

The Gospel Unleashed

Clarifying the Usage of Signs & Wonders

1 Corinthians 13:1 – 14:1

Today I'm continuing with a message I've titled, "Clarifying the Usage of Signs & Wonders"

The Bible clearly teaches that signs and wonders are a natural part of the gospel...

Romans 15:18–19 (NLT) — Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ ...

Acts 14:3 (ESV) — So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

So today I want to answer some common questions regarding signs and wonders...

ONE THING

A humble presentation of the truth plus a powerful demonstration of the Spirit results in a spiritual transformation of the lost!

1. Our HESITATION

➤ ***Why do we NOT see many signs & wonders TODAY?***

1 Corinthians 13:8–10 (ESV) — Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

"...As for prophecies, they will pass away..."

The word translated, "pass away"

Καταργέομαι (katargeomai) - to cease to happen—'to no longer take place, to cease.'

"... as for tongues, they will cease..."

The word translated, "cease"

Παύω (pauo) - to cause something or someone to cease from some activity or state—'to cause to cease, to make stop.'

"... but when the perfect comes..."

The word translated, "perfect"

Τέλειος (teleios) - pertaining to that which is fully accomplished or finished—'complete, finished.'

"... the partial will pass away..."

The word translated, "partial"

ἐκ μέρους (ek merous) - (idioms, literally 'from a part') the state of being part of something—'being part of, as a part of, in part, partially.'

Mark 6:5–6a (NLT) — And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their unbelief...

2. Our PRIORITIZATION

➤ **Why is there so much CONFUSION in the use of signs & wonders?**

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (ESV) — 1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

➤ **When we emphasize the POWER of Jesus over the CHARACTER of Jesus we open the door to DISUNITY and DEMONS!**

3. Our LIMITATION

➤ **Why are some PROPHETIC signs & wonders WRONG?**

1 Corinthians 13:9 (ESV) — For we know in part and we prophesy in part

"For we know in part and we prophesy in part..."

The word translated, "in part"

ἐκ μέρους (ek merous) - (idioms, literally 'from a part') the state of being part of something—'being part of, as a part of, in part, partially.'

1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 (ESV) — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.

To "quench" used here means...

"To extinguish the fire"

To "despise" used here means...

"To despise something on the basis that it is worthless or of no value"

4. Our FRUSTRATION

➤ **Why do signs & wonders sometimes NOT WORK?**

→ **Unconfessed sin in our life...**

Psalm 66:18 (ESV) — If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

→ **Unhealthy motives...**

James 4:3 (ESV) — You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

→ **Unbelief in our heart...**

Mark 6:5–6a (NLT) — And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their unbelief...

→ **Not understanding God's ways...**

1 Corinthians 13:12 (ESV) — For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

5. Our EXPECTATION

➤ **Why should I DESIRE and EXPECT signs & wonders?**

1 Corinthians 13:13–14:1 (ESV) — So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

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1 Corinthians 13:1 – 14:1

1. Our _____

➤ Why do we _____ see many signs & wonders _____?

2. Our _____

➤ Why is there so much _____ in the use of signs & wonders?

3. Our _____

➤ Why are some _____ signs & wonders _____?

4. Our _____

➤ Why do signs & wonders sometimes _____?

5. Our _____

➤ Why should I _____ and _____ signs & wonders?

Signs and Wonders in the Book of Acts

Acts 2	Tongues in the languages of all the people
Acts 2:43	Signs and Wonders through Apostles
Acts 3	Healing of beggar at Beautiful Gate
Acts 5:12	Signs and Wonders through Apostles
Acts 6:8	Signs and Wonders through Stephen
Acts 8:4-8	Philip in Samaria
Acts 9:17-19	Ananias healing the eyes of Saul of Tarsus
Acts 9:32-35	Peter healing Aeneas
Acts 9:36-43	Peter healing Tabitha
Acts 10	Peter's vision and the salvation of Gentiles
Acts 13:4-12	Paul blinding Elymas the magician
Acts 14:3	Paul and Barnabas in Iconium
Acts 14:8-20	Paul healing crippled man
Acts 16:16-40	Paul and Silas in prison singing... earthquake
Acts 19:11-20	Paul's mighty miracles at Ephesus
Acts 27:13ff	Storm at sea; Paul's angelic visit
Acts 28:1-6	Paul bitten by viper and not harmed
Acts 28:7-10	Paul heals the father of Publius and then many others