

# What Makes Believers?

## Is It Just Hearing The Word Or Seeing The Power Of God?

By B. D. Tate

**We have preached a gospel basing our understanding upon the idea that the Word of God alone will convert unbelievers to believers.** We have reasoned that it is the Word of God that transforms and penetrates making hearts turn towards the Lord. We have reasoned that the Word of God is supreme, eternal, *all powerful*, and sharper than any two-edged sword! **Therefore, we have reasoned that the Word of God is all that we need or have to help save the lost.**

Heb 4:12 **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

When Jesus sent out the twelve and then the seventy-two His commission included these things:

With the twelve He said:

Matt. 10:7 **“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’**

**8 “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers; cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.**

With the seventy-two He said:

Luke 10:9 **“And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’**

When the disciples returned they exclaimed, “

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "**Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.**"

What was Jesus' response?

19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

20 "**Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.**"

**Jesus' commission was two-folded, preach and heal; heal and preach the kingdom! For someone's name to be written in heaven it takes the Word of God!** For salvation comes only through believing the Word of God that all men are saved through Jesus! **Amen to this a thousand times! This is the greatest miracle of all and most important.**

**Amen to the fact that it is the preaching of the Word of God that saves all who come to believe!** For without the preaching of the word of God there can be no faith to receive Jesus (Rom. 10:17). Yet, Jesus didn't send out the disciples *just to preach!* He sent them out to heal, deliver, cast out demons, and cleanse the lepers and preach! For many in the church today the commission Jesus gave to those disciples then would *be edited*. It would look something like this:

Matt. 10:7 "And as you go, **preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'**

**8 .....Freely you have received, freely give.**

And,

Luke 10:9 "**And ..... say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'**

**The Problem Is This:**

I Cor. 2:14 **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The natural man cannot hear the Word of God because it is Spirit and it is the truth! The natural man cannot discern it and considers it foolishness. Therefore, the natural man *needs more!* **The natural man is totally dependent upon the senses for knowledge, facts, and truth. If the sense world is not addressed (interrupted) by the supernatural the natural man is not impressed.**

Jesus said this:

John 4:48 Then Jesus said to him, **"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."**

We have a problem then that people are dependent upon naturalism and will not receive the Word of God *without it being demonstrated!* Yet, this is what Paul wrote along those lines:

1Co 1:24 "but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."**

II Cor. 2:1 "And I, brethren, when I came to you, **did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.**

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

3 *I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.*

4 **And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,**

5 **that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."**

1Co 4:20 **"For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power."**

**We Have This Dilemma That It Is The Word Of God That Saves The Soul But It Is The Power Of God That Brings The Soul To A Place Of Receiving It!**

## **The Greater Problem Is That The Gospel Has Been Stripped Of Its Accompanying Power!**

For most in the church our efforts have been to share, teach, and preach with no expectation, hope, or even belief that God *ever intended* to confirm it with signs following! We have been commissioned by the church to go and preach the gospel without the power of God! **We are going out trying to convert natural men by words alone.** Yes, it is the Word of God that is eternal, *all powerful*, and able to penetrate the deepest parts of men's hearts; however, **men's hearts are not prepared to allow the Word to penetrate without the demonstration of God's power!**

What many have done then is to teach us to live the life of love before others. We have taken the power of God and *relegated it to godly living*. We have become witnesses of God's love and grace through right living. After all Jesus said,

John 13:35 **"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

John 15:8 **"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."**

The church then emphasized Christian living and character (fruit of the Spirit) as the means to demonstrate God's love in us and for the lost. We have depended upon the lost seeing God's love in us to convince them of the truth of God's Word. There has been success with this effort as there have been some who have come to the Lord by hearing the message alone. These efforts have not been in vain; however, **they are not what Jesus, the apostles, and early disciples depended upon to reach the lost.**

## **We Must Reach Others The Way The Gospel Records How The Unbelieving Were Reached!**

We must reach men's hearts the way that Jesus did! We must penetrate the naturally bound hearts of people the way that the apostles and then the disciples did! How did they do it?

### **They Did It With The Power Of God In Demonstration!**

#### **Consider This Short Review From the Gospel of John:**

Jesus called and convinced the apostles by demonstrating the power of God through signs, wonders, and miracles.

When Jesus called **Nathanael** this is what is written:

John 1: 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "**Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!**"

48 Nathanael said to Him, "**How do You know me?**" Jesus answered and said to him, "**Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.**"

49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "**Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!**"

50 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these.**"

51 And He said to him, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.**"

Jesus impressed **Nathanael** by a *Word of knowledge* which is one of the gifts the Holy Spirit and a sign demonstrating the supernatural presence of God. Then Jesus went onto say that **Nathanael** and the others will see far greater things than this, "**you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.**" It sounds like from the beginning Jesus intended to demonstrate the power of God and as we examine it that is what we find.

