

## Course 127

### Signs, Wonders and the Miraculous

#### 1. Synopsis and Introduction

Signs, Wonders and Miracles are all part of the way an infinite and transcendent God intervenes in the natural order of things and demonstrate His Presence and Power to humans. From the Book of Genesis through to the Book of Revelation, Signs, Wonders and Miracles are used to connect finite minds and frail humans with the awesome reality of a supernatural God. Largely arising from his long tenure as Lucifer, the Cherub who covered the Throne of Grace before his fall, Satan learnt some of the ways of God Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19. When he was cast out of the third heaven, Satan has used his corrupted mind and abilities to produce counterfeit signs, wonders and miracles designed to deceive saints who may be desperate to find solutions to their life issues.

The Great Commission which Jesus mandated His Church to execute is a supernatural project, requiring the supernatural presence and power of God to all who participate therein as we shall see in this course. A supernatural God will of course birth supernatural children. Embedded in John 1:12 is the concept of Kingdom power made available to Kingdom citizens to live lives and do assignments that are clearly beyond the normal!

Jesus, however, warned clearly that as the world enters the last stage of its life on planet earth, there will be a rash of miraculous manifestations and lying signs and wonders which can even confuse the elect Matthew 24:24. Paul the Apostle was used of the Lord to amplify this message 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. It makes sense therefore to receive understanding of the real, know why miracles are still for today and understand how to distinguish that which is from God and those that are from the enemy or products of manipulation of humans.

#### Course outline

This course will cover these and other areas to enable us have an inclusive understanding of the subject matter:

- What are signs, wonders and miracles?
- In what areas of life can miracles manifest?
- What is the basis of miraculous manifestations?
- Who can work miracles?
- What are the red flags that indicate an impure or wrong source or channel of miracles?
- How can you spot satanic inspired miracles, signs and wonders

#### 2. Basic Definitions and Purposes

##### Signs

The Collins Dictionary defines a sign as “something that indicates a fact or condition that is not immediately or outwardly observable”. It went on to define it as “a gesture, mark, or symbol intended to convey an idea or information”.

##### Wonders

The Collins English dictionary defines wonders as a verb: “Something that causes surprise or awe” and also, “the feeling of surprise or awe caused by something strange”

##### Miracles

The Collins Dictionary also defined miracle as a noun “An event contrary to the laws of nature attributed to a supernatural cause”

## **Purposes**

We can safely deduce from these definitions that Signs, wonders and miracles are essentially designed as

- Indicators of the Supernatural Presence and Power of God.
- They can be used to announce His interest and will in a given situation. Signs, wonders and miracles are integral instruments for proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom so that unbelievers can bow to the evident power of God
- Signs, wonders and miracles are also designed to meet the needs of saints as proof that their existence and sustenance lies in the hands of the Great I Am and not the economic, financial, political and social systems of the human societies and governments where they live as strangers and pilgrims.
- Signs, wonders and miracles are also used to execute judgment on those who oppose the purpose of God and His Kingdom. This was clearly the case with the way God used them effectively to humble and destroy Pharaoh and his cohorts Deuteronomy 4:34; 6:22.
- We shall examine the purpose of these manifestations in greater detail as we dig into the heart of the subject matter.

In other words, signs, wonders or miracles are designed to point to God and announce His Kingdom. Jesus made this point in His apologetics of signs, wonders and miracles to the religious leaders of Israel in Luke 11.

Luke 11:20

20But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

## Signs, Wonders & Miracles – 2

In mandating His disciples and indeed all of us to undertake the Great Commission, Jesus made it clear that proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom required manifest evidence of the Presence and Power of He who is sending us. The reason is that the gospel is a supernatural project, involving real encounter between the power of God in the saint preaching and the power of Satan holding the sinner in bondage. We are to go in the power of the Risen Christ alone, not our own!

Matthew 28:18-20

18And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Mark 16:15-20

15And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18They 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.

19So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

This was the reason why Jesus forbade His disciples from going forth to preach until they received the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-8

4And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Essentially, all sinners are in enemy territory and we are commissioned to be vessels through which they are pulled out! We cannot do this by our natural wisdom, eloquent speech, theological exactitude but by the manifest power of God which accompanies our preaching so that the gospel is clearly demonstrated!

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

3But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Signs, Wonders and Miracles are known by who they point to!

Any true sign of any sort will invariably cause men and women to remember the goodness of God and draw them closer to Him. When signs do not achieve this effect, something profoundly out of order is indicated thereby. If a sign causes humans to be hardened to sin or veer into the occult, something is fundamentally wrong. If a sign leads humans to be drawn to a fellow human through whom the sign, wonder or miracle is effected, there is a corruption involved. The human channel or vessel has in effect taken the hallowed place of God and begins to draw attention and by that measure, worship to self. The outcome will be manipulation and control of fellow humans, a very deadly form of idolatry.

The first mention of the word “signs” is in Genesis chapter 1:14. It referred to the creation of the Sun and Moon to rule the day and night and to be instruments of signifying the seasons, days and years. Ever since the fall, humans have sought to tap into the mysteries of the Sun, Moon and Stars for the purpose of manipulating signs and wonders with which to exercise control over other humans and to affect the course of nature. In ancient Egypt and Babylon, among other ungodly peoples, these explorations into forbidden realms used by Satan to induct many into astrology, magic and all kinds of dark arts. It is instructive that the Bible records the way Magicians of Pharaoh were able to counterfeit some of the signs God used Moses and Aaron to perform before Pharaoh. Exodus 7:8-13 Exodus 8:6-7

### **Signs, Wonders and Miracles - 3**

Sources/origins revisited.

