

ACTS

What to Make of the Miracles?

Acts 5:12-16

¹² Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Acts 5:12-16

The What and Why of Miracles:

The focal point in Acts is clearly on accomplishing the _____ of the church (Acts 1:8).

One of our grave misunderstandings is that we separate the Gospel _____ and the _____ of people from the _____ / _____. All are miraculous!

A miracle is ...

"a work wrought by a divine power for a divine purpose by means beyond the reach of man." (Herbert Lockyer)

"an interference with nature by supernatural power." (C.S. Lewis)

"an event in the external world that is wrought by the immediate power of God." (J.G. Machen)

"an observed event that triggers awareness of God's presence and power." (J.I. Packer)

God's primary purpose for the miracles he worked through men was ...

"to authenticate his messengers as bearing a true revelation from God." (John MacArthur)

"to give evidence that God is truly at work and serve the advance of the gospel." (Wayne Grudem)

"to help bring people to Christ" (John Piper)

Compare the purpose of Jesus' miracles (Acts 2:22) with the purpose of the Apostles' miracles (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4) ...

Note the results of the signs and wonders: *"more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women ..."* (v. 14)

We must avoid two extremes today ...

Seeing _____ as a miracle

Seeing _____ as a miracle

Some important conclusions for us:

The era of miracle-working Apostles is apparently _____, but God _____ and still _____ the miraculous. And that miraculous work is His response to _____.

_____ according to Acts 4:30 is still _____ and still _____ ...

That signs and wonders _____ the Gospel message and messenger,

That they _____ hurting people,

That _____ to Gospel ministry are removed as a result

And that _____ is glorified in Christ!