

Returning to the Authentic Gospel

Reestablishing Our Authority

The Evidence of Authentic Authority

2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Second Corinthians

Returning to the Authentic Gospel

I. Remembering Our Position	1:1-2
II. Reconciling Our Suffering	1:3-11
III. Restoring Our Faith	1:12-7:16
IV. Rekindling Our Stewardship	8-9
V. Reestablishing Our Authority	10-13

Boast

Καυχάομαι – (kauchaomai)

To express an unusually high degree of confidence in someone or something being exceptionally noteworthy

James 3:5 (ESV) — So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

James 4:16 (ESV) — As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV) — Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

1 Corinthians 1:31 (ESV) — So that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 10:17 (ESV) — “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

1. A DEMONSTRATION of Gospel AUTHENTICITY

2 Corinthians 12:11–13 (ESV) — I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing. The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works. For in what were you less favored than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

What are Signs, Wonders and Mighty Works?

Acts 2:43 (ESV) — And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

Acts 4:30 (NLT) — Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

Acts 6:8 (ESV) — And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

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.

What are Signs, Wonders and Mighty Works?
They are **BREACHES** of the **NATURAL** world

➤ **They are BREACHES of the NATURAL world**

What are Signs, Wonders and Mighty Works?
They are **BREACHES** of the **NATURAL** world
They are **EVIDENCES** of the **SPIRITUAL** world

➤ **They are EVIDENCES of the SPIRITUAL world**

Deuteronomy 4:34 (NLT) — Has any other god dared to take a nation for himself out of another nation by means of trials, miraculous signs, wonders, war, a strong hand, a powerful arm, and terrifying acts? Yet that is what the LORD your God did for you in Egypt, right before your eyes.

Acts 2:22 (ESV) — Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know

What are Signs, Wonders and Mighty Works?
They are **BREACHES** of the **NATURAL** world
They are **EVIDENCES** of the **SPIRITUAL** world
They can be **ADVANCES** of **GOD'S** kingdom

➤ **They can be ADVANCES of GOD'S kingdom**

What are Signs, Wonders and Mighty Works?
They are **BREACHES** of the **NATURAL** world
They are **EVIDENCES** of the **SPIRITUAL** world
They can be **ADVANCES** of **GOD'S** kingdom
They can be **DECEPTIONS** of **SATAN'S** kingdom

➤ **They can be DECEPTIONS of SATAN'S kingdom**

Deuteronomy 13:1–3 (NLT) — Suppose there are prophets among you or those who dream dreams about the future, and they promise you signs or miracles, and the predicted signs or miracles occur. If they then say, ‘Come, let us worship other gods’—gods you have not known before—do not listen to them. The LORD your God is testing you to see if you truly love him with all your heart and soul.

Matthew 24:24 (ESV) — For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 (ESV) — The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders

The evidence of signs, wonders and mighty works are not necessarily evidences of a man of God nor of God’s kingdom...

Matthew 7:22–23 (ESV) — On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

However, the evidence of the gospel fully presented does carry signs, wonders and mighty works!

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 from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.

Mark 16:17–18 (NLT) — These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.”

2. A DEDICATION to Spiritual MATURITY

2 Corinthians 12:14–18 (ESV) — Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? But granting that I myself did not burden you, I was crafty, you say, and got the better of you by deceit. Did I take advantage of you through any of those whom I sent to you? I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps?

➤ **Personal INTEGRITY**

2 Corinthians 12:14 (ESV) — Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

➤ **Spiritual MATURITY**

2 Corinthians 12:15 (ESV) — I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?

3. A DETERMINATION toward Personal PURITY

2 Corinthians 12:19–21 (ESV) — 19 Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, beloved. 20 For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder. 21 I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced.

**Returning to the Authentic Gospel
Reestablishing Our Authority
The Evidence of Authentic Authority
2 Corinthians 12:11-21**

1. A _____ of Gospel _____

- *They are _____ of the _____ world*
- *They are _____ of the _____ world*
- *They can be _____ of _____ kingdom*
- *They can be _____ of _____ kingdom*

2. A _____ to Spiritual _____

- *Personal _____*
- *Spiritual _____*

3. A _____ toward Personal _____