It is now necessary to establish, in bolder relief what was alluded to in the previous lesson that signs, wonders and miracles have different sources and therefore achieve different objectives.

## 1. From God.

From the dawn of time, God has always demonstrated His supernaturalism to both His children as well as to other creatures. The desired outcomes when God shows up in supernatural ways are these:

Indicate His Presence. This is especially so when people begin to take Him for granted and forget that He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient. Demonstration of signs, wonders and miracles often jolt people into that reality.

When God desires to meet the need of His people in a supernatural way more so when the natural fails.

In relation to the Great Commission, signs, wonders and miracles are various ways God uses to confirm the message and messengers for the benefit of those they are sent to. In effect, signs, wonders and miracles are used by God to validate those who represent Him. They can be said to be Ambassadorial credentials of saints.

Set the unbelieving up for judgement. There are those who will hardly believe, even when God shows up big time! That state of hardened heart becomes a snare through which God sets them up for immediate or future judgement.

## 2. From Satan

As we saw from a previous lesson, Satan learnt some things while he was Lucifer, the anointed Cherub which covered the Throne of God. Satan is therefore able to produce signs, wonders and miracles. In the Last Days, this counterfeit of the real will increase exponentially. His purposes are:

To use such supernatural manifestations to lure ambitious people who yearn to be seen as more powerful than their contemporaries to serve him rather than God. Because Satan does not make any demand of holiness on people, he will obviously be successful in this mission! From the days of Nimrod till date, men and women have always sought to be hunters of souls for exercise of control and lordship.

Genesis 10:8-9

8And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

9He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

The more they have the ability to intervene and alter the course of nature, the more they are able to control and manifest those with lesser or no such powers. From all indications, there will be many in the physical “Church” who are not connected with God but will have large platforms and great promotional strategies to confuse many. In one country, it is believed that more than 50 percent of those who claim to be Prophets are actually diviners, using cultic powers to function.

Satan uses signs, wonders and miracles to recruit those who will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire with him. Knowing that counterfeiting the acts of God is akin to High Treason, Satan has offered human kind access to what he brands “hidden mysteries”. In doing this, Satan alleges,

like he did on the day of the fall of Adam and Eve, that God is withholding mysteries and power from humans so that they cannot be like Him!

Genesis 3:1-6

5For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

In the previous lesson, we saw that Magicians of Pharaoh were able to counterfeit some of the signs God used Moses and Aaron to perform Exodus 7:8-13 Exodus 8:6-7 .

### 3. From the Human Soul

Because humans are created in the image and likeness of God, their soul realm possesses awesome ability to create or give an appearance of things. The soul houses the mind (seat of intellect); the will and emotions (seat of attitude). A creative mind, powerful will and strong, persuasive voice can combine to simulate the likeness of healing in a person of less endowment. Some researchers aver that under certain situations like you find in a typical Pentecostal revival meetings (loud noise, strobe lights, piercing preaching, pulsating music, adrenalin can rush to the mind and give a person who was sick a temporary relief which can be claimed to be divine healing.

Many preachers are into this kind of soul-manipulated healing which is basically a corrupted form of signs, wonders and miracles.

It is interesting that despite loud claims on radio and TV commercials; huge billboards projecting airbrushed photos of famous preachers and all the rallies staged in their names, less than 10 percent of those who attend their meetings on say, wheel chairs ever go home healed.

Most human induced “miracles” occur in what is now fashionably titled “shows”. Here, worldly means are employed to induce results that look like supernatural intervention.

Spiritual people however can discern when a preacher is ministering under the unction of the Holy Spirit or when he/she is using the soul to pump up adrenalin with repeated use of certain positive confession words.

### **Signs, Wonders & Miracles -4"**

#### **The Paradigm issue: From Old to the New Wineskin**

This morning, the Lord impressed on my heart that the issue He wants to address today is that of paradigms. A paradigm is, according to the Collins English dictionary, “a model or example”. Models are constructed from pictures in the mind. A paradigm will therefore develop from the way you look at things or, to put it bluntly, your mindset.

#### **Matthew 9:16-17**

16No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

17Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

In discussing Signs, Wonders and Miracles, the paradigm many are familiar with is that of the Old Covenant! Many are, like Israel of Old, fixated in the way God moved upon certain vessels and situations as recorded in the Old Testament. This is especially true of saints who are interested in the office of Prophet. There is this fixation with one man or woman who commands fear and trepidation whenever he or she shows up. Flowing from this, there is so many fixations with the Prophets Elijah and Elisha and the ways God used them.

