

THEY WILL TURN THEIR EARS AWAY FROM THE TRUTH, and be turned aside to FABLES."

Testing what is True from what is False

What is declared here is that signs and wonders DO NOT prove one way or another whether something is of God or is a genuine work, or revival. You can have two people ministering to large crowds and seeing mighty miracles and healings happen. Both are doing the same things and yet one is a true servant of God and the other is an agent of Satan sent to deceive. So how do we test what is true from what is false? Jesus in Matthew 7 v 15 – 20 makes it clear that one of the tests we can apply to discern who and what is true is by looking at the fruit that is produced in the life of those who lead the work and the fruit from the ministry itself. The Lord does not give us spiritual experiences to entertain us or feed the flesh. The Lord gives us these things to deepen our love for Jesus, our trust in His work, our obedience to His word and holiness of life and actions. Is a ministry producing fruit in line with the Word of God, in line with Galatians 5 v 16 –26 which declares what real spiritual fruit is.

The difficulty with this test is that often it takes time for the long term fruit to be produced through what is going on. Initially good fruit may appear to be growing, only to wither and die on the branch as the worldly nature of the revival is revealed.

However there is a more immediate test that can be applied before the fruit test. This test is founded on a number of passages where Jesus Himself and the early church declare what is a true sign of a ministry of the Spirit and a ministry of God.

This test is the test of what is preached and what is taught!! Jesus on many occasions declares that if we love Him we will obey what He has commanded us. We will hear, receive and do what the word of God tells us. What we see does not in anyway authenticate a ministry as of God, what authenticates a ministry is what is taught and what is preached. Is the main teaching of the revival in line with the Word of God? Is the Word divided and taught correctly? Are there half truths and fables manifested in the teaching that lead people astray from biblical Truth. Signs and Wonders deception is given because they did not love the Truth or believe the Truth and so in a counterfeit revival true full gospel teaching will not be manifested on a regular basis. The test of this revival in Florida is, is the teaching biblical and sound? Is the word of God preached and taught correctly or does it promote half truths and fables? The teaching and preaching of God's word, not signs and wonders authenticates a true Gospel revival.... It needs to be said that in regard to Todd Bentley what has been taught up to this point should provoke any spiritual, bible believing Christian to be concerned that this revival is indeed counterfeit with all the heresy and half truths that go along with that!! Healing angels, angels of prosperity... angelic spirit guides who will give you a tour of heaven and curses laid on anyone who is willing to discern, question and test whether this work is truly a work of God. The current declaration of Todd Bentley is that this is HIS revival, I believe that he could be right but not His only, but a strong delusion from Satan!!

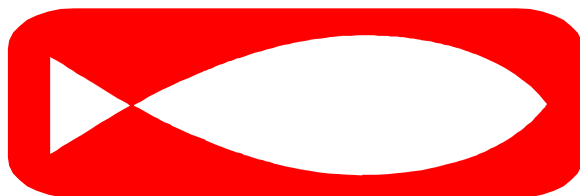
Over the last twenty years there has been many strange occurrences within the church of Jesus Christ.

Miracles, signs and wonders have become common place accompanied often with strange teaching and doctrine not found in the bible.

However surely great signs and wonders must be of God, for surely only God could do these things and after all didn't Jesus say signs and wonders would accompany His word...

So in a generation in the last days how can we tell whether something or someone is of God? How can we tell whether a revival is the genuine thing or a strange deceiving fire.

With many Christians flocking to Florida to catch the fire through the ministry of Todd Bentley we all need to be equipped to discern the true from the false.



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Contending for the Faith Series: Leaflet 3



Discerning true signs and wonders from the false.

“Jesus answered them, “ I told you, and you do not believe, The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me.”
John 10 v 25

Over many years now the church of Jesus Christ has been bombarded with controversy after controversy concerning what many have called revivals that have begun in different parts of the world. Recently a new move of this phenomenon has taken place in Lakeland Florida under the direction of Todd Bentley. Literally thousands of people from right

across the world are flooding into Lakeland to “Get some,” catch the fire themselves.