When Jesus called **Peter** (As written in Luke):

Luke 5:3 Then He got into one of the boats, **which was Simon's**, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "**Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.**"

5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "**Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.**"

6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

8 **When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"**

9 **For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;**

10 **and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."**

**Simon Peter, James, and John** were all astonished at the miracle or sign that Jesus provided them confirming that God was with Him. They were called by the power of God not just by words. They became believers not just by Jesus' preaching but by the Word being confirmed with accompanying power. In truth it takes the spoken Word of God to produce the power of God; God's Word and His Works are supposed to be one!

Jesus even said to the *unbelieving Pharisees*, who asked Him to tell them plainly if He is the Christ:

John 10:25 Jesus answered them, "**I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.**"

John 10:37 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;

38 "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, **believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.**"

**The works were meant to prove the Words!** With God the Word and the Works *are* one! The power of the Word of God in demonstration was meant to confirm and *bear witness to the truth* **that God was with Jesus!**

This is also written about Jesus:

**Acts 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."**

How do we know God was with Jesus? How do we know Jesus was anointed? **It is because Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil!** What we'd hear from some today is that Jesus *preached and taught* so well everyone knew God was with Him.

## **Continuing In The Gospel of John**

In the gospel of John Jesus went to the **wedding at Cana** and performed the miracle of changing the water into wine. What does the scripture record as the result of this demonstrated power of God?

John 2: 11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; **and His disciples believed in Him.**

The apostles and disciples believed in Him because of the power of God demonstrated! It doesn't say that they believed in Him because of the power of His persuasive words. In fact, some of His teachings were hard to understand:

Mt 13:15 **For the hearts of this people have grown dull.** Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, **So that I should heal them.'**

John 6:60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, **"This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"**

The natural mind cannot perceive the things of the Spirit ***we must be born again*** and have the Holy Spirit's ministry within us to understand—this is revelation knowledge (John 3:5).

Even when the apostles found the teaching of Jesus beyond them **they remained because they knew Jesus was from God because no man could do the things He did unless God were with Him!** They may not have understood (and they didn't until they were born again), but they knew this:

John 6:68 But Simon Peter answered Him, **"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

### **From The Gospel Of John:**

Again, in the gospel of John Jesus had been performing many signs and the result of them was:

John 2: 23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, **many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did.**

### **God Sent Jesus To Work Signs!**

**Many believed because of the power of God demonstrated by Jesus.** If the Son of God used signs, wonders, and miracles to bring the lost and unbelieving into believing in Him, **it must have been God's will and purpose.** In other words, God intended that the gospel be confirmed

with signs, wonders, and miracles all along! We are the ones that changed it.

John 5:36 "But I have a greater witness than John's; **for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do--bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.**

Jesus said that the power of God in demonstration **bears witness that the Father has sent Him to do them!** Then Jesus said this:

John 14: 12 "**Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.**

13 "**And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

14 "**If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**

Then Jesus said this:

John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "**Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**"

There are many ways to address this truth from scripture but this is as straight forward and simple as it gets; **that Jesus was sent by the Father to work signs, wonders, and miracles, then turned around and sent us in the same way!**

Even the **Great Commission** includes this understanding:

Matt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

19 "**Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 "**teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

As we look at how the gospel was preached and spread we must see that Jesus and the disciples *used (depended) the power of God to get it done!* We are to **observe** the same things commanded by Jesus for them to do!

### **From The Gospel Of John:**

The **Samaritan Woman** who met Jesus at the well believes and the whole town believes with her because Jesus demonstrated the power of God with a *word of knowledge*:

John 4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city **believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."**

### **From The Gospel Of John:**

The **nobleman** that came to Jesus about his son who was sick and dying believed because:

John 4:53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, **"Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household.**

### **From The Gospel Of John:**

The **crowds of people** believed because they saw the power of God demonstrated in Jesus:

John 7:31 And **many of the people believed in Him**, and said, **"When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?"**

### **From The Gospel Of John:**

In John chapter eight Jesus is discoursing with the religious rulers over the fact that the Father witnesses to His claims. Jesus said:

John 8:17 "It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true.

18 "I am One who bears witness of Myself, **and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.**"

How does the Father bear witness of Jesus? Jesus Himself answered this by saying,

John 10:37 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;

38 "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, **believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.**"

The works that Jesus did bear witness that the Father is in Him and He is in the Father. Then the scripture testified:

John 8:30 As He spoke these words, **many believed in Him.**

### **From The Gospel Of John:**

When the Pharisees challenged Jesus to tell them plainly if He was the Messiah listen to Jesus' argument:

John 10:24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. **The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.**

The works testified and bear witness that Jesus is the Christ—the anointed One. Jesus didn't rely on His words (only) but the power of God proved it.