Many in the office of Prophet tend to want to come into a “service “ in a well appointed sanctuary, in a flourish, announced with fan fare and soaked in music and worship before the anointing can begin to flow. In some instances, someone has to remain on the keyboard, playing a particular favourite tune before they can receive from the Lord and give to His people. They need pages to carry their bibles, chauffeured like royalty, sequestered in the best possible hotel and assured fat love offerings in order to be happy and a blessing to their hosts. It is interesting that the incident of Elisha needing music in order to flow in the anointing was not recorded many times! 2 Kings 3:11-19

In the Old Covenant, God picked a Prophet (or very few) for the whole nation in each generation except when He turned His back on them. Houses of Prophets produced many disciples who served in priestly capacities and as aides to the main man. The Old Dispensation had as its central core, an exclusive priesthood based on the election of Levi and through him, Aaron his son and generations thereafter as the priestly caste of Israel. With possible exception of few Prophets raised in each generation, that single family alone had access to the mysteries of God and could draw near to the physical dwelling place of the Most High in the Tabernacle and later, Temple. Only the High Priest could enter the Holiest of Holies – just once a year to make atonement for himself and the whole nation! The Priests wore special attires which distinguished them from the masses. The attires and colours of the High Priest was a sight to behold in its pomp and pageantry!

At Calvary Cross, the Old order was fulfilled and a New Covenant inaugurated in the Blood of Jesus. “It is finished” (John 19:30) was not a mere utterance; it was a decree carrying the full weight of the Authority of the King! With His Blood, Jesus entered the Courts of heaven to demonstrate that it was indeed Mission Accomplished! Effectively an era ended and a new one was birthed!

It was only after Jesus commissioned the old opposer, Saul of Tarsus, that the incredible details of what He accomplished at Calvary was properly articulated. A proper detailed study of all the Pauline epistles is recommended. The meat of the revelations is about the emergence of one new race out of the old mutually opposed religious classes: Jews and Gentiles Ephesians 2: 14-22; Ephesians 3:1-12. The New Covenant therefore offers humanity a new paradigm of relationship rather than religion. For this new paradigm to work, the old Levitical Priesthood of a select few, very healthy males only for that matter, from a particular human lineage had to give way for a New Priesthood based on the universal Fatherhood of God! Jesus came in effect to establish a Kingdom of Priests wherein every single member of His Body – irrespective of human primogeniture, age, gender, race, location and every other index of exclusion – is part of the Royal Priesthood! 1 Peter 2:9

This priesthood is based on a better foundation: the Blood of Jesus rather than those of animals. It is also based on a better promise: everlasting life rather than mortality. It is this priesthood which is His earthly Body in action comprising living, active and functional parts ministering to Him and each other in an organic mode rather than the old organizational construct! The Temple of the New Priesthood is not a religious building that people go to in

Jerusalem but the fleshly sanctum of hearts of the redeemed wherein the Holy Spirit indwells instead of the old Shekinah behind the veil!

Those who do not understand these fundamental truths about the present dispensation of the Blessed Kingdom of God often get fixated with the colours, attires, male-centric Priesthood of the Old and are unconsciously trying to serve new wine from Old wineskins. This only leads to deadly brew which bursts from time to time leading to loss of the wine and the wineskin! This has been the sad lot of the Body of Christ since it allowed itself to be beguiled by the enemy to cling to the Old Paradigm and reject the new!

Assignment: To get a full picture of the New Wineskin of a relational Kingdom of Priests and how diametrically different it is from the Old order, please read Romans chapter 12: 1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Galatians chapters 1,2,3,4; Ephesians chapters 1,2,3 and 4: 1-16; Colossians chapters 1,2. Read also Hebrews chapters 5,6,7,8,9,10 and 1 Peter 2: 9-12; 1 Peter 5:10, 11

### **8 Critical Statements on the New Wineskin; Signs, Wonders and Miracles**

The question now is how does the new wineskin of the Kingdom work? The answer is simple: by the universal Priesthood of all saints 1 Peter 2:9! This radical answer means that:

1. You cannot limit ministry or manifestation of signs, wonders and miracles to a building with religious architecture called “church”. Because God is Omnipresent and Omniscient and because He inhabits the hearts of His saints, each of them is a dedicated Temple of His!

Corinthians 6:19-20

19What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

2. You cannot limit ministry or manifestations of signs, wonders and miracles to pre-ordained times of certain days you designate as “service days” or times. God can show up anytime, anywhere using any saint He desires. The early Church understood this principle and put it to work with great results! God is able to show up on Main Street and on Wall Street even much more than within a Cathedral!

Mark 16:20

20And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

3. This new paradigm is illustrated by the words of the Great Commission. The gospel of the Kingdom is a “Go Ye” not “Come Here” project!

Matthew 28:18-20 (King James Version)

18And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mark 16:15-16

15And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Acts 1:8

8But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

4. You cannot have a few select clergy while the vast majority is a passive laity who come to “receive”, give money and go back to their normal estates. Every believer is called to ministry and can be used by the Sovereign God as He pleases!

Ephesians 4:7

7But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11

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

11If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

5. You cannot exclude women from certain priestly offices because they are female. In the New Wineskin model, God anoints everyone in His Kingdom to be a functional member of the Body of Christ by the indwelling Holy Spirit who resides within the spirit-man which is neither male nor female. The spirit man is eternal. In the new model, whoever has the anointing is made manifest by what God chooses to do in and through him or her as a vessel!

Galatians 3:26-29

26For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

6. In this new priesthood what counts is what God deposited into your spirit man by the Holy Spirit not the colour of the attire you wear on the physical body. Whoever will be known by attire is operating in the Old wineskin mentality and is seeking relevance or advantage over



those who behold the sight. It is a form of control and manipulation of the mind for “anointed” vessels to wear certain types of robes before they can function! You cannot use the carnal to influence the quality and quantum of the anointing!

