

# Signs and Wonders: Then ..... and Now?

By: Pastor David T. Holt

"Your ways, O God are holy.  
What God is so great as our God?  
You are the God who performs miracles;  
You display Your power among the peoples."  
Ps. 77:13-14

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this pamphlet is to communicate what I believe the Lord wants to do among His body today. It involves an area that is being tragically neglected by some, while overemphasized by others. Yet, it is a biblical area all believers need to be open to and balanced in. It is an area in which God wants to work whenever He finds available, obedient, believing disciples. The biblical term for this area is "signs and wonders" – a mighty act of God that clearly demonstrates His supernatural love and power. A "sign" is something that points to something else, and a "wonder" is that which arouses wonder in others. God wants signs and wonders to arouse wonder in people such that they are pointed to Him. Dr. Wayne Grudem defines a miracle as "*a less common kind of God's activity in which He arouses people awe and wonder and bears witness to Himself*" (Systematic Theology, p. 355).

This pamphlet will give you the purpose for signs and wonders, a brief biblical background for signs and wonders, provide some objections that some have to signs and wonders, give some warnings so that we stay balanced, and conclude with what we can do to put ourselves in a position to experience signs and wonders, should God will to do them through us.

## PURPOSE OF SIGNS AND WONDERS

When we look at Scripture as well as history, we see at least four purposes for God doing mighty acts of power.

### Through true signs and wonders:

1. **God is glorified.** After Jesus healed a paralytic, the crowds "*were filled with awe, and they glorified God*" (Matthew 9:8). To glorify God means to reveal His character and likeness. When God does a mighty act, it reveals His character. He reveals Himself as a God of power and love. He does this so that people will respond with greater love and submission to Him. The glory of God is the most important purpose for signs and wonders!
2. **Unbelievers are brought to salvation.** When Aeneas was healed, "*all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord*" (Acts 9:35). Signs and wonders serve to awaken the conscience of unbelievers and eventually lead them to faith in Christ. You will see from our later study in Acts how often signs and wonders led to the conversion of lost people in the Bible. Could it be that God still wants to do this? I believe He does.
3. **God's Word and the Gospel is validated.** "*This salvation ... was confirmed to us by those who heard him.*"

*God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will" (Hebrews 2:3-4). Signs and wonders authenticate the Word of God. This was particularly a strong purpose prior to God's written Word being completed. At the same time, modern day signs and wonders validate the Bible as God's Word because the God of the Bible is the one doing the powerful act, assuming it is a true sign and wonder.*

4. **People are helped** (healed, encouraged through a timely word, delivered from danger, etc.). In other words, from God's heart of compassion and concern for people's needs, He loves to act in a powerful way to help those in need. We see this in Jesus' ministry. He healed people because He was filled with compassion for their pain. "*When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick*" (Matthew 14:14). Let's ask God to give us greater compassion for hurting people.

## OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament is filled with examples of God doing signs and wonders. Beginning with creation, God displayed His power and love through miraculous acts. "*The heavens are telling of the glory of God*" (Psalms 19:1). "*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made...*" (Romans 1:20).

Signs and wonders resulted in greater response to God. When God parted the Red Sea and saved His people from Pharaoh's army, "*Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses*" (Exodus 14:31). When God used Elijah to raise the widow's child from the dead, the woman said to Elijah, "*Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is true*" (1 Kings 17:24).

Signs and wonders served to draw unbelievers to God. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah directly challenged those who worshipped false gods. He challenged them to an open show of power ("power encounter"). After his opponents' unsuccessful attempts, God honored Elijah's

faith and sent fire to consume the offering. *“When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and they said, ‘The Lord, He is God, The Lord, He is God’”* (v.39).

Some might respond at this point, “Of course there are miracles like this in the Old Testament, but what about the New Testament? Are there any such examples **apart from** Jesus? We know Jesus performed miracles because He was God.” Once again, God’s Word has an abundance of examples. We will focus primarily on the book of Acts to see how God glorified Himself and expanded His kingdom through these first century Christians.

