

THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

Pat Cowden

The apostle John is very clear what the intent of miracles was as revealed in the New Testament. Listen to his words from John 20:30-31, “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 plainly says that the signs (<semeion> miracles, signs, supernatural events) were intended to help the person witnessing the miracle to believe in Jesus. Remember the context of this statement; Jesus had just praised those who would believe without seeing a confirming miracle in contrast to Thomas who wanted to see the evidence that Jesus was truly raised from the dead (vs. 26-29).

Another place that confirms the intent behind the miraculous events surrounding the work of Jesus and His followers comes from Mark 16:20, “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs (<semeion> same word).” The message of Jesus’ disciples was being confirmed as His messengers through their ability to perform miracles.

One last point from Philippians 2:27. Epaphroditus was “sick unto death <paraplesion>”. Paul had the ability to perform miracles and yet he was not the one who healed his coworker. Paul writes that “God had mercy on him.” Why didn’t Paul just make him well? Because that was not the intent of miracles! They were not to be used at the whim of someone who simply wanted someone they cared about to be healed. It was not in Paul’s power to decide when a miracle was to be performed, it had to be at the discretion of God alone. Therein lies a major difference between so-called faith healers today and the true miracles performed and recorded in Scripture.

God bless.