7. In this new priesthood, the presence or absence of music and worship songs has no impact on what God can do through the vessel He has ordained to use. God can show up anytime, any where. Our job is to go forth everywhere while He allows the signs of His authorship to follow us!

Mark 16:15;20

15And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

20And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

8. It dishonours God and demeans His Body for saints to run after men or women who supposedly have the anointing or to run from pillar to post in chase of an elusive miracle. Saints are to focus on the Lord and His Kingdom, even in the face of extreme needs and cast all their cares upon Him, trusting Him with their destinies and provisions for life and godliness!

Matthew 6:19-34

33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

1 Peter 5:7

7Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

2 Peter 1:3

3According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

- **Signs, Wonders & Miracles -6**

A New Testament Survey of Signs, Wonders & Miracles (part 1)

Today we urge you to study these scriptures which indicate that Signs, Wonders and Miracles are to be the normal experiences of saints. We will also see that there are warnings of false signs, wonders and miracles of satanic origin. There will also be those which are of human origin.

1. Matthew 16:3

And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

Matthew 24:24

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Mark 13:22

For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

Mark 16:17

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Mark 16:20

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Luke 21:11

And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

Luke 21:25

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

John 4:48

Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

John 20:30

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

Acts 2:19

And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

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:

Acts 2:43

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Acts 4:30

By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Acts 5:12

And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

Acts 7:36

He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in

the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

Acts 8:13

Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

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.

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.

2 Thessalonians 2:9

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

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  
Wonders

Matthew 24:24

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Mark 13:22

For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

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Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

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And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Acts 4:30

By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Acts 5:12

And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Acts 7:36

He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

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.

Acts 15:12

Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by 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.

2 Thessalonians 2:9

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

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?

Revelation 13:13

And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

Miracle

Mark 6:52

For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

Mark 9:39

But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.

Luke 23:8

And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.

John 2:11

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

John 2:23

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

John 3:2

The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

John 4:54

This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

John 6:2

And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

John 6:14

Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

John 6:26

Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

John 7:31

And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

John 9:16

Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

John 10:41

And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.

John 11:47

Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

John 12:18

For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

John 12:37

But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

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:

Acts 4:16

Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

Acts 4:22

For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Acts 8:6

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

Acts 8:13

Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Acts 15:12

Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

Acts 19:11

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

### **Creating the enabling environment for Signs, Wonders & Miracles**

The end time Church has been ordained to walk in the fullness of supernaturalism! Signs, wonders and the miraculous are to be the normal experience of saints in every area of life. Right in homes of saints, we are to live above the ordinary. At school and in our work places, signs should follow us as our Ambassadorial credentials! We are to go out everywhere in the understanding that our identities cannot be hid! The Nicodemus complex of secret discipleship is not our portion.

What happened on the Day of Pentecost was the former rain, when 120 saints in the Upper Room – men and women, young and old; ordained and “laity” – were empowered and the Church was birthed. The Holy Spirit announced the supernatural transition of those ordinary folks to extraordinary witnesses for Jesus. There is a Latter Rain of the out pouring of the Holy Spirit which is imminent! It is not given to a select few super anointed ministers who convene special meetings or control the airwaves. It is given to ALL saints who can walk in obedience to the Lord of the harvest.

Three scriptures bring forth the purpose of God for the closing chapter of the Church age in bold relief:

### **Joel 2:28-30**

**28**And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

**29**And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

**30**And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

### **Acts 3:19-21**

**19**Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

**20**And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

**21**Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

The closing chapter of the Church Age is a time of restitution of ALL things! It is a time in which God will perfect what He started!

### **Ephesians 5:26-27**

**26**That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

**27**That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

The glorious Church is about to emerge! It shall be radiant with His glory and awesome in demonstration of the Power of God! It shall be a church with just one objective: To manifest the present phase of the Kingdom of God and its righteousness on planet earth. In other words, it shall be a Church which manifests the nature and power of Christ to the World as Salt which preserves from corruption adding flavour and as Light which illuminates and dispels darkness of the Satanic order. Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 6:19-34. This end time Church shall be militant in every respect, rooting out, pulling down the works of darkness in its environment and establishing the ordinances of the Kingdom Jeremiah 1:10. Though separate from the world spiritually, it shall engage with the environment in a proactive rather than reactive fashion! The Church Militant shall essentially be used by God to proclaim and prepare the way for the return of Jesus as King to preside over the future phase of the Kingdom of God!

### **The Mix which creates the Enabling Environment**

This morning, the Lord impressed on my heart that there are two things necessary for saints to flow in an extraordinary real of the supernatural. The first is the need to create an enabling environment for Him to move on behalf of His people. God is in the business of stooping low to act in partnership with His saints. What are the things the Lord will have us do as individuals, families, local congregations and in our businesses and workplaces to attract the fullness of the Presence and Power of God? What can we do to show God that we welcome Him to intervene and do what pleases Him at any time?

1. **Live in Love.** Love is the very essence of the nature of God. Anyone who lives in love lives the God kind of life. Love attracts the Presence and Power of God because it announces Him! We are called to love God above all else, including our very lives! We are called to develop an ever increasing relationship of intimacy with God. Flowing from this should be the nature, attitude and lifestyle of loving ALL humans especially those of the household of God. Genuine love is functional, producing good works like caring and sharing which enables saints to enjoy a Goshen-like economy where

everyone is cared for. John 13:34,35; John 15:12,13; 1 Corinthians 13; James 2:14-26;1 John 3:14-23.

