

THE SIGNS OF THE TIME

The signs of the time are here. People are eager to talk about what they have felt and seen. What makes your supernatural experience (sign) any more authoritative **than someone else's**? Talk to a Pentecostal, **and he'll** tell you that he knows he has the truth because of receiving the sign of tongues. This supernatural experience has convinced him that his faith is in the right place. Now he believes that Pentecostals are teaching the truth.

Talk to a person in Europe that has been praying by one of the huge statues of Mary that was either weeping or had blood dripping from its hands and you have a person that is convinced by this sign that he has the true religion.

Talk to a person that has read the *Book of Mormon* and then prayed for a sign to know if it is true and then gets a feeling in his chest called the **"burning of the bosom"** and you will have a person that will put this sign above all other subjective truth no matter how much it may contradict the teachings of the Bible.

Have you sought for a sign? Have you trusted in a sign to know that you have **the "truth"**? **From whom did your sign come?** The New Testament speaks about three different groups of signs.

- The signs of Christ
- The signs of the apostles
- The signs of Satan

Signs of Christ

Towards the end of Christ's earthly ministry, this is how He responded when asked for a sign: Matt 16:4 *A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.* Jesus Christ said that no sign would be given, but the sign of His resurrection. He also taught His disciples that there would be a specific sign that would signal His second coming: Matt 24:30 *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the*

clouds of heaven with power and great glory. That's it—no other sign would be given. These are the only signs one can fully trust to be true and from God.

Signs of the Apostles

The book of Acts records many signs wrought by the apostles. They raised the dead, cast out devils, made the lame to walk, healed the sick, and the list could go on for quite a while. The scriptures confirm that the signs of the apostles came from God: Acts 5:12 *And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people...* 2Cor 12:12 *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*

Signs of Satan

Since the time period in which the apostles lived, there has been only one other group of active signs during the church age and they are the signs of Satan: 2Thess 2:9-12 *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

2Cor 11:13-15 *For such are false, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

Yes, it might truly be said that the signs of the time **are the signs.** God's Word is not enough; like in the days of Christ Himself, the unbelievers wanted more signs. The Bible alone is the only and final authority for all faith and truth. The Bible will lead a seeking soul to the Saviour. A sign will lead one into Satan's snare, and then that erring soul will say, "But I felt it or saw it, it must be true." Has Satan's *sings and lying wonders* become the source of your testimony?