

# God's Word Confirmed

**SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 1:22-25**

## **INTRODUCTION.**

### **I. GOD USED MIRACLES TO CONFIRM HIS WORD.**

- A. Throughout the history of the Bible, God has manipulated the course of nature to confirm His message. (Hebrews 2:1-4)
- B. God confirmed His words and messages during the Old Testament period.
  - 1. God confirmed His message to Israel and Pharaoh. (Exodus 4:1-9)
    - a. The miracles: Aaron's rod turning into a snake and the leprous hand.
    - b. The miracles: The ten plagues.
  - 2. God confirmed His message to *"stand still and see the salvation of the Lord."* (Exodus 14; see vs 13-14)
    - a. The miracle: God parted the Red Sea so Israel could cross over on dry ground.
    - b. The miracle: God caused the waters to return to their position.
  - 3. God confirmed His message to Gideon. (Judges 6:36-40)
    - a. The miracle: In the morning, the fleece on the threshing floor was wet with dew and all the surrounding ground was dry.
    - b. The miracle: On the next morning, the fleece was dry and all the surrounding ground was wet with dew.
  - 4. God confirmed the message of Elijah, the Lord is God. (1 Kings 18:20-40)
    - a. The miracle: *"Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench."* (vs 38)

5. God confirmed His message of 15 more years of life to King Hezekiah. (2 Kings 20:1-11)
  - a. The miracle: Healing Hezekiah of his terminal illness.
  - b. The miracle: God caused the shadow on the sun dial of Ahaz to move backward ten degrees or steps.
- C. God confirmed the teachings of Jesus and the apostles with various signs and wonders.
  1. God confirmed the teachings of Jesus so that people would believe.
    - a. *"...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..."* (John 5:36-40)
    - b. *"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 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."* (John 10:37-38)
    - c. *"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."* (John 20:30-31)
  2. Some examples include:
    - a. Jesus turning water into wine.
    - b. Jesus restoring sight to the blind.
    - c. Jesus restoring hearing to the deaf.
    - d. Jesus restoring mobility to the lame.
    - e. Jesus controlling nature, including walking on water and calming storms.
    - f. Jesus giving life to the dead—even raising Lazarus after four days in the tomb.
  3. God confirmed the teachings of the apostles through signs, wonders, and miracles so the early church would believe and obey.

- a. *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”*  
(Acts 2:42-43)
- b. The Lord answered the prayer of the disciples for confirmation and boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)
- c. Through the preaching of the confirmed word, *“believers were increasingly added to the Lord.”* (Acts 5:12-16)

## II. THERE IS NO NEED FOR FURTHER CONFIRMATION.

- A. God’s word has been completely revealed and delivered.
  - 1. The word of God is complete. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17)
  - 2. God has given us all things which pertain to life and godliness. (2 Peter 1:3)
  - 3. The new covenant of Jesus Christ is the perfect law of liberty. (James 1:25)
  - 4. The word of God will convict and hold us in judgment. (Hebrews 4:11-13)
  - 5. God’s word abides forever. (1 Peter 1:22-25)
- B. God’s word challenges those who claim a latter-day revelation or inspiration.
  - 1. There are those who claim to have received direct revelations from God. Many of these religious teachers will appear to use “miracles” to support their claim of divine messaging or inspiration. How should we approach these supposed proofs?
  - 2. Not everything done or taught in Jesus’ name is authorized by Jesus and the apostles. (Matthew 7:21-23)
    - a. Some teach a perverted form for the gospel of Christ. (Galatians 1:6-9)
    - b. False teachers have come. (2 Peter 2:1-3, 18-19)
    - c. Apostasy has come. (1 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12)
  - 3. What if there is the appearance of a miraculous confirmation?
    - a. The Old Testament Principle:

- 1) Deuteronomy 13:1-4: The message of the dreamer or seer must align with what God had already spoken, regardless of the sign.
- 2) Even if someone accurately prophesied an event, if they taught Israel to worship false gods or turn from the Lord, they were to be rejected. God was testing His people to see if they would love Him fully and keep His commandments.
- b. The New Testament Warnings:
  - 1) False prophets may show *“great signs and wonders”* with intent to *“deceive, if possible, even the elect.”* (Matthew 24:23-25)
  - 2) Some would come with *“with all power, signs, and lying wonders.”* (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)
  - 3) Some may even claim angelic appearances. (Galatians 1:8-9)
4. We are to test everything by the completed Word of God.
  - a. John the apostle taught us to test or try the “spirits.” (1 John 4:1-3; cf. Jude 1:3, 2 Peter 1:3)
  - b. Any “new revelation” or “latter-day inspiration” must be rejected because it will either add to, subtract from, or contradict the fully revealed Word of God. (Revelation 22:18-19)
  - c. Let us not be drawn away by impressive signs, great speeches, dramatic presentations, or “lying wonders.” (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:12-15)
  - d. Do not overlook the errors and the false teachings wrapped in the cloak of charisma, human wisdom, honor, and popular acceptance.
  - e. In the day of judgment, many will claim, *“Lord, Lord, have we not... done many wonders in Your name?”* only to hear, *“I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.”* (Matthew 7:22-23)

## CONCLUSION.

- A. Peter taught us the Word of the Lord endures forever. (1 Peter 1:22 – 2:1)
  1. This is the word that has come from God.

2. This is the word we are to receive, believe, and live by.
  3. This is the word that judges the thoughts and intents of our hearts. (cf. Hebrews 4:12)
- B. God confirmed the Word through signs, wonders, and miracles during the apostolic era so that we would know His will for us today.
- C. There is no need for further confirmation. God's word is living and powerful. (cf. Hebrews 4:12)
1. You don't have to live in "spiritual uncertainty."
  2. You don't have to wait for a sign to know God's will; you can simply open the Book and begin learning today.
- D. If you have never obeyed the gospel, then let God's powerful, confirmed Word guide you to believe and to obey today.

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