

## The Real Miracle Test

### Real or Imitation?

**“If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, ‘Let us follow other gods’ (gods you have not known) ‘and let us worship them,’ you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the Lord your God you must follow; him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.” A genuine miracle from God can be examined and affirmed by sound doctrine. Think, ask questions, and seek the truth.**

### Faithfulness to God

**We are in the last days, in which the New Testament warns that the gospel of Christ will be distorted by false prophets and teachers. These individuals may speak eloquently under the great anointing, and prophesy the future correctly, and perform miracles, signs and wonders; however, they may preach a false doctrine. If you do not base every aspect of your spiritual journey upon the Word, you will be easily misled and you may perish because of lack of knowledge. The standard for the truth is the infallible Word of God. “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Ti 3:16-17**

### Evidence of Miracles

**Jesus said to Phillip, “Don’t you know me, Phillip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles**

themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father.” (John 14:9–12) The “greater things” include both the work of converting people to Christ and the performing of miracles. (Mt 10:1; Mk 3:14-15; Lk 9:2; 10:17; Jn 14:12)

### Miraculous Deeds

“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” Every one of these signs, except for drinking poison, occurred in the recorded history of the early church. Scripture never suggests that these signs were restricted to the period immediately following Jesus’ ascension. (1 Cor 12:28; Gal 3:5) These signs are not special gifts for a few, but are presented to all believers in obedience to Christ, witness to the gospel and claim his promises. The failure of these “signs” lies within the hearts of his followers. (Mt 17:17)

### Believer's Responsibility

Believers must seek unceasingly God’s kingdom, hungering and thirsting for His presence in their lives and others lives. (Mt 5:10; 6:33) So you desire the kingdom of heaven and all its blessings, then you will put forth an earnest endeavor and a constant exertion motivated by a strong will to resist the arm of the flesh tempted by Satan. The kingdom of God is for those who earnestly pray, those who do not compromise according to worldly standards, those who do not neglect studying the Word, or those who do not lack a spiritual hunger. If you are expecting something for nothing, you will want to rethink this pathetic motto. God is not an advocate for the lazy, complacent individual. He expects you to desire to live a life of righteousness, and experience the peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Ro 14:17)