

Salvation, Signs, and Wonders By Christian Equippers International

In the Book of Acts, there were four main methods God used to convert men to Christ. The preaching of the gospel was the sole agent of conversion used in most of the situations (32 out of 56 total situations recorded). Today, God also mainly uses this method. However, as in the Book of Acts, people are converted through other means as well.

For example, on 13 separate occasions in the Book of Acts, the miraculous accompanied the preaching of the gospel. Mark 16:20 says, "...and they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word through the accompanying signs and wonders." To exclude the miraculous is to limit effectiveness in evangelism. There are people who need a *power encounter* with God to convince them of the Gospel message.

On ten other occasions in the Book of Acts, signs and wonders occurred without the mention of the gospel being preached. These cases all resulted in someone becoming a Christian. The gospel could have been preached on these occasions but the Biblical accounts mention no record of this happening.

The fourth way conversion took place was by direct intervention from God. This was perhaps the case of Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9. The charts that follow list each of these conversion occasions.

The Four Ways People Became Christians in The Book of Acts:

1. **The Gospel is preached with no Signs and Wonders**-There are 32 situations in the Book of Acts where the preaching of the Gospel, without the mention of *Signs and Wonders*, apparently resulted in someone becoming a Christian.

SCRIPTURE: "...the Gospel... is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes..." Romans 1:16.

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1 We assume people became Christians in these accounts as a result of the preaching of the gospel (Isaiah 55:11), though the scripture does not clearly indicate this.

2. The Gospel with Signs and Wonders-There are thirteen situations in the Book of Acts where Signs and Wonders accompanied the preaching of the Gospel resulting in someone apparently becoming a Christian.

SCRIPTURE: *"..and they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word through the accompanying signs. Amen."*
Mark 16:20

- 1 The healing of the lame man paved the way for the preaching of the Gospel.
- 2 The account does not say specifically how the people came to the Lord.
- 3 We assume that some were saved as a result of signs and wonders.

3. Signs and Wonders Only-There are ten situations in the Book of Acts where Signs and Wonders, without mentioning the preaching of the Gospel, resulted in someone apparently becoming a Christian.

SCRIPTURE: *"God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit..."* Hebrews 2:4

- 1 It is assumed the healing of these individuals caused them to believe on the Lord.
- 2 Barnabas and Saul had tried to share the gospel (vs. 7), but Elymas prevented them from doing so. Signs and Wonders became their only recourse.
- 3 Some no doubt received Christ as a result of these special miracles.

4. Direct intervention by God-Jesus came to Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9 and brought him directly to conversion without the use of any human vessel. This is the only recorded situation of this type.

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Conclusion

In 45 situations recorded in the Book of Acts people apparently became Christians through the preaching of the Gospel, either by itself (32 times) or combined with accompanying signs and wonders (13 times). In 23 situations people apparently became Christians through signs and wonders, either by themselves (ten times) or combined with the preaching of the Gospel (13 times). God continues to use the preaching of the Gospel with signs and wonders today.