## NEW TESTAMENT

The early church was devoted to prayer, the apostle’s teaching, fellowship, and the breaking of bread, and *“everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many **wonders and signs** were taking place through the apostles, and all those who believed ...had all things in common”* (Acts 2:43-44). You can see here how signs and wonders were a regular part of the early church’s experience.

*“And at the hands of the apostles many **signs and wonders** were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord...and all the more believers in the Lord... were constantly added to their number”* (Acts 5:12,14). Signs and wonders led to more converts and greater commitment and unity on the part of God’s people!

*“And the word of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples continued to increase greatly, and Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great **wonders and signs** among the people* (Acts 6:7-8).

The Lord was *“bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting that **signs and wonders** be done by their hands”* (Acts 14:3). *“And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul...and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified...so the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.”* (Acts 19:11,17,20). Once again we see signs and wonders glorifying God and authenticating the Word of God.

What were some of these signs and wonders that God did in the early church? In Acts 9:32-35, God used Peter to heal a paralyzed man, and *“all the residents of Lydda and Sharon...turned to the Lord.”* Acts 9:36-42 records Peter praying for a girl who had died. God raised her and *“many believed in the Lord”* (v. 42). Paul prophesied blindness on a magician and *“the proconsul believed when he saw what had occurred for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord”* (Acts 13:6-12). Paul discerned and cast out an evil spirit from a woman (Acts 16:16-21), which led to his imprisonment and subsequent opportunity to witness to a guard.

Do you see how often the result of signs and wonders was people coming to faith in Christ? When I was in college I did a complete study of the phrase “signs and wonders” in

the book of Acts. I discovered that the most common result of signs and wonders was unbelievers coming to Jesus. Too often today the primary focus of signs and wonders is selfish. People go from one emotional meeting to another in order to get a personal “jolt” from God. We hear about the latest “power ministry” and travel hundreds of miles seeking an experience. Now don’t get me wrong, God does desire to meet us in our need and often responds to us even when our motives are not pure. But if we want to line up with God’s Word, our focus needs to be on the glory of God and the conversion of lost people. When a lost person experiences a supernatural touch from Almighty God, the “sign and wonder” serves to awaken his attention to the reality of God and thus potentially increase the likelihood of his responding to God. Where many get out of balance today is in wanting the miracles for selfish reasons rather than for the purpose of more effective evangelism!

We have seen signs and wonders in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, and in the early church. Therefore, why is it so difficult to believe that God is still doing this today? After all, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever”* (Hebrews 13:8).

## DEMONSTRATION OF THE GOSPEL

What we see in most of these instances, as well as in the life of Jesus, is a joining of the **proclamation** of the gospel with the **demonstration** of the gospel. Yet, in most ministries today (especially in the area of evangelism) we see only proclamation. Paul said, *“My message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and power**, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God”* (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). Paul also said, *“The kingdom of God does not consist in words, but with **power**”* (1 Corinthians 4:20). We have an absolute abundance of words in Christianity today, yet where are we seeing the power of God?

I am not suggesting that signs and wonders, as we have discussed so far, are the only means of seeing and experiencing the power of God. Balance is needed at this point. Certainly the proclaimed Gospel alone is *“the power of God unto salvation”* (Romans 1:17). Preaching that produces a change in one’s life is certainly a *“demonstration of the Spirit and power”* (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). And a Christ-like change in one’s character and showing the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5) are just as much a demonstration of the gospel as a sudden healing! The daily working of a human hand is a miracle in one sense. Therefore, I am not suggesting we strictly focus on the more visible and obvious miracles, like a physical healing. I am only suggesting we be open to **all** the ways God may want to reveal His love and character.

## OPPOSITION

Some will argue that these miraculous events in Acts were

given by God to give credibility to the Apostle's teaching because they did not yet have the written Word (Bible), and now that we have the Bible, God has ceased granting these types of demonstrations.

