



QA: Does the Church Believe In Miracles Today? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Question: Does the Church of Christ believe in miracles today, according to Mark 16: 17-18?

ANSWER: When a "snake handler" died in Middleboro, Kentucky several years ago, Scripture was, once again, publicly misrepresented.

1. **Jesus Christ said the Gospel should be preached to "every creature,"** but that the "signs" proving the truthfulness of that Gospel were for "those who believe" (**Mark 16:15-20**). The "signs" were for the miraculous beginning of its spread, for the Lord was "working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs." By the time the Book of Hebrews was written,

[The word] which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will. (**Hebrews 2:3-4**)

All believers were never promised these "accompanying signs" because:

- (1) even though 3000 were baptized on Pentecost, miracles were only done through the Apostles (**Acts 2:38-43**);
- (2) even though Samaritans "had received the word of God" and been baptized, the Apostles, Peter and John, travelled to them and "laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit" (**Acts 8:12-18**);
- (3) Paul baptized Ephesians "in the name of the Lord Jesus," but they only received the Holy Spirit "when Paul had laid hands on them" (**Acts 19:1-7**).

People today haven't understood that what Jesus said about "signs" was not for them, but for the early Christians, and that only until the New Testament was completely written. The only example of a serpent bite, which Jesus had said would "by no means hurt them," is in **Acts 28:1-6**, and it caused no pain! The clue that modern people are not included in Jesus' list of "signs" is that the Kentucky preacher had had "excruciating bites" twice before! **All miracles establishing the claim that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God" are written in the Bible (John 20:30-31)**, since "the faith" has been "once for all delivered to the saints" (**Jude 3**). There is no miraculous working of the Holy Spirit today that would "confirm" God's Word, and

If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. (**1 Corinthians 14:37**)

2. **It is tragic that the publicity given this incident associated such misunderstanding of the Bible with so-called "Bible believers" everywhere.** The Apostle Paul rebuked the "spirit of divination" (associated with Python, a serpent or dragon guarding the mythological Delphi), by casting it out of the "slave girl" (**Acts 16:16-24**). She was proclaiming,

"These men [Paul and Silas] are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." (**Acts 16:17**)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ does not need, and should not tolerate, any false teacher's endorsement, if for no other reason, because it would make a lying connection between Truth and error!

They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (**1 John 4:5-6**)

Incidents like this must not go unnoticed and unexplained, because the Truth leads to God (**John 14:6**), not to an ignoble end!

— John T. Polk II, October 6, 2019