

<p>Food for Thought This Thurs 23rd Jan. Guest Speaker is Rod McGlade Starts at 2.30pm.</p>	<p>OASIS Groups this Friday 24th January 'Team Challenge' See Amy or Claudia for more info</p>
<p>Next Sunday 26th Jan will be a special service to mark the forthcoming launch of the Falmouth and Penryn CAP Job Club. Our speaker will be Jen Sweet, CAP Area Manager for Devon and Cornwall</p>	<p>Exploring Christianity. Steps to a fuller understanding of the Christian faith. Free meal at 6.30pm with a meal, followed by a short talk with a Questions & Answers session. Run on each Tuesday night from 14th Jan 2020 until Feb 18th @ EBC. This week- Who was Jesus?</p>
<p>Food Bank-Needs are: GENERALLY NEEDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tin Corned Beef • Tinned Ham • Washing up Liquid • Dry Cat Food • Shaving Foam 	<p>Men's Prayer Group Prayer meeting for men every Tuesday morning at 7am for 45 minutes in the prayer room.</p> <p>A group of people meet for Prayer on a Mon morning 9 -9.30am in the church. You are most welcome to join them or pass on prayer requests to Angie Godfrey or Jeff Mount</p>

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
Main Door Graham King
Inner Door Chris & Wendy Tabb
Easy Worship Sue Wilson
Teas & Coffees Gillian Pringle+ / Carrie Childs & Mary Jones

Sunday 19th January 2020

10.30am Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.

A warm welcome to you all. We would love to get to know each other better, so please introduce yourself.

11am Children and youth groups leave

Nippers: Pre-school 2+

Buzz: Reception, school years 1-6

Salt: School years 7-13

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Community Roast Next Sunday 26th Jan.

Vegetarian, Vegan and Gluten Free will be catered for. For any other dietary requirements please speak to Amy.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A HOUSEGROUP?

Email housegroups@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk and one of our Housegroup co-ordinators will put you in touch with a group.

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PRAY FOR YOU?

Please come and ask the service leader and they will find one of our prayer team to pray with you.

Sermon Outline Notes: Acts 14:1-28 The role of signs and wonders in the evangelistic ministry of Paul.

1) Introduction

We are following Paul's first missionary journey. The Holy Spirit had said to the church of Antioch 'set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'. Paul and Barnabas travel to Cyprus, then on to central Turkey. The cities mentioned in Acts 14, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe are the churches Paul wrote to in his letter in the New Testament known to us as Galatians. What happened to Paul in Lystra, his stoning is referred to in Galatians 5:17.

One of the questions Christians often ask today is 'What is the role of signs and wonders then and now in evangelism?' Some churches put a great deal of emphasis on signs and wonders as an evangelistic tool. Are they right to do so? I think on this subject we need to exercise some caution and reflect carefully. There are three particular areas we need to think carefully about.

- 2) There is no evidence that signs and wonders 'accompanied evangelism as general rule'. What is universal every time is the verbal preaching of the gospel and it was a response to that preaching which they were looking for (see 14:1).
- 3) Signs and wonders when they happened were an 'additional extra' and were a response to faith already possessed. They were not a means of instilling or producing faith. This is clearly seen in verse 9 when Paul saw that the lame man had faith to be healed. The more accurate way of translating what the original text stated would be 'Paul saw the man had saving faith and it was on the basis of that faith that the miracle was done.'
- 4) Luke, the writer of Acts emphasis on the issue of signs and wonders as the sovereign choice of God. In verse 3 it says 'the Lord enabled them' to do...' In this particular situation God gave them this ability, but it was not a 'permanent' ability wielded whenever they felt like it.

I think that there is a reason why signs and wonders accompanied Paul and its this- it confirmed God's choice of Paul as an apostle. Paul had no links to the original 12 disciples, so how can he claim to have the same authority as them. He claims that authority by saying:

- (1) he has direct revelation from God (Galatians 1:12)
- (2) he has seen the risen Lord (1 Cor 9:1)
- (3) the things that mark out an apostle sign and wonders, were done by Paul (2 Cor 12:12)

Conclusion

I am not saying that we ought to close our minds to the possibility of God enabling signs and wonders, but I am suggesting that to organise evangelistic events with signs and wonders 'built in' is to misunderstand what was going on in the Book of Acts.

Points to Ponder

- 1) Was anything said with which you disagreed? Why?
- 2) What makes Paul 'tick' - what is driving Paul on? Why does he keep going on in spite of all the opposition he faces?
- 3) Why do many, both in Paul's time and our own reject the Gospel?

NOTES