

IS THE CHURCH SUPPOSED TO BE DOING GREAT MIRACLES, SIGNS OR WONDERS?

I've heard it preached by some, and believed by more than a few, that the Church should be doing or looking for great miracles, signs and wonders in the Church.

The reason that some have felt that way is stated to be found in John 14:10-12. In those scriptures, Jesus is saying that the Church would do greater works than He did. But, did He really mean that to be greater miracles, or signs, or wonders? Viewing that scripture out of context it certainly appears that way.

However, let us consider the verse in context first in order to gain an understanding of what the Jesus and the Father have in mind.

In John 14:10–12, we read in context that Jesus did not speak His own words. Instead, He indicated that the Father dwelt in Him and that the words He spoke were those of the Father. After that, Jesus makes the statement that those who believe in Him would do greater works than His because He, Jesus, was going to the Father. This, then, is a clear statement that we, or at least the Apostles, would do greater works.

Was Jesus saying that the Father said that those who believe in Him would produce greater signs, do greater miracles, or perform greater wonders? If He was saying that, then He didn't know what He was talking about, at best, or not speaking truthfully, at worst—neither of which would be indicative that the Father was speaking through Jesus. The most plausible alternative is that we have not un-

derstood what He meant.

We know for a fact that Paul stated that God cannot lie. Paul wrote that in Titus 1:2. We read in Num. 23:19 that God is not a man who can (and often does) lie. Finally in John 8:44 we read that the father of lies is Satan, not the Father who Jesus quoted. It is clear from the scriptures that God can't lie.

If the Father can't lie, then Jesus who spoke only what the Father directed Him to speak, also could not have lied. In light of this, what was Jesus talking about when He mentioned the disciples' doing of greater works?

Notice that the context of John 14 was that Jesus was speaking words of the Father. That was the Works He was talking about. "Works" equated to words in Vs 10–11.

Notice that John 14:12 does not say greater miracles, but rather greater works (*miezon ergon*). The word "greater" in that instance is the Greek word "miezon" which means "larger" in English. It could be literally or figuratively. (*Interpretation of Greek words into English are courtesy of Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.*)

Where Jesus says "the works I do" the word "works" is translated from the Greek "ergon." It means to work; toil as an effort or occupation; an act of labor.

Jesus was saying that the disciples, or apostles, and if we allow for extension, the Church, will labor

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