

Let the Church Be the Church: A COMMUNITY IN AWE

June 11, 2006

Acts 2.43

*“Everyone was **filled with awe**, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.” Acts 2:43 NIV*

*“And everyone kept feeling a **sense of awe**; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.” Acts 2:43 NASB*

Our attitudes affect our relationship with God. Our attitudes do not change how God feels about us, but they do change how we feel about God. How we feel about God, will either enhance or impede our ability to trust him and receive from him. What we see in our text today, is an example of the kind of attitude that enables us to see and receive from God. This early church exemplifies the kind of response to God that we need in today's church.

“Many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.”

“The things that mark an apostle—signs, wonders and miracles—were done among you with great perseverance.” 2 Corinthians 12.12

“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

“For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect – if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time.” Matthew 24.24-25

“And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth.” Revelation 13.13-14

“If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, “Let us follow other gods” (gods you have not known) “and let us worship them,” you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul.” Deuteronomy 13.1-3

“Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.” 1 Corinthians 1.22-23

“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” 1 Corinthians 15.17

“Everyone was filled with awe.”

God's people, then and now, have power to transmit to others discernible acts of grace, mercy and healing. These are genuine signs and wonders, not ethereal and supernatural, but tangible medical, psychological, social results that amaze the non-believer. We read that fear came upon those who observed early Christians in all this. They weren't simply watching them going through nice, liturgical rites; they realized those early Christians had the power of God to transform and heal lives.

“And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.” Matthew 13.58

Being filled with awe means we have moved beyond our earthly view and have caught a glimpse of the eternal glory of the living God.

Keith Green said that the world is lost in the darkness while the church is asleep in the light.

