

# What Are the Signs of An Apostle

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## 2 Corinthians 12:12

Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. NKJV

What are the signs of an apostle?

Olive Tree says that the word translated "signs" comes from the Greek word "semion." This word comes from the root word "semaino" which means "a mark, to indicate or to signify." Fifty times "semion" is translated sign, 23 times it is translated miracle, and three times its translated wonder. It is a sign, mark or token that a person or a thing is distinguished by nor known. It is a sign, prodigy or unusual occurrence that transcends the course of nature. *It points to remarkable events soon to happen and it points to miracles and wonders by which God authenticates the men sent by Him or to prove that the cause they plead belongs to God.*

The word perseverance is the Greek word "hupomone." It means patient endurance and waiting. They are not swayed from their deliberate purpose and loyalty to faith even through greatest trials and suffering. They are patient, steadfast and immovable.

Wonder comes from the Greek word "teras." It is translated wonder, prodigy, omen or miracle.

Mighty deeds comes from the Greek word "dunamis." Dunamis speaks of power, mighty work, strength, miracle, might or virtue. It is the inherit power residing in a thing. It is the power to perform miracles, power to influence, and power to bring wealth and riches. It is the power and resources arising from numbers. Finally it is the power that consists of or rests upon armies.

### Signs Mark the Message

God will use supernatural signs, omens or miracles to mark His messenger who carries His message. In my experience I've discovered that the signs were often mentioned in scripture and are related to the truth or revelation that God gave that apostle to steward. While the sign often points back to scripture it also points forward speaking to what God wants to do in the future. God uses these signs to "authenticate" or "mark" the message He sent to mankind.

### Patient Endurance

Suffering and war are key characteristics of an apostle. Just read from 2 Corinthians 10 through the end of 12. The great apostle Paul suffers need, criticism, thirst, hunger, death threats, is under clothed, thirsty, overworked, and can't sleep well. We also find that he is called to a war in 2 Corinthians 10:3. Strongs Concordance says that the Greek word translated "war" means "to execute the apostolate." The word translated warfare means "apostolic career." God made the apostolic gift for strategy and for war. Part of their purpose is to mobilize a spiritual army.

### Mighty Deeds

We see that the apostolic gift was made for strategy and spiritual war. It does not surprise me that "mighty deeds" not only includes supernatural power but also power arising from numbers and the power that consists of armies. God gave this gift wisdom to build teams and develop strategy to project power to enforce the will of King Jesus on earth as it is in heaven. The wisdom enables the apostle to mobilize a people and increase the amount of power they have to project. Wisdom also serves them well providing them power to influence other leaders whom they are sent as ambassadors.

### Applying This Word Today

This study is by no means conclusive but it does give us a good place to start to help us recognize a gift God gave. Does God give supernatural signs that authenticate the message? What are they? Are they able to be documented? Do they display the character of Christ? What are the trials they have and or do

endure? How has patience manifested in their life? Are there mighty deeds following them? What is the fruit of their ministry? What are the measurable results?

When Jesus ascended on high He gave gifts unto mankind. The apostle was a gift He gave for our benefit and to equip the Church to mature for the work of the ministry. I don't see where He ever took that gift back. That gift exists today. I pray that when you do find this gift, honor them and receive them. It will bless you, your city and your region.