

**DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE**  
**DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**SPIRITUAL GIFTS-PART 5—SIGNS AND WONDERS**  
**VARIOUS**

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**Introduction**

**What are Spiritual Gifts?**

**Spiritual gifts come FROM the Lord Jesus Christ BY the Holy Spirit TO those born again individuals who make up the membership of a local New Testament Church FOR the functioning of that particular body of Christ!**

*Ephesians 4:7-8— “But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”*

*1 Corinthians 12:4— “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”*

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

*Romans 12:4-6— “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;”*

*1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

**According to Mark 16:17-18, some of the spiritual gifts were “sign” gifts.**

*Mark 16:17-18 17— “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”*

These are the gifts that we are going to be concerned with for the next couple of weeks.

**I. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF “SIGNS AND WONDERS?”**

**A. First Definition.**

*“Sign”— “A token; a representation; a witness.”*

In *Genesis 1:14*, the lights in the firmament of the heaven are said to be for “*signs*.”

This **does not** mean that they are to be used to foretell events.

*Psalm 19:1-6* shows what the true meaning of this is.

When you consider the great distance between the heavenly bodies in the universe and yet the regularity in their movements, they are truly a sign of the glory of the One Who created them!

*Psalm 8:1— “O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.”*

*Psalm 8:3-4— “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”*

*Romans 1:20— “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”*

*Acts 14:15— “Nevertheless He left not himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”*

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**B. Second Definition.**

**“Sign”**—*“A supernatural indication; Especially a miracle performed as evidence of the truth of God’s Word.”*

**“Wonder”**—*“Something that arrests the attention by its novelty, grandeur or inexplicableness.”* (i.e. Wow, what’s that about?)

So, *signs and wonders* are special miraculous happenings that “*signify*” that something supernatural is going on.

They are always intended on making people “*wonder*” about important things instead of remaining numb to them.

**In the Bible, signs and wonders include:**

1. **Miraculous Healing**—Giving sight, hearing, etc.
2. **Raising The Dead.**
3. **Speaking In Tongues.**
4. **Prophecy** – In its truest sense of telling the future.
5. **Miracles Affecting Nature.** Examples:
  - a. The Various Plagues On Egypt.
  - b. Parting Of The Red Sea. (Moses)
  - c. Withholding Rain For 3 ½ Years (Elijah) In Judgment

**II. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE METHODS OF “SIGNS AND WONDERS?”**

- A. **By The “Laying On Of Hands” Of Those Empowered.**
- B. **By The Prayer Of Those Empowered.**
- C. **By The Spoken Word By Those Empowered.**
- D. **By The Various Actions With Objects.** (e.g. Moses and “the rod”.)  
Throwing it down; Raising it; Striking a rock with it.

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**E. By Other Methods.**

(Whatever method God chooses!)

**III. WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES OF “SIGNS AND WONDERS?”**

**A. The Bible Teaches That Signs Were Given For The Purpose Of Accreditation.**

**B. They Accredited God’s Man And/Or Message.**

**(Sign Gifts Appear In Clusters In 5 Chronological Eras.)**

1. **The Prophet Moses.** (*Exodus 4:1-19 and 29-31*)  
**To Back Up That He Was God’s Man With God’s Message!**
2. **The Prophets Elijah And Elisha.**  
**To Back Up That They Were God’s Men With God’s Message!** (*1 Kings 17:1,14-16, 20-24; 18:30-39, 42-46; 2 Kings 1:10, 12, 16-17; 2:8-9, 13-15, 19-24; 3:14-20; 4:1-7; 5:1-15*)
3. **The Ministry Of The Lord Jesus Christ.**  
**To Back Up That He Was Sent From God And Was Indeed The Very Son Of God.**  
*John 20:30—“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*

*Acts 2:22—“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:”*

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**4. The Ministry Of The Apostles.  
To Back Up Or Confirm The Authority Of The  
Word Of God Prior To Its Completion.**

*Mark 16:20—“And **they** [the apostles] went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”*

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

*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?**”*

**To Speak To The Jewish Heart.**

*1 Corinthians 1:22—“For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom.”*

The following references demonstrate the importance of signs to the Jews:

*(Exodus 4:30-31; 31:13; Numbers 14:11; Judges 6:17; 1 Samuel 10:7-9; Isaiah 7:11, 14; Ezekiel 4:3; Matthew 12:38-39; 24:3,30; Mark 8:11-12; Luke 2:12, 34)*

**5. The Two Witnesses Of Revelation 11:3-7.  
To Back Up That They Are God’s Men With God’s  
Message.**

**C. To Deceive People And Get Them Against God.**

*1 Timothy 4:1—“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, **giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**”*

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*2 Timothy 3:13—“But evil men and **seducers** shall wax worse and worse, **deceiving, and being deceived.**”*

*Revelation 16:14—“For they are the **spirits of devils, working miracles**, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”*