2. **Live in Holiness.** Holiness is the nature of God. When saints live in holiness, they create the magnetic force which attracts His Presence and Power. When the Temples of God within the hearts of saints are polluted, the circuit of Power is broken. 1 Peter 1:15, 16. The plan of God is that we should lay hold of His gift of righteousness and grace to live above sin. 1 John 5:18. Any time a saint stumbles, the tender conscience should be convicted unto true repentance so that the Blood can flow to cleanse the pollution and make all things right and new. 1 John 2:1-2. To claim that God does not see sins of saints because of the Blood of Jesus is to pervert a truth. Sin must be acknowledged, repented of and forsaken! Jesus always told those who encountered Him: go and sin no more!
3. **Separate from the World.** Saints are redeemed out of this world system and conveyed into the Kingdom of God! Colossians 1:13. Jesus prayed for saints to live apart from the system and culture of this world. John 17:6-26. Our Ambassadorial assignment is blunted when saints are unequally yoked with the world! 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 Peter 2:9-12. The world must not be allowed to creep into our ways of thinking and living! 1 John 2:15-17. Borrowing worldly methods – whether in music, administrative systems or operational procedure will mean polluting the spiritual atmosphere because our God is jealous over His saints and does not want to share our heart with his adversary who is the Prince of this world. James 4:4,5; John 14:30; 1 John 5:19-21
4. **Live in Unity.** Unity is a powerful force that attracts the Presence and Power of God. It was only in a state of full unity that the Holy Spirit came at the beginning Acts 2:1-4. It is in unity that He works best because the gathering of two or more persons automatically induces the Presence of Jesus as Head of His Church! Matthew 18:19-20; 1 Corinthians 1:10. If all of us in this face book group or in any assemblage of saints learn to live and operate in one accord, the manifestation of the Presence and Power of God will be awesome. To discern and walk in the consciousness of the Body of Christ as an organic whole is key to walk in the fullness of the miraculous! That is why Satan will always seek to raise vessels – even those filled with the spirit of religion – and without their knowing it, use them to sow seeds of discord. Backbiters, gossips, accusers of brethren who walk in suspicion and claim it is discernment and those filled with the spirit of discord and division are to be marked and avoided, if they refuse help and insist on carrying on in their pernicious ways! Romans 16:17, 18. Saints, please leave any fellowship of saints –a local congregation, ministerial fellowship or on face book where you do not believe you are fitted in by God! Do not try to impose your contrary will and views on ministers who God has raised as overseer of His flock. Pray for them and if the Lord gives you a word, deliver it faithfully to them devoid of your emotions or ego as a Post man would deliver a letter. If their ways do not sit well with your spirit, leave in peace and trust God to sort things out! At no time will God release His office as a Judge of His Ministers to you! Romans 14:4-13. Unity is so critical because the promise of Jesus is to His Church – the saints walking in unity! To make us interdependent, God has gone out of His way to give different gifts to different people. No one has it all and no saint is designed to live alone but to be part of an organic whole! Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 4:1-7; 11-16; 1 Peter 4:10,11.
5. **Exaltation of Jesus.** As individuals and as the family of God, we must understand the centrality of Jesus Christ as Redeemer of Saints and King of the Kingdom! It is ALL about Him, not us! Religion exalted who it did not fully know. The pseudo-kingdom movement demeans Him in order to exalt His redeemed, putting emphasis of the Kingdom on saints, not Him! The Father has exalted Jesus and given Him the only name which activates the supernatural! Let us gather in His Name and let us be



conscious of His Presence immediately we congregate! Philippians 2:9-11; Matthew 18:20; Acts 4:1-31

6. **The Holy Spirit must have right of way.** At the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus was announced by John as the one who would baptise His followers with the Holy Spirit rather than mere water John 29-34. Jesus lived with His disciples for all of three and half years. He died, rose again and for forty days, taught His disciples deeper mysteries of the Kingdom which they could not receive before then. Acts 1:1-3. When He ascended to heaven, Jesus commanded the disciples, in one final act of preparation to wait in prayer and fellowship for the promised Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Only the 120 who obeyed Him and stayed in the Upper Room for 10 more days were baptised as He promised! Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-4. We need to get back into tarrying and waiting on the Lord for outpouring of His Spirit. We need to identify and root out of the way, every carnal activity, humanistic endeavour and other distractions which preoccupy our individual and corporate lives so that we can wait for a fresh visitation of the Holy Spirit. In the early Church, they did not rely on the historic infilling on the Day of Pentecost alone. Any time they met challenges, they congregated in prayer until they were filled afresh. In the same way, instead of dwelling on the issues we face and pandering to the spirit of rejection, let us go for a fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit and be re-filled for the assignment God has given us. Modernism makes us to structure our lives around human ambitions and strictures of the political, economic and social systems. Unfortunately, these strictures shut out the Holy Spirit or constrict Him to be subject to the whims of humans. The God of the whole earth will have none of this! In our personal walk with God, we must mature to the point where we are transparent with and vulnerable to the Holy Spirit. Let us drop our human ambitions and receive His divine vision for our lives. Let us allow Him to guide and steer our lives. In prayer, let us learn to listen to what He has to say rather than desire that He execute our wish list. He it is who works in us to will and to do of the good pleasure of the Father Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:13; He it is who inspires us to pray the exact mind of the Father Romans 8:26,27; 1 Corinthians 14:2. He comforts and strengthens us in the face of adversity John 14: 15-16; reveals all truth to us John 16:13-15 and enables us to discern what is of God from what is of the enemy or flesh 1 John 2:18-27.
7. **Giving the Great Commission its central place in our lives and walk.** The Great Commission is not a suggestion or nice idea. It is the very core of why we are left on earth after redemption! The Great Commission is the assignment of Christ for His saints on this side of eternity! For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son was not just a historic fact consummated with the incarnation of Jesus in the womb of Mary. It is and will remain a present reality until the fullness of the Kingdom is inaugurated. In every generation, God wants His remnant to make reconciliation of sinners with Him and empowerment of fellow saints to become Disciples of Christ and able ministers of the New Testament a core essence of why they live! Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 2 Timothy 2:2; Ephesians 4:11-12. The Holy Spirit releases Himself to saints and manifests the Presence and Power of God in signs, wonders and miracles when saints individually and as a group have a “Go forth” rather than a “Come here” mindset to proclaim the gospel. The witness of Mark 16:20 is that as they went forth everywhere, preaching and the Lord confirmed them as His ambassadors with signs and wonders which followed. If we will go for Him in our localities, cities, countryside, States, Nations and cross culturally to uttermost parts of the world, the Lord will release His fresh anointing on us.
8. **Restoring the Central Place of the Word.** Every lasting revival is based first on the repair of the altar of the Word. God is sovereign with a will that is substantially expressed in His Word. The Lord is pleased with the obedience, not mere sacrifices of His saints John 15:10-16. To restore our walk in His anointing for Signs, wonders and

