer and according to His sovereign will**

III. Signs & wonders were in (or during) a **strategic time-period**

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the **first** began to be spoken by **the Lord**, and was confirmed unto **us** by **them that heard him;****Hebrews 2:4** God also bearing **them** witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

3 steps: The Lord → the apostles → us

Sign (σημεῖον): The why of the miracle, what it is pointing to...

Wonder (τέραξ, ατος): Causes you to stop and wonder ...awe, amazement

Miracle (δύναμις, εως): the miracle, might power, might, power

Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, **Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.** **Luke 10:18** And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. **Luke 10:19** Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. **Luke 10:20** **Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.** **John 10:41** And many resorted unto him, and said, **John did no miracle (σημεῖον): but all things that John spake of this man were true.**

God's power & miracles – especially in relationship to salvation:

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Signs and wonders:

-----during Moses Time----- --Elijah /Elisha- - - -----Jesus/Apostles-----tribulation period - ---->

Matthew 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. **Matthew 24:24** For there shall arise false Christs (ψευδόχριστοι), and false prophets (ψευδοπροφήται), and shall shew great signs (σημεῖα μεγάλα) and wonders (τέρατα); insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. **Matthew 24:25** Behold, I have told you before.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power (έν πάση δυνάμει) and signs (σημείους) and lying wonders (τέρασιν ψεύδους), **2 Thessalonians 2:10** And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. **Revelation 13:12** And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. **Revelation 13:13** And he doeth great wonders (σημεῖα μεγάλα), so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

Matthew 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. **Matthew 12:39** But he answered and said unto them, **An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:** **Matthew 12:40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **Matthew 12:41** The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. **Matthew 12:42** The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Matthew 16:1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. **Matthew 16:2** He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. **Matthew 16:3** And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? **Matthew 16:4** **A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.** And he left them, and departed.