

SIGNS AND WONDERS OCTOBER 31, 2021

INTRODUCTION: MATTHEW 5:6

Hunger is a powerful thing. When people get hungry and thirsty, they get desperate. Remember when the Israelites left Egypt? When they got hungry and thirsty, they voiced their desires. When Daniel knew the time had come to be delivered from captivity in Babylon, he diligently set his face to pray it into being. God's purposes come to pass when the heart gets the real God cry, yearning and desire for reality. It must become the supreme desire of the soul, the paramount issue, that engages all the energies of our entire being.

ROMANS 15:19

Paul said he fully preached the gospel of Christ. In **V18**, he describes the fully preached gospel as one of words and deeds. It took words and deeds to reach the Gentiles.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:12

Paul's message was confirmed with signs, wonders and mighty deeds. Jesus said signs would follow all believers and confirm the word preached.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:4-5

Paul's preaching was accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit working mighty signs proving the gospel is true. The more literal rendering is "I preached the gospel with proof."

HEBREWS 2:1-4

God confirmed it with signs and wonders. The disciples preached the word and God confirmed it with signs and wonders. **ACTS 2:41-43, ACTS 4:29-30, ACTS 5:12-14**

ACTS 14:1-7 (NLT)

These verses reveal the need for signs and wonders and the hardness of men's hearts. They preach the gospel, signs and wonders confirm the word, some believe, and some set out to stone them. What a contrast!

MARK 16:15-20

Jesus commissioned the last-day church to go out and preach everywhere promising to confirm the word with signs following. Notice the great commission wasn't limited to the apostles.

- **V15** – "Them" the apostles are being spoken to.
- **V16** – "He that believes...believes not." He's speaking to the apostles about the people they preach to.
- **V17** – "Them that believe" He's speaking to the apostles about those who believe the message of the gospel.
- **V18** – Lists the signs that were to follow those who believe, not just the apostles.
- **V19** – The parallel is God resting after creation. His work was complete and perfect, nothing more needed to be done. Christ's work was finished and perfect. What was needed was done, nothing more needed to be done. He rests not because He's tired, but because He's finished.
- **V20** – They did their part and God did His.

ZECHARIAH 4:6

Today's church is not to be as the shorn Samson – powerless, blind and grinding at the mill of the enemy; but powerful, enlightened and laboring for God to bring in the last days harvest and return of our Lord.