

Introduction

Empowered To Represent Our Father

Objection: Jesus Condemns Seeking After Signs

“An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah.”
Then he left them and went away.” - *Matthew 16:4*

What and who is Jesus actually rebuking about signs?

The Necessary Role of Power and Miracles

Nevertheless, just as besides the grace of faith, the grace of the word is necessary that people may be instructed in the faith, so too is the grace of miracles necessary that people may be confirmed in their faith.” - *St. Thomas Aquinas, Sum II, II Q178 Art 1*

Objection: The fear of ministering in signs and wonders

Objection: False Choices Between Purity or Power

Understanding God's Plan and Purpose for Power

1. It is knowing the Power of God along with Scripture that prevents deception!
2. Entire communities come to believe in the Gospel through demonstrations of power and God's power becomes the foundation of faith.
3. The demonstrations of power (signs, wonders, miracles) confirm Jesus' claims about who he is.
4. God's power brings communities to obedience of faith.
5. Power exposes sin and leads to a decision.
6. Signs, wonders and miracles are a solution to converting worldly cities of sin.
7. Demonstrations of God's power are the most frequent reason for people glorifying Jesus in the Gospel.

Homework

Read: Study the Gospel of Mark and identify every occasion of power demonstrated - healing in both large crowds and individuals, deliverance from evil spirits, miracles, prophetic revelation, etc. How many instances do you find?

Journal: Write a one page paper about how you would respond to someone who is confused about the importance of the Church's responsibility to demonstrate God's power in the world.

Supplemental Reading: *The Spiritual Gifts Handbook*, Chapter 3