The problem with this argument is: 1) The Apostles did have the Old Testament Scriptures, so they did have God's written Word. 2) There is no clear biblical support for this "cessationist" view (i.e. certain gifts or acts of God's power have ceased). And 3) We have recorded throughout church history similar types of manifestations from reliable men and women of God. For example, Augustine, speaking in the 5th century (after the New Testament canon had been finalized) said, "*There is no lack of miracles even in our day. And the God who works the miracles we read of in the Scriptures uses any means and manner He chooses*" (Defarrari 24:431-432). Gregory the Great (A.D. 540-604) spoke of visions, prophesies and miracles (Dialogues p. 593-594). Even Martin Luther encouraged a friend to lay hands on a sick person and "*put to nought the work that Satan has done in him*" (Tappert n.d., 18:52).

In the Golden Jubilee Book of the Swedish Evangelical Free Church, published in 1934, Dr. E. A. Halleen, at that time the President of the Free Church, describes what was happening during some of the revivals of the 1890's within the Free Church: "*It is difficult to describe these tidal-waves of revival. The meetings were charged with intense emotion. Strange scenes were enacted, and strange things happened. Sinners under conviction would come under a peculiar power. They would sometimes fall down as men slain in battle. They would remain that way for a long time, during which intermittent groanings and piercing shrieks would be heard.*"

Furthermore, Dr. John Piper, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, writes: "*The fact that the early Christians prayed so earnestly for signs and wonders (Acts 4:30) is all the more striking when you realize that they, of all generations were in least need of supernatural authentication. This was the generation whose preaching (of Peter and Stephen and Philip and Paul) was more anointed than the preaching of any generation following. If any preaching was the power of God unto salvation and did not need accompanying signs and wonders, it was this preaching*" ("Signs and Wonders" article, 1991). If these Christians prayed Acts 4:30 (grant that signs and wonders would accompany the proclamation of the Gospel), then should not we?

The major verse that people use to suggest that certain "sign gifts" have ceased is 1 Corinthians 13:12: "*But where there are prophecies they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away ... when the perfect comes, the imperfect disappears.*" "Perfect" here is taken by some to refer to the closing of the canon of Scripture (i.e. when it was finally decided which books belonged in the Bible). The exegetical issue here is what does "perfect" refer to? Is it the closing of the canon of Scripture? No. The passage itself explains what perfect is referring to. "*Now we see*

*but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.*" Perfect here clearly refers to the Second Coming of Jesus when we will see Him "*face to face.*" At this point and no sooner, all the sign gifts will cease. We will no longer need them because we will have Jesus in His full presence. But in the meantime, we need all that God would give us to glorify His name and further His kingdom.

Others have been turned off to signs and wonders because of some extreme "healing ministries" and those overly consumed with the manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps in the name of "signs and wonders" they saw what was clearly an act of the flesh (i.e. falling over but it wasn't due to God's power) or even something demonic. I know first hand that this can and does occur. Overly zealous Christians desire an emotional experience so much that they get a little out of hand, act in the flesh, or even open themselves up to something demonic. Regarding this opposition let us not "throw the baby out with the bath water." Satan will always take what is good and try to twist it just enough to limit its effectiveness or turn us off to the real thing. The fact that there are counterfeit miracles should show us that there is a genuine product to be found. A study of church history will show that during times of great revival in which true signs and wonders were occurring, is often when you also see the enemy most at work to create false signs and wonders. This is why we must be discerning and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

We must be very careful not to discount something just because it is unusual. God has done many unusual things in the Bible and throughout history. It can be self righteous and arrogant to so definitely conclude that all such cases of "speaking in tongues," "slain in the Spirit," or other unusual physical manifestations are not of God. Yes, these things can be demonic, and yes, they can be a work of the flesh, but they may also be of God. One must ask, "Can God come upon someone such that they would fall over?" If one concludes that God can do this, then to assume that all such cases are not of God is to say that God would not do that which He can do. Jack Deere has some good advice when he says, "*I am not saying that we ought to believe every strange thing that is told to us. I am saying, however, that nothing should be discounted as untrue or unscriptural simply because it is strange*" (Surprised by the Power of the Spirit, p. 75).

Still others will bring up Jesus' words in Matthew 12:39 ("*A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign*") to say that we should have nothing to do with signs and wonders. However, the context here is of the Pharisees and teachers of the law asking for a miracle, but asking with impure motives and as a test (v. 38). This is far different from what I am suggesting our motive be - the glory of God and the salvation of the lost.

