

Indio Informer

*"Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding."*

Proverb 3:5

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- *"Fight the good fight"*
- *"Keep the faith"*
- *"Finish the course"*

Miracles, Wonders, and Signs

By Dan Jenkins

On Pentecost, Peter talked about *"miracles, wonders and signs"* which Jesus did as evidence that He was truly the Son of God (Acts 2:22). These words can be used to refer to the same event, but each of them emphasizes a unique aspect to those events. Take a moment to consider them.

They are described as miracles for they are not natural events which can occur and can be explained by mortals. They are far above this level and demand a super-natural explanation. When Jesus cured the cripple man the response was so graphic. *"So that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We never saw anything like this'"* (Mark 2:12). There was no natural explanation that any mortal could give. It was SUPER-natural!

These miracles are described as wonders. This word emphasizes the impact they had on those who saw them. It was truly a sense of "wonderment." When Jesus stilled the tempest, the apostles *"...were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled"* (Mark 6:51). It was God's way of calling attention to His Messenger in an awesome way.

They are called signs because they bring another message when they happen. As seen above, they gave confirmation to

Purpose of John's Gospel

"So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in His name."

John 20:30-31

DIRECTORY CORRECTION

Sal Contino's phone number is
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December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown
22 Elizabeth Medina 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

18 Jim & Marie Burruss

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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the One who did them. They bear witness, and they testify. They are a message from heaven authenticating the one who performed them. This is why the apostles were empowered for each miracle, as sign of authority from heaven.

What is remarkable is that those in the first century understood some signs but failed to see the most important one. When they asked Jesus to give them a sign, He pointed out a grave situation in their lives which had an eternal consequence. The color of the clouds helped them decide about the coming weather. We express it this way in America, “Red sails at night, sailors’ delight. Red sails at morning, sailors take warning.”

Jesus rebuked them saying, “*Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times*” (Matthew 16:31). Think of the hundreds, perhaps thousands, they had seen Jesus heal, but they ignored these signs of the time when the Messiah was in their midst.

This is why He refused to give the “performance” they asked for. They had seen the myriad of signs already given. He then called their attention to the ultimate sign—His resurrection after being in the grave for three days and nights. How did they respond to this event? They ignored it like they did all the other miracles, wonders and signs. Imagine being them on the Day of Judgment. However, do our lives show that we too can by faith see these signs and ignore them?

Are There Apostles Today?

By Robert Notgrass

In the Bible, we read of the apostles. They were the closest of the Lord’s followers. But what made an apostle or what were the qualifications that made one into an apostle? And are there apostles today?

First, all apostles were required to have seen the risen Christ so that they could preach a resurrection of which he had himself been an eyewitness (1 Corinthians 9:1; Acts 4:33; Acts 1:8).

Second, an apostle had to be called and commissioned by the risen Lord directly: Hand-picked (Luke 6:13; Acts 9:3-6; 13-15; Galatians 1:1).

Third, each was given the Comforter or Holy Spirit (John 14:26) and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

Now, can anyone claim these things today? No.

Also, there were distinctive signs that apostles had which proved they were apostles. Jesus gave them the ability to perform miraculous signs (Matthew 10:1-2; Acts 2:43; Acts 5:12). Paul said that the “*signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds*” (2 Corinthians 12:11-12). And the purpose of these miracles was to confirm the word of God (Mark 16:20).

Can anyone claim these things today? No.

But, what about those who claim that they are apostles today? Is there such a thing? In 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, Paul said that there were “false apostles” who transformed (made or called) “*themselves into apostles of Christ.*” In fact, the Apostle John said that there were apostles who were tested to see if they were apostles and were found to be liars (Revelation 2:2).

Can anyone claim to be an apostle today? Yes.

Does that make them a true apostle? No.

Conclusion: There are no apostles today because they had to see Jesus after He arose from the dead and no one has. The last person to see Jesus was the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:7-9). There are no apostles today because apostles had to be hand-picked and since Jesus does not appear to people today, He is not hand picking anyone. There are no apostles today because no one has the miracle working power of an apostle. The apostles were able to heal any physical condition on the spot including recreating body parts and resurrecting from the dead (Acts 3:1-9; Acts 9:36-42). No case was too difficult. But no one has this type of miracle working power today.