So what does the bible say about signs and wonders demonstrations and how can we tell whether something is authentic or not.

Signs and Wonders an authentic work of the Holy Spirit.

When you look at both the ministry of Jesus and the early

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame spread throughout all Syria.”

Matthew 4 v 23 – 24



church we see that the proclamation of the gospel of salvation was accompanied by healings, miracles, signs and wonders. Jesus Himself testified that these signs were evidences from God that what was being preached and proclaimed was an authentic message of God. John 14 v 11 says “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the

works themselves.” In Acts 2 verse 22 we see that signs and wonders coming from God testified to Jesus and His message. “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know.” What is clear is that in the ministry of Jesus there was a full and true manifestation of the Holy Spirit which resulted in healings, miracles and wonders taking place. We see that Jesus who commissioned us to continue His ministry here on earth delegates His authority and power to His followers to continue the work of proclamation. In Mark 16 verse 16 – 20 we see the delegation of the authority of Jesus to

“ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show GREAT SIGNS AND WONDERS TO DECEIVE, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand, Therefore if they say to you, “Look, Look, He is in the desert!” DO NOT GO OUT; or “look He is in the inner rooms!” DO NOT BELIEVE IT!”
Matthew 24 v 24 – 26

wonder demonstration comes from the Lord? And do these things always authenticate the activity and preaching that is present?

Signs and Wonders can be counterfeited by the devil. What is also clear within Scripture is that signs and wonders do not on their own prove that a movement or a ministry is of the Lord Jesus. Within both the Old and New Testament we see how signs and wonders are also manifested through the power of Satan. In Exodus 7 – 8 we see how the Lord gives power and authority to Moses to demonstrate to Pharaoh that Moses was sent by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. What we see is that in the first signs that Moses was able to do through the power of God, Pharaoh’s sorcerers and magicians were able to counterfeit through their incantations and enchantments. In the New Testament we see how Jesus makes it clear that signs and wonders not only do not authentic a ministry as being of God, but goes even further by saying these things do not even prove that a person is saved. In Matthew 7 v 21 – 23 in the context of knowing a ministry by its fruit and the call to be doers of the word Jesus says these words. “ Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, BUT HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. Many will say to Me in that day. “ Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name and done MANY WONDERS in Your name?” And then I will declare to them,

His disciples and how this was to be manifested in the preaching of the gospel and signs following the word. The testimony of this is given in verse 20 “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.” Paul confirms that this is the experience of his ministry as the gospel was not preached just with words but with demonstrations of the Spirit and power. What is clear here is that as the church looks to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Lost and disciple the saved, there are gifts of the Spirit and signs and wonders made manifest as the Kingdom of God breaks upon the shore of human experience. Does this mean that every sign and



I never knew you, depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.” What is made clear here is that a person can manifest a great spiritual power and authority. Do mighty miracles and healing but does not do the will of the Father, does not preach or obey God’s word and is not even authentically saved.

Satan is called the father of lies and it is his desire to counterfeit both the miracles and healings that are done by Jesus and even counterfeit the TRUE gospel with half truths and lies. Satan is more then willing to discharge awesome power of his own to do mighty works and miracles and all he asks in return is a compromised gospel built upon flesh and entertainment rather than genuine repentance and personal belief in Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2 verses 9 – 12 gives us a CLEAR WARNING of this counterfeit gospel of signs and wonders where the TRUTH is NOT preached, taught or obeyed.

“ *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with ALL POWER, SIGNS AND LYING WONDERS, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THE TRUTH but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*” Here we see in the last days there will be false teachers who will proclaim a false gospel and who will point to the authority of their gospel through signs and lying wonders. This passage makes it clear that the power at work is the power of Satan who has permission by God to manifest a strong deception that will deceive all those who WILL NOT hold to, love and obey the Truths of Scripture. 2 Timothy 4 show us clearly that deception is at the heart of these things where signs and wonders are manifested but the truth is not preached fully. “ *For the*



time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and **PTO**