Chuck Swindoll, who comes from a cessationist background, writes: "*What we need is a balanced, experiential view of the Holy Spirit... During my growing-up years, including my years in seminary, I kept a safe distance. I was*

*taught to be careful, to study Him from a doctrinal distance but not to enter into any of the realms of His supernatural workings or to tolerate the possibilities of such. Explaining the Spirit was acceptable and encouraged; experiencing Him was neither. Today, I regret that I have lived long enough and ministered broadly enough to realize that flying closer to the flame is not only possible, it is precisely what God wants”* (Flying Closer to the Flame, p. 14).

My main point is that “*Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8). He never changes, and He desires to reveal Himself to a lost and dying world. Let us not put restrictions on **how** He may choose to do this. Displaying His supernatural power in physical ways, discerning and casting out demonic spirits, healings, prophecies, or giving divine insight to a person (“word of knowledge”) are but a few of the many ways God may want to work to manifest His glory! He has done it in the past. Why would He not want to do it in the present, perhaps even through **you**?

Then why are we not seeing more signs and wonders today? I do not believe it is because God is reluctant. Rather, I believe it is due to our unbelief and our unwillingness to step out of our comfort zones and ask. Even the God-man Jesus “*did not do miracles there* (in His home town) **because of their unbelief**” (Matthew 13:58). James tells us we do not have because we do not ask, and we ask and do not receive because we ask with selfish motives (4:2-3).

I am not suggesting we go on a miracle hunt, nor am I suggesting we elevate these signs and wonders above the less “showy” miracles God gives us every day (i.e., the breath of life, the rising sun, the healing of a cut, etc.). I am simply saying that many of us need to widen our perspective of the Almighty God we serve. We need to broaden our western world-view and be more open to different works of the Holy Spirit. We need to be willing to step out in faith and pray for mighty acts of God. I think this is a balanced biblical perspective.

## WARNINGS

Speaking of balance, one note of caution is in order at this point. We must never make the mistake of assuming all “supernatural acts” are of God. Satan and demonic powers have the ability to counterfeit miracles. Jesus said that in the latter days “*false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great **signs and wonders**, so as to mislead, if possible, even to the elect*” (Matthew 24:24; see also 2 Thessalonians 2:9). We must be discerning so as to know whether the signs and wonders are wrought by God or by Satan. We need to apply the 1 John 4:1-3 testing of the spirits to see if they are of God. I believe the proof is ultimately in the fruit that something produces.

With gifts like prophecy, much caution should be observed. For example, a major decision should never be made on a single prophetic word. All prophetic words must be evaluated based upon the certain Word of God in the Bible. One

should never be so much into prophetic words that they take precedence over the Bible. And we should allow more mature Christians to help us evaluate prophetic words (see 1 Corinthians 14:29).

Finally, let us never forget that God is the One who must ultimately accomplish the mighty act. We cannot nor should we ever try to create a miracle. God is sovereign and can do whatever He pleases. There is no formula for seeing signs and wonders. Ultimately, God needs no one. Yet, He chooses to use us in His plan. We are the vessels who must walk in the Spirit, and cooperate with Him in obedience. Just as the body is incomplete without the head, so the Head needs the cooperation of the body in order to carry out most of His will on earth. “*And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way*” (Ephesians 1:22-23). We should seek to see where God is working and then join Him in His work.

## OUR PART

Perhaps the strongest statement in all the Bible for God wanting to do signs and wonders through us is from our Lord Himself in John 14:12, “*I tell you the truth, **anyone** who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even **greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father.*” Notice that Jesus says “anyone.” This means you and I can be part of the “anyone,” if we have faith in Him. He says we can do what He has done. This certainly includes signs and wonders.

Therefore, assuming that God does desire to do signs and wonders in our day, what might our part be? How can we be more open and available to the Holy Spirit in this area? I have some suggestions that you can prayerfully consider:

1. **Be sure your motives are pure.** Why do you really want God to do signs and wonders through you? Ask God to purify your motives. Desire signs and wonders for the glory of God and the conversion of sinners. Ask God to give you deep compassion for people in pain such that your compassion would drive you to pray for them.