miracles, the starting point will be to restore primacy of the Word. When the Word of God is elevated as highly as God Himself elevates it (greater than His Name), we will obey His Word from the heart. When we live in obedience, the Lord unfolds His Presence and Power and shows His good pleasure. Ministers must get off the stealing of each other's words, mimicking those they deem successfully and begin to dwell in the word. When the Word fills the heart and mind of a minister, the quickening of the Holy Spirit will occasion an outflow of the Rivers of Living Water which sparks faith in the saints who, as they receive the Word, see manifestation of the hand of God in their everyday life. In the same way, saints must restore the primacy of the Word of God, not philosophies of men as guiding light of their lives.

9. **Prayer and spiritual warfare.** God is enthused with the aroma of prayers of saints which come before Him like Sweet incense Revelations 5:8. These prayers, when said in the name of Jesus activate His Priestly intercession on our behalf Hebrews 2: 10-18; Hebrews 4:14-16. We need to stop most of the carnal things that take so much of our times and get into prayer mode. A heart that is supercharged with prayer is a heart which can connect with the Presence and Power of God! Let us emulate the disciples who prayed prayers that shook buildings and rocked foundations of prisons! Acts 4: 23 – 31; Acts 16:16-34. We need to war in the spirit against every hindrance to spiritual maturity and the holistic well being of saints. Putting on the whole armour of God to do battle against powers of darkness is not a suggestion but a lifestyle of victory Ephesians 6:10-18. In warfare mode, saints are called to resist the devil and he will flee 1 Peter 5:8,9. Most of the challenges we will meet in the mission field can be confronted and overcome with the right tools of spiritual warfare. The Lord is always willing to release specific strategies for His saints to war successfully. The ongoing America, Wake Up! Project is a case in point where God is bringing revelation to His saints as they walk in His instructions to arise and take over the gates of their cities and States ahead and prepare the way for the King of Kings in the United States of America. Saints in Illinois concluded their rally last night following those in Arkansas who hosted their rally in April. Saints in Ohio, New York, Connecticut, Texas, North Carolina, Mississippi, Florida and Delaware are gearing up to host America, Wake Up! From June till December 2011. Hopefully, all the other states in the US will war for destinies of their states throughout 2012, if Jesus tarries. If the Lord is touching you to volunteer to mobilize your state, please let us know. South Africa, Wake Up! Is scheduled for the month of June!

#### **10. Remove all restrictions to Priesthood of the Saints and Empowerment of the forsaken.**

For saints to flow in the miracle working power of God, all the ordinances and traditions of men which restrict, constrain and limit emergence of the priesthood of all saints must be taken away 1 Peter 2:9. God is looking for ready vessels to fill with the Holy Spirit and power in these last days and is not restricted to saints on the basis of their gender, age, wealth, race or ethnicity. Ministry is simply “expression of what we are impressed with by the Holy Spirit”. The calling of God – including into all the fivefold offices – as well as gifts of the Holy Spirit are deposited in the realm of the spirit man, not the physical flesh. In effect, the issue of gender is absolutely of no effect in determining how much God can use a person. Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-30; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10,11.. Traditions which exclude women from ministry or place glass ceilings to what extent they can serve must be identified and taken out of the way. God has expressly spoken that He will use those who were excluded mightily in these Last Days so that all the glory can be given to Him 1 Corinthians 1:26-30.

## **Walking the Walk of Signs, Wonders & Miracles.**

The preceding lesson essentially dealt with creating the enabling environment by the saints as a corporate entity – whether at the family, local congregation or city Church level. Today, we will focus on how the individual saint can walk the walk which activate an atmosphere where signs, wonders and miracles become the norm rather than the exception. This is so necessary because of the dryness the gospel experienced in recent years. We are in days that are similar to that of Gideon who wondered aloud to the angel for proof of the Presence and Power of God with His people in Israel who were suffering in the hands of Midianites.

