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**MIRACLES IN
THE BOOK OF
ACTS, # 1.**

I. Introduction

A. Jesus promised signs would follow the believers.

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

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”-Mark 16:17 & 18.

B. Mark tells us that the Lord confirmed the word with signs following.

“So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following”-Mark 16:19 & 20.

C. The book of Acts is considered the “History Book” of the NT, and shows the gospel being spread from Jerusalem throughout the Roman Empire in about 32 years (from about 30-62 AD).

D. If the book of Acts is a product of God, we should expect to see “marks of deity” throughout it; and that’s exactly what we are going to see as we travel briefly through the book this morning!

E. Three words are used in the NT to emphasize different aspects of what we normally call miracles.

1. Miracles (dunamesin). This word emphasizes the great power of God exercised in each miracle.

2. Wonders (terasyn). This word stresses the wonderment, amazement, and astonishment produced in the mind of those who witnessed the miracles of the Lord and the apostles.

3. Signs (semeiois). This word emphasizes the signal given by the miracle that Jesus and the apostles were from God!

“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 2:22.

After witnessing the Lord perform miracles, Nicodemus said, “Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do theses miracles that thou doest, except God be with him”-John 3:2; 2:23.

The apostle Paul spoke of the “signs of an apostle”-see II Corinthians 12:12.

“Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and in mighty deeds.”

II. Lets take a look at the miracles found in the book of Acts:

A. Tongues-Acts 2:4.

“And they (the apostles, see vs. 14 & 15) were all filled with the holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Tongues are said to have been a sign to the unbeliever, “Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not”-I Corinthians 14:22.

God used tongues on the day of Pentecost to “signal” to the many thousands of Jews present, that the apostles were indeed His spokesmen!

B. The lame man was healed-see the record in Acts 3:1-11; 4:22.

Please notice that this healing wasn't staged!

The man was lame from his mother's womb, and he was laid daily at the Beautiful gate entering the temple area-Acts 3:1.

Here's what the evil Sanhedrin Council said about this great miracle: *“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 4:16.

In a common figure of speech, “Everyone in the city of Jerusalem knew of this lame man!”

Remember too, that the lame man was more than 40 years old-Acts 4:22.

C. The death of Ananias and Sapphira-Acts 5:1-10.

This is the first case of discipline administered in the newly established church of Christ, and it was administered by God Himself!

Question: Doesn't this case of God smiting Ananias and Sapphira with death show us the deep displeasure God has towards lying?

“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren”-Proverbs 6:16-19.

D. Miracles worked by Philip-Acts 8:5-8, & 12.

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

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

For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame were healed.

And there was great joy in that city.

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

Remember the statement in Mark 16:20, *“The Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.”*

E. Ananias restored Paul's sight-Acts 9:11, 12 & 17.

“And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street that is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Here, God used the miracle of restoring Saul's sight to confirm to him that Ananias was from God!

F. Peter's miracles in Lydda and Joppa-Acts 9:32-43.

“And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy (he was paralyzed).

And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned unto the Lord”-verses 33-35.

“Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise.”

*And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.
And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he
had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.
And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed
in the Lord”-verses 39-42.*

**G. The miracle of tongues to Cornelius and his
group-Acts 10:44-46; 11:12,14-18.**

*“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Spirit fell on
all them which heard the word.*

*And they of the circumcision which believed were
astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the
Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God”
-Acts 10:44-46.*

“And the Spirit bade me go with them (men from the house of Cornelius, Acts 10:17-20) nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house.

And as I began to speak, (words whereby they could be saved, see v. 14), the Holy Spirit fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Forasmuch as God gave them the like gift, as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life”

-Acts 11:12, 14-18.

1. The gift of tongues was given to confirm God's approval of the gospel being preached to the Gentiles.

2. Peter's explanation shut down the objectors and produced a heart-warming response among the brethren at Jerusalem!

III. Close: The conversion of Cornelius should PROVE BEYOND ANY SHADOW OF DOUBT that its possible to be religious and God-fearing, and still be lost!

A. Look at all the characteristics and blessings that belonged to Cornelius:

- 1. He was devout-v. 2**
- 2. He feared God-v. 2**
- 3. He gave much alms-v. 2**
- 4. He prayed to God always-v. 2**
- 5. An angel appeared to him-v. 3**
- 6. He was a just, or righteous man-v. 22**
- 7. He had a good report from those who knew him-v. 22**
- 8. God heard his prayer-v. 31**
- 9. He received the gift of tongues-vs. 44-46**

B. But, Cornelius was still lost!

“Who shall tell thee words whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved”-Acts 11:14.

C. When the gift of tongues confirmed God’s approval of the gospel being preached to the Gentiles, Peter said:

“Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord”-Acts 10:47 & 48.

D. Baptism in the name of the Lord is baptism for the remission of sins:

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized, everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”

-Acts 2:38.

E. Do you need to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins? If so, please come!