**IV. WHO ARE THE PRODUCERS OF “SIGNS AND WONDERS?”**

**A. God Himself (Including Jesus).**

*Isaiah 7:14—“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a **sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**”*

*Acts 2:22—“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; **Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:**”*

**B. Prophets - Moses and Aaron, Elijah, Elisha.**

**C. Apostles - By the hands of the apostles.**

*Acts 2:43—“And fear came upon every soul: and many **wonders and signs were done by the apostles.**”*

*Acts 4:33—“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.”*

*Acts 5:12—“And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people;”*

*Acts 14:3—“Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.*

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*Acts 19:11—“And **God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul**: 12So 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.”*

*Romans 15:19—“**Through mighty signs and wonders**, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”*

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

The apostles got this personally from the Lord Jesus.

*Matthew 10:1,2—“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, **he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.** 2Now the names of the twelve apostles are these...”*

**D. Deacons** - The first deacons were given this power by the apostles. (*Acts 6:5-8; 8:5-7*)

**E. False Christs And False Prophets, Satan And Others Who Are Satan’s “Ministers.”**

*Matthew 24:24—“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and **shall show great signs and wonders**; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”*

*Revelation 16:14—“For they are the **spirits of devils, working miracles**, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty”*

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*Exodus 7:10-12—“And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: **now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.** 12For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods.”*

*2 Corinthians 11:13-15—“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.** And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”*

**F. The Anti-christ.**  
(*Revelation 13:11-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12*)

**V. WHAT ARE THE PROOFS OF TRUE “SIGNS AND WONDERS” FROM GOD?**

**A. They Worked Every Time - With And Without Faith By The Recipient.**

*Acts 5:16—“There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and **they were healed every one.**”*

*Acts 28:7,8—“And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: **to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.** 9So when this was done, **others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:**”*

**B. They Never Contradicted The Word Of God And Always Were Subject To Verification.**

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*1 John 4:1—“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”*

**C. They Worked Against ALL Forms Of Disease And Satanic Powers.**

*Matthew 10:1—“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”*

*Matthew 10:8—“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.”*

If the healing gifts were still active today, then those with them could heal AIDS, and restore missing limbs - not just "stretch" limbs and cure gout!

**D. They Worked Until The End Of The Apostolic Age.**

*1 Corinthians 13:8-10—“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”*

There is no Biblical record of any sign manifested after the judgment of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the Jews in 70 A.D.

The above verses refer to the completed Word of God. As the Books of the New Testament were written and circulated, the need for accreditation diminished accordingly.

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Today we do not need signs to give authority to what is preached because we have the written WORD OF GOD, which is our ONLY AND FINAL AUTHORITY!

*2 Peter 1:19-21* teaches that the gift of prophecy (foretelling) was replaced by the written Word of God—a more sure Word!

**VI. WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS WITH “SIGNS AND WONDERS?”**

- A. An Evil And Adulterous People Look For Them - Not True Seekers Of Christ. (*Matthew 12:38-41*)**
- B. The Devil Can Easily Counterfeit Most Of Them.**  
*Exodus 8:16-18—“And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. 17And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. 18And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast. 19Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.”*
- C. The Lord Will Allow Signs And Wonders To Confound The Rebellious And Test The Christian . (*Mark 13:21-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12; Deuteronomy 13:1-5*)**
- D. Miracles Are To Be Subject To The Word Of God. (*Isaiah 8:18-20*)**  
If they were not valid, then the magician was to be stoned!  
*(Deuteronomy 13)*

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- E. People Are Only To Believe The Word - Not Miracles.**  
*John 4:48—“Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.”*

The miracles were to get people to believe the Word.  
*Mark 16:20—“And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”*

*Acts 5:16—“There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.”*

**CONCLUSION**

All this is not ever to imply that God Himself has changed. God is the "miracle worker" and is still in the miracle working business.

What is happening today is that so many are getting their eyes off of the Lord, and onto the supposed miracle workers. Folks need to once again get back to a complete dependence upon God for all the needed miracles necessary to stand firm in this dark world!

**VII. WHAT IS THE PLACE OF “SIGNS AND WONDERS”—IN THE PAST AND IN THE FUTURE?**

- A. They were primarily in Israel.
- B. They were to the Jews throughout the world - to get them back to God.
- C. They were to some of the Gentiles - but not as a general rule.
- D. They were finished at the completion of the Bible.  
*(1 Corinthians 13:8-10)*
- E. They will occur again in the Tribulation.  
These miracles will once again be directed at the literal Jews - not Christian believers!

**VIII. WHAT WERE THE PROPER RESULTS OF “SIGNS AND WONDERS?”**

The apostles demonstrated authority over laying the foundation of the Church:

They had unity in the Church!  
There was seriousness about being a part of the Church!  
People were getting saved - consistent focus!  
People were getting healed (every one that came)!  
Everybody was ready for the coming of the kingdom of Heaven  
- i.e. The Millennium