

WHEN ITS NOT THE SIGN YOU WANT

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The human race has a track record of only hearing the things they want to hear when God is talking to them. The bible is full of answered prayers and petitions that numerous people had rejected, because they were not the answers they wanted to hear. We need to be very careful that we don't slide into that situation ourselves.

Let's start with the inescapable and obvious denial of Jesus as the son of God.

Pharisees ... show us a sign. MAT 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. **39** But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: **40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. *They wanted other signs that pleased their egos and deflected the truth to their own control. The signs that Jesus performed indicated a requirement to obey the sign maker ... not self rule.*

Jesus spoke again with the same clarity... with no compromise and no confusion.

Jesus listed the signs that would follow true believers. MAR 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **17** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall **speak with new tongues**; **18** They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. **19** So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. **20** And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.

The scriptures gently and clearly show us where our spiritual responsibilities should be focused.

One of God's basic instructions. MAR 16:15 Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. *It is a basic understanding that we should do what He said: 'go and make disciples'... this was one such direction. 'Go' implies that movement or change of some sort is required.*

We are good at telling people about the signs that follow believers... but signs require actions and actions are based on spiritual responsibility.

Paul summarised where a signs-based ministry leads us. 1COR 1:7 So that ye **come behind in no gift**; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: **8** Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *The same principle first arose when we were witnessed to... when we had to take steps that led to our salvation. God gave us his sign of salvation... speaking in tongues.*

There is also a sign that believers don't want to hear: it is the one that demonstrates our faith in Him. This is the 'doing' part of our salvation.

Forsake not... a Godly sign. HEB 10:24 And let us **consider one another** (this is a required sign of our faith and obedience) to provoke unto love and to good works: **25** **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but **exhorting one another**: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. *How can we possibly honour this scripture if we lack fellowship? Many people with health issues have discovered that continuous fellowship leads to much better health.*

A general encouragement for our lives and signs-based salvation.

Above all things 1PET 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. **8** And above all things **have (present tense) fervent charity among yourselves**: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins (this is a truly amazing formula for spirit filled people). **9** Use hospitality one to another without grudging. **10** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. *This is our sign that we are walking in the spirit and following the very clear directions given to the church.*

God gives clearly defined signs to true believers and overcoming believers give their own signs of a life built on faith and trust.