



*The*  
**ACTS**

OF THE APOSTLES



## *Today's Scripture Reading*

Acts 5:12-26



<sup>12</sup> Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup> None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup> And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup> so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup> The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.



<sup>17</sup> But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup> they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup> But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup> “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” <sup>21</sup> And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.





<sup>22</sup> But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup> “We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” <sup>24</sup> Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. <sup>25</sup> And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” <sup>26</sup> Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.



*The*  
**ACTS**  
OF THE APOSTLES

The image features a central graphic of a stylized flame in a vibrant orange-red hue. The flame is composed of several pointed, overlapping shapes that create a sense of movement and heat. To the right of the flame, the word "ACTS" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Above "ACTS", the word "The" is written in a smaller, elegant, cursive script. Below "ACTS", the words "OF THE APOSTLES" are written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. The entire text and logo are set against a dark, textured background with a mottled green and brown color palette. The background is framed by large, stylized, light-colored wave-like shapes that resemble flames or smoke, creating a dynamic and atmospheric setting.



- Luke and Acts started as **one Book** encouraging Theophilus on the Life and works of Jesus.
- Jesus **ris**es from the dead and reveals the life that Luke was talking about.
- Jesus **reveals his mission** to his disciples and provides the power to accomplish it.
- His believers are **filled with the Holy Spirit**



- The **Gospel is preached** to onlookers and God gives grace to many, who become Christians
- A **Christian Community** is formed
- Jesus begins to heal **in order to validate** he is alive and working through his people.
- The work of Peter and John is **questioned by the opposition**



<sup>12</sup> Now many **SIGNS and WONDERS** were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup> None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup> And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup> so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup> The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.





What are **SIGNS** and **WONDERS**?

**Wayne Grudem**, *Systematic Theology*

“A less common kind of God's activity in which he arouses people's awe and wonder and bears witness to himself.”



## What are **SIGNS** and **WONDERS**?

### *1 Corinthians 12:8–10*

<sup>8</sup> For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.



What is the **PURPOSE** of **SIGNS and WONDERS**?

## *Hebrews 2:4*

4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

## *Mark 16:20*

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.



What is the **PURPOSE** of **SIGNS and WONDERS**?

*Acts 4:29-30*

"Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."



What is the **PURPOSE** of **SIGNS and WONDERS**?

*Acts 4:29-30*

"Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

The purpose of signs and wonders are to  
**bear witness to a mighty God.**





## Three Examples of Signs and Wonders

1. Moses -- staff and leprosy (*Exodus 4*)
2. Jesus -- feeds the 5,000 (*John 6*)
3. Peter and John -- lame man walks (*Acts 3*)



## Three Examples of Signs and Wonders

1. Moses -- staff and leprosy (*Exodus 4*)
2. Jesus -- feeds the 5,000 (*John 6*)
3. Peter and John -- lame man walks (*Acts 3*)

Signs and wonders point towards  
the power of the gospel.



## Three Examples of Signs and Wonders

1. Moses -- staff and leprosy (*Exodus 4*)
2. Jesus -- feeds the 5,000 (*John 6*)
3. Peter and John -- lame man walks (*Acts 3*)

Signs and wonders point towards  
the power of the gospel.

## *Romans 1:16*

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is  
the **power of God** for salvation to everyone who  
believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.



## Three Examples of Signs and Wonders

1. Moses -- staff and leprosy (*Exodus 4*)
2. Jesus -- feeds the 5,000 (*John 6*)
3. Peter and John -- lame man walks (*Acts 3*)

Signs and wonders point towards  
the power of the gospel.

### *1 Corinthians 1:18*

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is **the power of God.**



## Three Examples of Signs and Wonders

1. Moses -- staff and leprosy (*Exodus 4*)
2. Jesus -- feeds the 5,000 (*John 6*)
3. Peter and John -- lame man walks (*Acts 3*)

Signs and wonders point towards  
the power of the gospel.

### NOTE:

There is no power greater than that of our God and His saving grace. Signs and wonders bear witness and are secondary to the power of the Gospel.