### **From The Gospel Of John:**

When Jesus raised **Lazarus** from the dead what was the result of this?

John 11:45 Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, **and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.**

And,

John 12:9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, **but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.**

10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also,  
11 **because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.**

### From The Gospel Of John:

When Jesus quotes the prophecy of Isaiah concerning the religious rulers what is being emphasized?

John 12:37 **But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,**

38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"

39 **Therefore they could not believe,** because Isaiah said again:

40 **"He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."** {#Isa 6:10}

**All of this center around hearing and seeing what Jesus did in signs, wonders, and miracles** and because *they did not respond to the obvious* their hearts were hardened. The power of God is meant to turn hearts towards Him in repentance except **in this case the religious rulers refused. In refusing to believe the signs that bear witness to Christ** these very things blinded them, hardened them, and made them unable to hear the truth. In a way, their stubbornness to accept Jesus and His signs made them go mad; they did not reason properly.

**Why did they refuse Jesus?** It was because they were locked (veiled by it) in the law, in their own agenda, and wanting Jesus to conform to the religious establishment. Furthermore, they were not looking for a savior from sin but for a victorious political warrior to save them from Rome.

In not believing the signs they were in worse condition than before they saw them and refused to go where they should have led them! **The signs, wonders, and miracles of God are to lead us to repentance and belief in the Son of God!**

Lu 10:13 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! **For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes."**

### **From The Gospel Of John:**

Remember that the apostle Thomas would not believe unless He saw the miracle of the resurrection of Jesus for Himself.

John 20:24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, **"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."**

What Jesus did for Thomas was amazing. First, when Jesus appeared to them again He went right to Thomas to address his issue:

John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, **"Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."**

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus had no problem providing Thomas with what he needed and then said **“Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”** Jesus gave Him the **supernatural proof He was looking for!**

Then Jesus said something very profound in response to Thomas that I think most of us have misinterpreted.

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**"

I think most of us have taken this to mean that we don't have Thomas' advantage to see the resurrection of Jesus first hand in physical form; **therefore, Jesus is commending those who don't get to see and yet believe!**

There is more to this in that Jesus is saying **that having to see physical signs means we are carnal and need to be treated like babes;** while those who will believe the Word of the gospel of grace are more blessed. Why are they more blessed? **It is because they have crossed over from being sense dependent to becoming Word of God dependent.** Signs, wonders, and miracles are necessary to prepare hearts to receive the Word; **however, it is the Word of God that is eternal, steady, sure, never changing, secure, true, and fulfilling to our spirit.** The power of God points to God's Word! The power of God shows us the Father's compassion and will to deliver us. It is the Word of God that is our food, fulfillment, purpose, life, joy, and peace. As Jesus said, "Man does not live by bread alone; but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

**Special Note:** The carnal man, the natural man, needs signs, wonders, and miracles to believe! The Christian doesn't need the signs to believe because we've been made believers in our recreated spirit. Jesus said that signs would follow believers (Matt. 16:17)! Signs follow us because we are of a new kingdom in a supernatural way of life in Christ! Many criticize teaching on the power of God claiming we are teaching our people to follow signs. *It is quite the opposite:* Unbelievers follow signs because they need them to overcome their naturalism; however, signs follow believers because they believe the Word of God!

## Multitudes, Much, Many...

John wrote at the end of the gospel of John that the books could not contain all of the things Jesus did:

John 21:25 **And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.** Amen.

**Why were they written?** They were written so that we would believe. When we consider all four gospels and the many signs, wonders, and miracles Jesus did it is obvious that **God was in Christ purposefully wanting to demonstrate His power for our benefit.**

1Jo 5:13 **These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.**

Jesus spent much of His ministry healing the sick, casting out demons, and delivering all who were oppressed of the devil (Acts. 10:38). The scriptures do not record one instance when someone came to Him for healing or deliverance that Jesus refused. Some seventeen times the New Testament it witnesses that all who came to Him were healed. When we consider what sickness and disease is rampant and touches everyone's lives; **this was a huge aspect of Jesus' ministry to heal, to deliver, and set free all that came to Him.** When the Bible speaks of the multitudes that came for healing it is not a side issue **but is a major aspect of the gospel.**

This was a brief review just from the **Gospel of John** and when we consider the other gospels there is much more to confirm that signs, wonders, and miracles were used by Jesus to demonstrate God's commission, purpose, and will *to reach unbelievers.*

## Now I Want To Share From The Book Of Acts And In Particular The Brief Description Of The Ministry Of Phillip The Deacon.

### We See Many Signs:

Ac 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering **by many infallible proofs**, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Ac 2:43 Then fear came upon every soul, **and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.**

Ac 4:33 **And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.** And great grace was upon them all.

