

Bridgeway Community Church
Series: What About?
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What About?

Signs & Wonders

We serve a God who gives us signs & wonders so we can seek him and follow his will.

Have you ever seen God's signs & wonders in your life?

God is a God of signs & wonders - because of different dispensation stopped giving signs and wonders

The phrase "signs & wonders" is used 31 times primarily in the Old Testament

Exodus 7:3-4

But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my miraculous **signs and wonders** in Egypt, ⁴ he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites.

Exodus 4:21

The Lord said to Moses, "When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the **wonders** I have given **YOU** the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.

God was using Moses to do the signs, to do the wonders

Sometimes we want God to do something that he has equipped us to do

Recognize that God has empowered us to do things in the natural realm that he has already ordained in the spiritual realm

Does God want to use me? Not only does he want to use you, he has equipped you to be used by him.

Should I be asking God to do miracles and signs and wonders?

“This is utterly crucial. Signs and wonders are God's witness to his word. They are not in competition with his word. They are not against the word. They are not over the word. They are divine witnesses to the value and truth and necessity and centrality of the word. Signs and wonders are not the saving word of grace. They are God's secondary testimony to the word his grace. Signs and wonders do not save, they are not the power of God unto salvation.” - John Piper

Signs and wonders are a secondary witness. God's word come first. Signs and wonders are there to be a witness to God's word.

Hebrews 2:3-4

how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

God's sign and wonders

- give us direction
- confirm God's word

3rd purpose: To increase our inner peace

Judges 6:3-6

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. ² Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. ⁴ They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. ⁵ They came up with their livestock and their tents

like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count the men and their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. ⁶ Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

One of the first strategies of oppression that comes from the evil one is to attack your increase, to attack the very work you have been doing.

The way you get out of an oppressive situation is by asking God to show up and to give you a word. You can live on a word! God answers the prayers of the Israelites by giving them a word, by giving them a prophet.

When we begin to act in faith on God's word, it activates the movement of God in our life.

Judges 6:7-10

When the Israelites cried to the Lord because of Midian, ⁸ he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹ I snatched you from the power of Egypt and from the hand of all your oppressors. I drove them from before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

6:11-13

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." ¹³ "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?'" But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

6:14-16

The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

¹⁵ “But Lord,” Gideon asked, “how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

¹⁶ The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.”

God loves to work through the weakest and the through the least.

Judges 6:17

Gideon replied, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me.

Judges 6:22-24

When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, “Ah, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!” ²³ But the Lord said to him, “Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.” ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord is Peace.

One of the reasons that God signs and wonders is to increase our inner peace.

1 Kings 19:9-18 - Elijah and the voice of God in a gentle whisper

Practical Applications:

1. Don't seek the wonders of God, seek the God who is wonderful - Isaiah 9:6

- the sign is not the destination, the sign is to give us direction

2. Don't focus on the signs, follow them

3. Don't test God, trust God

Judges 6:36-40 - Gideon and the fleece

Matthew 12:38-45 - Jesus is asked for a sign

James 1:5 - asking for God's wisdom

Don't use a fleece as a smoke screen not to do God's will

Interesting fact: Talia was the daughter of the god Baal. She was the God of dew. The Hebrew word for dew is Tal.

The number one sign from God is the cross.