## Why do **SIGNS** and **WONDERS** MATTER?





**SIGNS and WONDERS** seem to be **CONDEMNED...**

*Matthew 12:39*

39 But [Jesus] answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.”

The Bible is a **heart book** not a **rule book**.

?



**SIGNS and WONDERS** seem to be **CONDEMNED...**

*Matthew 24:24*

24 "For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." So he left them and departed.



## SIGNS and WONDERS seem to be CONDEMNED...

- What **is** condemned is a heart that seeks to have God appeal to **your authority**.
- Are you **humbly asking** God to reveal himself in your life?
- If God showed up miraculously, **would that be enough** for you to submit to His will and His ways?

## Understanding **SIGNS** and **WONDERS** TODAY





## SPIRIT CHASERS





## SPIRIT CHASERS

### Dangers

#### 1. Pursuit of the Experience

Signs and Wonders become **THE** means for experiencing God.

#### 2. Gnosticism

Signs and Wonders are accessed through the hidden knowledge revealed to only a select group.



## CESSATIONIST

“Gifts of the Holy Spirit ended or ceased when the Apostles died.”

### Dangers

1. **Imbalance** - Jesus is emphasized as “preacher to the people” and “teacher to His disciples” but diminished as “healer to the nations”
2. **Damaging** – this perspective cripples the impact of the church today.



## *Ephesians 2:19*

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord



## *Ephesians 2:19*

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord

## *1 Corinthians 14:20-22*



## Understanding **SIGNS and WONDERS** TODAY

*community context*

Everything ←————→ Nothing



## Understanding **SIGNS and WONDERS** TODAY

*community context*

Everything ←————→ Nothing

If we don't spend time reading our bible and learning about God from His Word we more susceptible to be tricked by Satan.



## Understanding **SIGNS and WONDERS** TODAY

The Devil can perform signs and wonders

- *2 Thessalonians 2:9 | Matthew 24:24*

People can love the miracles, signs, and wonders more than they do the giver of Life.

- *Matthew 7:21-23*

Signs and wonders bear witness and are secondary to the **power of the gospel.**





# ACTS of the APOSTLES | 5:12-26

---





## SIGNS and WONDERS continue TODAY

### *Luke 10:1-2*

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest....”



## SIGNS and WONDERS continue TODAY

*Luke 10:9, 17*

<sup>9</sup> Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!”

**They are NOT apostles.**



## SIGNS and WONDERS continue TODAY

Stephen, is selected as a deacon, to ensure the needs of the people were met, he goes on (*Acts 6:8*) to perform great signs and wonders among the people.

### *Galatians 3:5*

5 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—



## SIGNS and WONDERS continue TODAY

Is the environment where these things take place private or public?

*Acts 5:18* - apostles are arrested; placed in public prison

### QUESTION:

Could our lack of signs and wonders be a reflection of the lack of the public situations that warrant God performing a miracle?



## **SIGNS and WONDERS** continue **TODAY**

When was the last time:

- ...Members of a church were arrested for sitting in at a drug house
- ...Members of a church responded to Skin Heads or another hate group for their physical brutality towards homosexuals
- ...Members of a church opposed a gay pride parade or Mardi Gras





## SIGNS and WONDERS continue TODAY

Will we, MACC members,  
maintain the status quo,  
preaching loud in the Waldorf,  
yet being careful not to stir the water too much?





Why does it matter in this church in this environment? Because we are coming in with pain:

Pride	Cancer
Lying	Diabetes
Anger	Depression
Low self-esteem	Anxiety
Fear	Eviction
Jealousy	Hunger
Mistrust	Rape



Why does it matter in this church in this environment? Because we are coming in with pain:

Pride	Cancer
Lying	Diabetes
Anger	Depression
Low self-esteem	Anxiety
Fear	Eviction
Jealousy	Hunger
Mistrust	Rape

**So is this the sign of a healthy church that does signs and wonders?**



## RESOURCES

**How is God Working in the World?**

*Justin Holcomb*

**Signs and Wonders: Then and Now**

*John Piper*



*The*  
**ACTS**

OF THE APOSTLES