2. **Pray each day for God to fill you with His Spirit** (Ephesians 5:18). Apart from Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5). Realizing that I can do nothing on my own should lead me to depend totally on God’s Spirit. As I realize my weakness, then I can ask God to be strong in and through me in the power of the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Holy Spirit I must confess all my sin to God, yield my total life to God, and ask Him to fill me with His precious Spirit. Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?

3. **Pray for opportunities** (“open doors”) to minister to others in His power with accompanying signs and wonders. Pray Acts 4:29-30, “*Now, Lord ... enable your servants to speak Your word with great boldness. Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform miraculous **signs and wonders***

through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." What a powerful prayer to pray: asking God for boldness in sharing the Word, **and** asking for signs and wonders. This is what I would call a "Word and Spirit" Christian. "Speak Your word with great boldness" and grant that "signs and wonders" be done in Your name. I desire for our church to be a "Word and Spirit" church.

**4. Ask for the gift of prophecy.** In 1 Corinthians 14:1 we are told to "earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy." Why are we to earnestly desire this particular gift? Because when we speak a prophetic word we are speaking that which will "strengthen, encourage and comfort" the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 14:3). Who doesn't need to be strengthened, encouraged, and comforted? Dr. Wayne Grudem has done an excellent job in distinguishing New Testament prophecy from Old Testament prophecy and thus defines prophecy as "telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind" (Systematic Theology, p. 1049). New Testament prophecy is not predicting the future but rather receiving from God a timely word for an individual or a group which serves to strengthen, encourage, and/or comfort. Prophecy is a type of sign and wonder.

**5. Take time to listen to God.** Be sensitive in your time alone with God and throughout the day for God to give you impressions. Impressions are thoughts that come to mind from God. They are one of His ways of speaking to us with His "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12). I believe many general and specific impressions we have, that we often shrug off as not being significant, are in fact the Spirit of God speaking to us. Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice." (John 10:27). The Christians in the book of Acts seemed to regularly hear God's voice and respond in obedience. Because of this, they were participants in many signs and wonders. I wonder how much more we would experience signs and wonders if we were just more careful to listen to God?

**6. Give expressions to your impressions.** Pastor Peter Lord says we must give expression to our impressions or we will fail to be impressed. In other words, whenever we have an impression that we think may be of God, give expression to it (act on it!) so as to see if it is of God. People who live near an airport fail to be impressed by the sound of planes, because they learn to ignore the sound. They give no expression to their impression. I wonder how many Christians no longer hear the impressions of the Holy Spirit because they give no expressions to them?

Recently I heard of a pastor who experienced a sign and wonder. God gave this pastor an inner impression that a woman in a grocery store was going through a divorce. He talked with her and learned that his impression was accurate. He prayed for her, and she was greatly encouraged that God knew her painful situation. This kind of testimony encourages me and hopefully will encourage you to be sensitive to God working in these kinds of ways.

**7. Be willing to step out in faith even when it is risky.** Scripture says that faith is the key ingredient in the supernatural. Jesus frequently made reference to people's faith when He healed. "Your faith has made you well" (Mark 5:34). Faith is not conjuring up a **feeling** of certainty that something is going to happen. Throughout Hebrews 11 (the great chapter on faith) we see how faith is often initiated by a word from God, and then we simply act on that word. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). In the above example, God first gave the pastor the "word of knowledge" regarding the divorce, and then it was up to him to obey that word by approaching the woman. We can see how faith often involves stepping out of our comfort zone to obey God's Word. I believe it is when we step out in faith that we experience God in new and exciting ways. Furthermore, we can act on something even if there is some uncertainty about the impression. For example, you may have a thought come to mind as you leave your house ("take a tract with you"). You aren't sure if it is God putting that thought in your mind, but you take a tract with you. Later in the day, you find yourself with someone and the tract is used. In that case, it was probably God that gave you that impression. Like the old phrase goes, "practice makes perfect." The only way to grow in this stuff is by stepping out in faith.

Faith may involve praying for someone's physical condition. It is not always God's will to heal nor to heal immediately, but I believe we would see more physical healing today if we simply believed enough to at least **ask God**. Besides, elders are commanded to anoint the sick with oil and pray for them (James 5:14-15), yet how many churches are regularly practicing this? Would it not be just like the Lord to bring someone to salvation through a healing?