### Judges 6

11And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

12And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

13And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

14And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

Not a few saints are actually wondering whether what we read of in Acts of the Apostles can be re-enacted. The answer is definitely yes! There will be a massive visitation of God on His faithful remnant and it will be clear to all who relate with them.

What then does God require of His remnant in order to use them in these Last Days as He did at the first? Interesting, God is simply asking His saints to be who He has always asked them to be. Do you want to be used mightily by God in this emergent season? There are biblical steps to take, not by our own power, but by the matchless grace of God which He releases to us when we yearn for a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him:

1. Be sold out to the Lord in total consecration. God is not looking for super stars to crown with glory! He is simply looking for yielded vessels who are completely sold out to Him and His Kingdom. The King wants His saints and co-labourers to be dead to self, ambition and preoccupation with the “enjoyments” of life. He is seeking those who willingly defer “enjoyment” in order to focus on what is critical. This will lead to a holiness lifestyle rather than mere religious abstinence from certain outward sins. Matthew 16:24-26; Romans 12:1; 2 Timothy 2:3, 4, 10-13. Such people have come to the point where they know that of the three possible sources of danger: Satan, the World and self, the last is most dangerous because it is part of life. They therefore bring the body under subjection, at the Cross, and give it no occasion to resurrect to get in the way of spiritual growth and victory. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Galatians 2:20; Galatians 6:14.
2. Allow the Word to renew your mind. God is looking for those who will willingly surrender their minds which are filled with worldly ideas and cultural strongholds for re-programming. The outcome is that the old way of thinking, which is basically self

centred, is radically changed Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23. The mind of Christ is then engrafted and we begin to see things as He sees them. For the mind to be renewed, the individual saints must be given to diligent study of the Word, meditation on it and illumination of the Holy Spirit to create life out of the static text and prayer to appropriate its holistic provisions. Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

3. Singular focus and passion. All that drives the life of a saint who God can use exponentially is total commitment to the Kingdom of God and its righteousness. To such, God can commit His unlimited resources and a measure of His awesome powers. Jesus had this kind of saint in view when He made the alarming commitment to endue such people with the ability to do greater works John 14:12. Jesus knows all the needs of all His saints and the fact that they are capable of obscuring our view of the things which matter. He wants us to trust Him to provide all our needs as a Good Shepherd! Matthew 6:19-32,33,34; Luke 11:13.
4. Realize the limits of natural talents and abilities and embrace the Holy Spirit as the ONLY basis of Power to change situations. Such saints dare not rely on their eloquence of speech or natural capacity to do many things as basis of serving the Lord. There is a sense of emptiness without the power of God. It is this tendency which will cause the saint to be unrelenting in seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit, the principal instrument for manifestation of signs, wonders and miracles John 7:37-39; John 14:12; Acts 1:38. Even if they were initially filled years ago, they know by the Word and experience that the anointing can drain away in the normal course of life. Like the early disciples, they know the necessity to be refilled again and again Acts 2:1-4; Acts 4:23-31. They do not buy into theories of men that the Holy Spirit is not for today nor that miracles were for yesterday! In so doing, such saints are merely emulating Jesus who was filled by and operated with the fullness of the Holy Spirit in life and ministry Luke 3:21,22; John 3:34; Acts 10:38. God is looking for saints who will not confine the Holy Spirit to time of prayer or worship within the four walls of "church" buildings. Let us get the Holy Spirit off our religious boxes! He is the God of the whole earth in action. Let us submit to His leadership to use us and manifest His gifts in us when it pleases Him and How He deems best! That way, He can use us on main street; in trains; aircraft; on air, land and sea according to needs of those around us so that in meeting them, a door of opportunity is opened for preaching of the message 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 11.
5. **Faith that is expressed with and by prayer.** The end time saint who will walk in the miraculous realm is one whose faith is unlimited by human reason; unmoved by what is seen and totally dependent on what the Word of God says. The saint who will walk in faith is not moved by Government policies; current affairs in the News Media or what he/she sees, feels or touches with the five carnal senses. Matthew 19:26; Matthew 21:22; Mark 11: 22-24; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Faith and prayer is like a Siamese twin! Believe what you pray and pray what you believe! The saint who will walk in faith is simply emulating God who called forth things that are not on the creation morning and still does till today. Genesis 1; Romans 4:17-22. Saints must get out of their comfort zones and begin to believe God for enlargement of His Kingdom through demonstration of the Power of the Holy Spirit which can cause whole families, communities and even those in human authority to bow to the authority of Jesus. Our faith is in His name at which every knee shall bow Philippians 2:9-11!

#### **In what areas of life can miracles, signs and wonders manifest?**

The short answer to this question is this: miracles, signs and wonders can manifest in every facet of life! They are simply manifestations of the Presence and Power of God as expressions of His Omnipresence and Omnipotence! God will respond to His own

supreme purposes and use whatever means He deems necessary to show His awesome powers. Beyond Himself, God will also respond to the obedience, faith and prayers of saints—who live in obedience and submission to His will— to dramatically inject what is clearly beyond the ordinary as a way of arresting attention or inducing holy fear.

