

## WHAT ABOUT SIGNS?

**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;*

*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.*

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

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

Here the Lord is giving commandment to the eleven disciples as they were sitting at meat. He had appeared unto the women at the empty tomb following his resurrection. Upon their telling the disciples that he was alive, they believed not. However, the Lord upbraids them for their unbelief and gives them the following commandment:

**Mark 16:14** *Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*

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

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

**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.*

**Mark 16:17-18** has caused much confusion among professing believers. Even many have doubted their salvation because they were unable to exhibit any of these sign gifts. The verse does say... ***“these signs shall follow them that believe.”*** The words “shall follow” is a definite statement from the Lord. It relays the meaning of following side by side or to accompany.

Verse 15 says unto them: *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.* Therefore if this is the marching orders of the Church for today, the “body of Christ,” then these signs *should follow* the believer today. Signs should accompany the believer of Christ. This is the gospel they preached according to this verse, and they could handle deadly snakes, and drink deadly poison, even healing the sick. However, the handling of poisonous snakes and drinking deadly poison has proven fatal to many professing believers of today.

This confusion and doubt cast upon salvation can be cleared up when we “rightly divide” the scripture as II Timothy 2:15 says. This Gospel in Mark after our Lord’s resurrection and before he ascended to heaven, and sat down at the Father’s right hand is the “Gospel of the Kingdom.” This gospel concerns repentance of sins for Israel and the establishment of the kingdom of heaven on the earth according to prophecy. Israel and the gospel of the kingdom was set aside as stated by our apostle Paul as well as the accompany sign gifts.

**Romans 11:25** *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

One of the signs mentioned in verse 17 is the “*new tongues.*” In **I Corinthians 13:8**. The Scripture reveals that tongues were to “*cease.*” With the completion of the “*revelation of the mystery,*” tongues did cease. In verse 18, they could lay hands on the sick and they would recover. In **II Corinthians 12**, the apostle Paul prayed three times for his “*thorn in the flesh,*” to depart from him, but the Lord answered him and said, “*my grace is sufficient for thee.*” Christ’s strength is made perfect in our weakness, therefore Paul gloried in his infirmities so that the power of God might rest upon him. **Colossians 1:25** *Whereof I (Paul) am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God.*

Today we are saved by God’s grace. **Ephesians 2:8** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.* We need NO authenticating signs from God to assure us of our salvation. We are complete in Christ (**Colossians 2:10**). God’s complete Word assures us that if we believe the gospel, which is...we believe that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again from the dead according to the scriptures on the third day (**I Corinthians 15:1-4**), then God has accounted unto us his Son’s righteousness. We are justified and declared righteous before God. That’s the power of the gospel of Christ (**Romans 1:16**).

**Romans 8:16** *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*