

Mark 16:15-18

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

People are always looking for miracles and they think if someone sees a miracle that they will believe in Jesus. But the problem with that thinking is that it's all backwards. Notice what Jesus said in today's devotional verses.

First: *Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

We know this, it's really a no brainer, we have heard it all of our Christian life; share the gospel or the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

But then Jesus said: *And these signs will follow those who believe.*

Notice it doesn't say to do miracles then preach the gospel, but rather that the signs will come after you share the gospel. But did you also catch the entirety of the statement? *And these signs will follow those who believe.* (underlined for emphasis)

I never saw or noticed that until now, but we tend to want signs and miracles for the non-believers to believe, but that's not what Jesus just said, no He said, *And these signs will follow those who believe.* (underlined for emphasis)

So if you are trying to do things backwards, that may be why people are not getting saved, because you are putting all your efforts on signs and wonders instead of simply sharing the gospel with others.

It's like what a lot of Christians do when they are witnessing. They are trying to clean the fish before they are caught. What does that mean? It simply means that some Christians will tell people how they need to clean up their life and turn to Jesus. Well, if they could clean up their life, they wouldn't need Jesus.

I don't know about you, but before I was saved, my life was a mess, and I couldn't clean it up on my own. I needed help, lots of help, and not the worlds help. And that help I only found in Jesus, who caught me and is cleaning me up, and He still is cleaning me up more and more every day.

It wasn't signs and wonders that brought me to Jesus and I bet that it wasn't signs and wonders that brought you to Jesus either, but rather the love of Jesus that drew us to Him.

So simply draw others to Jesus with that same love and compassion that drew you to Jesus. Once that happens, people are not that concerned with signs and wonders any more, but rather we are happy and content with the love of Jesus.

† **Jude 1:21** *keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*