

## Give Me A Sign!

by Casey Head

In the Old Testament, we find several famous characters asking God for signs, or at least God directly granting signs to them. In Judges 6, for example, when Gideon was called by God to deliver Israel, his feelings of inadequacy led him to request a sign. In verse 17, he said to God, "If not I have found grace in Thy sight, then shew me a sign, that Thou talkest with me." In the following passage, we see God granting the sign to Gideon. Later in the same chapter, Gideon requested yet another sign, and again, God granted his request. Many Christians today believe that God deals with us the same way He dealt with Gideon- that God directly responds to our requests for signs. Is this true? Let it be stated emphatically that God does not grant miraculous signs to His people today.

We are told in Hebrews 1:1-2 that "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son." This verse establishes that God deals with His people today differently than He did in the past. During the Old Testament times, God communicated directly to His prophets. In the story of Gideon, for example, an angel of the Lord was literally standing alongside Gideon. When Gideon requested the sign, he was speaking to the angel, and the angel responded to him directly and performed the miracle right in front of him. The same could be said of countless Old Testament prophets- that God spoke to them directly; but the same cannot be said of Christians today. As seen in Hebrews 1:2, God speaks to us differently, that is, through His Son Jesus Christ. In other words, the words of Christ are recorded so that Christians can know God's will (Jn 12:48; 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Jn. 9).

The New Testament contains the words of Christ, which, as stated above, is God's way of communicating to Christians. We are told of the New Testament in 2 Peter 1:3, "According as His divine power hath given unto us *all things that pertain unto life and godliness*, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue." Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: *that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*" Paul also told the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:27, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you *ALL the counsel of God.*" Finally, the Christians in Galatia were told in Galatians 1:6-10 that no new gospels were to be accepted; that they were to follow ONLY the gospel of Christ, which had already been given to them. These four passages make it abundantly clear that the New Testament provides for our every spiritual need, and that NO new revelations are being given. While God may have spoken directly to the prophets of old, He speaks to us indirectly, through the New Testament.

There is a very important question to ask in relation to this subject- do Christians have authority from the New Testament to request miraculous signs from God? No! Furthermore, do we ever find examples in Acts of Christians requesting signs from God? No! Are there ever any principles set forth regarding such signs, as with the gift of tongues in 1 Corinthians 14? No! IF we can seek signs from God, as Gideon did in Judges 6, then you would think that the New Testament would say so...but it doesn't...not one single time.

It is such a dangerous game to request signs from God when the New Testament never says that we can do so. Sure, it may sound appealing, and yes, it may make our lives as Christians easier, but God speaks to us differently than He did to the prophets of old. Let us not be led away from the Lord by confusing random occurrences with "God's divine answers."