

Mark 16:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Analysis

These signs shall follow them that believe (σημεῖα δὲ τοῖς πιστεύσασιν ταῦτα παρακολουθήσει, sēmeia de tois pisteusasin tauta parakolouthēsei)—sēmeion (sign) means authenticating miracle confirming divine authority. **In my name** (ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί μου)—authority derives from Christ, not human power. Casting out demons (ἐκβαλοῦσιν δαιμόνια) and speaking new tongues (γλώσσαις λαλήσουσιν καὶ ναῖς) marked apostolic ministry (Acts 2:4, 8:7, 16:18).

These signs authenticated the gospel's initial proclamation (Hebrews 2:3-4). Whether they continue in the same form or differently is debated: cessationists see them as apostolic-era authentication; continuationists expect them throughout church history. All agree: signs serve the Word, not replace it. Seeking signs without faithfulness perverts the gospel (Matthew 12:39).

Historical Context

Acts records believers speaking tongues (Acts 2, 10, 19), casting out demons (Acts 5:16, 8:7, 16:18), performing healings (Acts 3:1-10, 5:12-16). Paul warned against sign-seeking that bypasses the cross (1 Corinthians 1:22). These authenticating miracles established churches before the New Testament canon was complete. The completed Scripture now serves as the primary authentication.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between seeking signs that authenticate the gospel versus demanding miracles to bypass faith?
2. What role should supernatural gifts play in the church today compared to apostolic times?
3. Does "signs shall follow" mean every believer performs miracles, or that miracles accompany gospel proclamation generally?

Interlinear Text

σημεῖα δὲ τοῖς πιστεύσασιν ταῦτα παρακολουθήσει· ἐν
signs And G3588 them that believe these shall follow In
G4592 G1161 G4100 G5023 G3877 G1722

τῷ ὄνόματί μου δαιμόνια ἐκβαλοῦσιν γλώσσαις
G3588 name my devils shall they cast out tongues
G3686 G3450 G1140 G1544 G1100

λαλήσουσιν καιναῖς
they shall speak with new
G2980 G2537

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:16 (Parallel theme): There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

1 Corinthians 12:28 (Parallel theme): And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:10 (Parallel theme): To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

Acts 8:7 (Parallel theme): For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

Luke 10:17 (Evil): And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

Acts 10:46 (Parallel theme): For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

John 14:12 (Faith): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Acts 19:6 (Parallel theme): And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

1 Corinthians 14:2 (Parallel theme): For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 Corinthians 12:30 (Parallel theme): Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?