The Lord brought Israel out of Egypt in a slew of signs, wonders and miracles and parted the Red Sea for them to cross over. God manifested Himself to Israel in awesome physical manifestations when the law was given on Mount Sinai. In one dramatic illustration of the power of faith, Joshua decreed that the Sun and Moon would stand still for him to accomplish the mission of defeating the Amorites Joshua 10:12-14.

God fed Israel with Manna and their clothes and shoes never wore out for the forty years of wandering in the desert even bringing water out of rock. When it was time to enter the Promised Land, River Jordan, the last barrier was miraculously parted for the people. Israel conquered Canaan by supernatural means. The indigenous nations cringed in fear whenever mention was made of Israel with particular reference to the Ark of the Covenant in their midst.

The dealings of God with Israel were designed to presage His walk with the Church of Jesus Christ. The Church itself is a miracle, sign and wonder all rolled into one! Using the texts in Ephesians 1 and 2 and Colossians 1 and 2, we see in the Church a mystery of mysteries: one new man emerging from the two previously hostile peoples of old: Jews and Gentiles! Is it not amazing that Jesus would regard us as His Own Body? Is it not amazing that Jesus would commit to be present where two or more saints are gathered in His Name?

It is amazing that God would commit extraordinary promises to our trust:

**2 Peter 1:3-4**

**3**According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

**4**Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust

**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.

The plan of God is for His Church to live an “other worldly” life while on earth! Our economy, health, strength is supposed to manifest His Presence and Power so much so that those who come in contact with us are drawn to Him! The signs and wonders which follow us draw their attention for the pure word to be released for effective results!

The truth is that the God of the whole earth has consciously chosen to walk with and through His servants! If it requires intervention in nature, God will do it. If it requires healing from sicknesses of every sort – cancer, liver failure, diabetes, hypertension, there is a sure word that by the stripes Jesus suffered, the price for all healings of every sort has been paid!

### **Matthew 8:16-17**

**16**When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

**17**That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Keep silent no more in the face of diseases that decimate the strength of the House of God. Whether for us or for other saints, let us stand strongly on the Word of God and continue to do so until the full measure of what Christ purchased at Calvary is effectively received and enjoyed by His TRUE Church which bears His DNA and manifests His attributes.

For individual saints, this means focussing intently on the Word and releasing our faith by our how we live and the words of our lips. Living the miraculous life is simply living the faith life! In practical terms, we must believe God even for the impossible, pray mountain moving prayers and refused to be moved by what we feel, touch, see, hear or even perceive. Faith will always overcome the natural and tangible!

### **What is the basis of miraculous manifestations?**

The answer is simple: the Authority of the Name of Jesus is the basis of miraculous manifestations!

### **Matthew 16:19**

**19**And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

### **Matthew 18:18**

**18**Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

### **John 16:23-24**

**23**And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

**24**Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Let us rest our faith in the Word of God that can never change. For that to happen, we must give up your old carnal-senses based life which tempts us to constantly confess what we see, hear, feel or touch about our bodies and situations.

### **Isaiah 53**

**1**Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed

- Who can work miracles? (Part 1)

God can work miracles through any vessel of His choice. This is called His “election”

or exercise of His Sovereignty. The idea of a select few people being anointed while the vast majority are spectators in the House of God is alien to the fundamental principles of the Kingdom of God. In truth, Jesus is the Messiah or the Anointed One. When His Body was broken, it was to the intent that His worth would be distributed to ALL who believe!

On the opposite side of the spectrum, there is the wrong notion that every saint must be able to manifest all the individual signs and miracles which Jesus said will accompany the preaching of the gospel.

Mark 16:15-20

15And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18They 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.

19So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Explaining the Great Commission

The Great Commission is the mandate of Jesus the Christ for His Church or Body on earth! It is a corporate mandate for all who are named by His name rather than an individual mandate to be done in isolation by individual saints standing alone and apart from the Body! This simple but true perspective is clearly expressed in Mark 16:15 – 20 quoted above.

A careful reading of the text shows these truths:

The Church is to be on “Go Ye” mode. Jesus never intended His Church to be an organization dwelling in buildings of brick and mortar well decorated in the mode of the Old Temple which was demolished by the armies of General Titus in AD 70. To give effect to the New Covenant as Jesus hinted in His conversation with the Samaritan woman, it was needful for that symbol of the Old to be demolished.

John 4:21-24 (King James Version)

21Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The whole Church is to take the whole gospel to the whole world! No single arm of the Church can do it alone. The Great Commission is not to be left in the hands of professional missionaries nor is it for the “ordained clergy”. The mandate is to let everyone on earth to know that Jesus Christ has opened the Life Gate for a living, loving relationship with the Father and entry into The eternal Kingdom of God by the Blood He shed at the Cross of Calvary!

To convince those who will hear the Word of Truth that it is a divine message, the Lord invested the gospel message with signs and miraculous manifestations.

The manifestations are for the Body, not the individual acting as a solo player! Notice how many plurals are in these three verses:

17And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18They 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.

20And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

To fully understand this extraordinary insight, we need to go to the Pauline Epistles for further clarification. More than any other individual, God released to Paul a great deal of understanding of the mystery of the Church as the Body of Jesus Christ left on earth to prepare people to enter and dwell in the Kingdom of God. In Romans chapter 12 and 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and Ephesians chapter 4, The Holy Spirit mightily used Paul to set out an explanation of what the Church is. The Church, he explained, is not a dry human organization structured in an Ecclesiastical Hierarchy. It is rather the aggregation of all the saints who are in Christ.