Another way to step out in faith is to ask unbelievers for needs that you can pray for. Whether they believe in prayer or not doesn't matter, because you will be the one to pray for them. Ask God to meet their need as a sign and wonder to them, and then watch their heart soften to the Gospel. Ed Silvano calls this "prayer evangelism." Pray for God to do supernatural things in the lives of unbelievers such that they come to Christ. This kind of prayer is likely what Jesus meant in John 14:12 ("anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father") because in John 14:13 He speaks of prayer ("And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father"). The greater works that we can do are signs and wonders accomplished by prayer for the glory of God!

**8. Pray with your eyes open.** Whenever you pray with someone, keep your eyes open. This allows you to observe if something unusual is going on in the life of the person you are praying for. If the person begins to cry or shake or show other signs of God powerfully moving upon them, you need to be able to observe this so as to cooperate with what the Holy Spirit is doing at that moment.

9. **Persevere and rest in the Lord's timing**, even if nothing is happening. We must remain faithful and open even when we go through periods of not experiencing signs and wonders. I have yet to personally experience many signs and wonders, yet I rest in God's sovereignty and perfect timing. My part is simply to trust and obey Him. It is God's part to demonstrate His power as He sees fit. I leave the manifesting to God. Fix your eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2) and not on signs and wonders. Seek God's face and not His hands. If you have His face, then you will probably have both His hands working for you.

10. **Remain faithful to God no matter what.** Don't ever become so focused on signs and wonders that you become bitter if they do not occur. God is worthy of our trust and obedience, even if He never does another thing for us. I love the perspective of Daniel when he prayed for God to deliver him in the fiery furnace and he believed that God would deliver him, but he said that even if God did not deliver him, he would still not forsake the Lord his God and bow to an idol (see Daniel 3:18). Habakkuk 3 says it best: *"Though the fig tree **does not bud** and there are **no grapes** on the vines, though the olive crop **fails** and the fields produce **no food**, though there **are no sheep** in the stalls, **yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior**"* (Habakkuk 3:17-18). No signs and wonders here, but there is still God! I would rather have God and no signs and wonders, than to have what I thought to be signs and wonders, but no God. I obviously do not think it has to be one without the other, but I want to make sure that my main focus is on God Himself, whether or not He ever does a sign or a wonder.

## CONCLUSION

Martyn Lloyd-Jones (pastor of Westminster Chapel from 1939-1968 and considered by some as the greatest preacher of this century) says: *"What is needed is some mighty demonstration of the power of God, some enactment of the Almighty, that will compel people to pay attention, and to look, and to listen ... When God acts, He can do more in a minute than man with his*

*organizing can do in fifty years"* (Revival, p. 121-122). This is so true. The more you minister to hurting people, the more you cry out to God to do that which only He can do. As our broken world becomes more broken, the more we will need God's supernatural power at work to change lives. Lord, grant that we might speak Your Word with great boldness, and grant that true signs and wonders be done for Your glory!

*"Your ways, O God are holy.  
What God is so great as our God?  
You are the God who performs miracles;  
You display Your power among the peoples."  
Psalms 77:13-14*

For further study I suggest the following resources: Systematic Theology by Dr. Wayne Grudem; The Gift of Prophecy in the N.T. and Today by Dr. Wayne Grudem; Surprised By the Power of the Spirit and Surprised By the Voice of God by Jack Deere; Flying Closer to the Flame by Chuck Swindoll; The Word and Power Church by Doug Bannister; Growing in the Prophetic by Mike Bickle; Prayer Evangelism by Ed Silvano; Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby.

Duplication of this material is permissible if not for monetary gain.

First Evangelical Free Church  
1950 Hwy 35  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
608-782-6022  
E-mail: [office@firstfree.org](mailto:office@firstfree.org)  
Website: [www.firstfree.org](http://www.firstfree.org)



Pastor David Holt has served as Senior Pastor of First Evangelical Free Church since 1990. He is a graduate of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School where he earned Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Ministry degrees. He is married to Dede and they have four children.

