

SIGNS JUNE 24, 2020

MARK 16:15-20

- Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel to every creature. The gospel is the good news of His victory over every evil work of Satan. Jesus came to destroy Satan's works. **1 JOHN 3:8, HEBREWS 2:14-15**
- These verses also reveal a pattern Jesus gave to His church – we preach the Word, and He faithfully confirms it with signs following. If we do our part, He will do His.
- The signs include: casting out devils (authority); speaking in a heavenly language (Babel); exercising dominion over the animal kingdom; protection from deadly poisons; and laying hands on the sick for healing.
- Jesus knew the importance of signs. He knew the power of God in manifestation was essential to effective ministry – remember Elijah and the prophets of Baal?

JOHN 4:47-48, 14:11

- Jesus knew human nature. He understood the human need to see supernatural signs in order to believe (Indonesian revival of the 70's).
- God's desire has always been for people to believe His Word without seeing signs (**NUMBERS 14:11**). If they don't believe His Word, they should believe for the signs.

HEBREWS 2:3-4

- Our part is to announce the good news of salvation. God's part is to testify to it by signs, wonders and miracles.
- **JOHN 2:11 (NIV)** This miraculous sign inspired faith. This pattern recurs in the gospels and book of Acts. Signs validate the message and cause people to believe (**JOHN 11:44-45**). Signs help people come to saving faith.

A PATTERN IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 2:1-4

- The miracle of wind, fire and tongues resulted in 3,000 converts from Judaism to Christianity.

ACTS 3:6-10, 16; 4:4

- The dramatic growth of the church was directly related to the Word being confirmed with supernatural signs.

ACTS 4:29-31

- The early church knew the value of signs. It was a matter of prayer even to a generation that experienced the resurrection and heard the anointed preaching of the disciples.

ACTS 5:12-16

- The combination of preaching the Word and following signs added multitudes to the church.

ACTS 8:5-13

- Philip was a spirit-filled deacon, not an apostle. His ministry of the Word and signs resulted in a sorcerer being saved (Simon). His message was confirmed by signs.

THE APOSTLE PAUL

ACTS 26:12-19

- It took a miraculous sign to produce the conversion of our Lord's greatest enemy – Saul of Tarsus.
- **1 CORINTHIANS 2:4-5** Paul knew the value of signs, wonders and demonstrating God's mighty power.
- **ACTS 28:3-6** Almost 20 years later, Paul still relied on the miraculous to get people to believe, and so should we!