Ac 5:12 And through the **hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people.** And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

Ac 5:14 **And believers** were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

15 **so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.**

16 **Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.**

Ac 8:7 **For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.**

The apostles and believers turned the then known world upside down not with just preaching but with the power of God demonstrating and confirming the Word of God. Anyone can claim truth but only believers

in the name of Jesus can back it up! The truth is we are to back it up by God's design and will! **God is not confirming us but confirming the Word of God in us!**

Mark 16:20 **And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.** Amen.

## **Look At Phillip's Ministry Described Briefly In Acts Chapter 8**

Acts 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.

**6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.**

**7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.**

**8 And there was great joy in that city.**

9 But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great,

10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God."

11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.

**12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.**

**13 Then Simon himself also believed;** and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, **and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.**

This Philip was one of the deacons appointed and laid hands on by the apostles (Ac 6:5). As a deacon appointed to serve the widows of the church, he went to Samaria. We can strongly infer this is Philip the deacon because he is not described as an apostle. In this same chapter

after hearing of what happened in Samaria the apostles (all) sent Peter and John:

Ac 8:14 **Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem** heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

Why send apostles if one was already there? I believe Philip *the deacon* had become Philip *the evangelist*. The whole town of Samaria was stirred and believed because of Philip's ministry which is described twice in this short account as **"hearing and seeing the miracles which he did."**

Can you imagine what your ministry would be like if you had the same power of God working for you? This is a tremendous advantage for the apostles and now Philip to be used by God to work signs, wonders, and miracles not in few, but many!

Consider the type of miracles they were:

Ac 8:7 **For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.**

There were many paralyzed and lame healed! These are dramatic and notable miracles! Do you think that Philip's job of witnessing, preaching, teaching, and sharing the love of God in the gospel of grace was made easier by them? I certainly do!

When we consider that Jesus performed many signs not just a few, that certainly made His task of preaching, teaching, and sharing God's love easier. **If the Son of God needed signs, wonders, and miracles to reach the unbelieving how much more do we?**

In fact, as I have been presenting in this booklet, it is God's intention, purpose, and will that signs, wonders, and miracles confirm **His word in all of us! We were not supposed to preach the gospel without God's power to accompany it—Jesus didn't.** Try to find in the gospels and in

the book of Acts where the preaching *was not accompanied by God's power (There are a few)*. We actually find times when the power of God is manifested and they are what led to the preaching of the Word of Salvation!

When **Peter and John** healed the lame man at the temple there had been no preaching or presenting of the truth (Acts 3). Peter heals the man commanding him to rise in Jesus' name and the whole atmosphere of the crowd changes! **Then they proclaimed Jesus as risen from the dead and savior to all.** What was the result? The people were open to hear the truth having been greatly amazed at the outstanding healing on this lame man. In other words, many believe because they saw and heard what Peter and John did and said.

## **Conclusion: The Power of God Speaks For Himself!**

Furthermore, when the power of God confirms the Word of God there is no debate concerning the truth except for those *not willing to accept it*. For the majority who are seeking the truth they are ready to find out about the name of Jesus when signs, wonders, and miracles happen. We don't have to know all of the answers to the many issues, comparisons, and claims of other religions. We don't have to explain everything before someone comes to Christ. They see and hear the miracles and realize that the power of God is bearing witness to the truth.

We need to recover the *full gospel* and go forth with it just as Jesus, the apostles, and the early disciples did. **We need to be convinced and established in the truth that the gospel of grace is two folded.** God sent Jesus to manifest the power of God to demonstrate the Lordship of God's Word. **Signs, wonders, and miracles are produced whenever the Word of God is spoken with authority and faith.** The Word and Works of God are supposed to be One as they were with Jesus. The apostles were convinced because that is what they saw Jesus do. They were full of faith in God's grace and went forth knowing **they were sent just as Jesus said He'd been sent** (John 17:22).

When our minds are renewed to agree with the mind of Christ in this matter we'll see the same things for the same purposes that followed Jesus' ministry. Jesus said it plainly,

John 14:12 "**Most assuredly**, I say to you, **he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.**

13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, **that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

14 "**If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**

The enemy has successfully separated the power of God from the Word of God and it has greatly hindered the spreading of the Gospel. The Church has lingered, been confused, and remained in doubt producing in us a weak faith. **We have not presented the same gospel that Jesus did!**

Natural minded people cannot receive the things of the spirit (I Cor. 2:14). They need evidence, proof, and supernatural truth to break through to their hearts and God intended for us to give it to them! **This is God's agenda and He is waiting on us to take Him at His word and proclaim the truth expecting, seeing, and having the Word confirmed with signs accompanying it (Mark 16:20). Amen.**