

EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH – June 2026

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LYING SIGNS AND WONDERS

The whole world is being set up for MASSIVE DECEPTION. In the end, God is going to send a strong delusion in which the whole world (remnant excepted) will be deceived at the hands of the Antichrist by Satanic signs and lying wonders (2 Thess. 2:9-10). But even now we have the forerunner of “many antichrists by which we know that it is the last hour.” (1 Jn. 2:18) Not all “signs and wonders” are of God! Some are Satanic in order to deceive! “Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” (2 Cor. 11:14)

Bethel Church in Redding, California, is best known for its music, but its pastor, Bill Johnson, is well known for aberrant theology. Bill believes that when Jesus taught us to pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” that this was actually a commission (Matt. 6:10). He believes our assignment is to bring in the kingdom, and we are to do this through signs and wonders. Through miraculous “breakthrough” after “breakthrough,” we, through faith, are supposedly bringing in the kingdom. To this end, there is nothing we can’t do, even to the point of doing the miracles that Jesus did and greater. The premise of his “kingdom now” theology is WRONG, and the practice that follows is full of error!

In his book *“The Way of Life,”* Bill says, “Jesus promised signs and wonders would follow believers, and they would do even greater works than He did. Miracles did not stop with Jesus and the apostles. The Holy Spirit gives every believer the supernatural power to witness and release miracles, signs, and wonders... We believe all can be healed because Jesus demonstrated the Father’s will in healing all the sick and demonized He encountered.” (p. 207). In his book, *“The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind,”* he writes, “In our school of ministry we train people in signs and wonders...” (p. 32). On page 35, he says, “That is the essence of the gospel: to do exactly what Jesus did and destroy the works of the devil. That is normal Christianity. Miracles are normal.” And again, “God wants to give us revelations and experiences of heaven that have no earthly parallel.” (p. 152) In his book, *“Dreaming with God,”* he says that Kingdom authority “is the authority to set people free from torment and disease...It is the authority to bring Heaven to earth.” (p. 87)

In the Bible, “sign miracles” had a very specific purpose. There are only three eras in history where they were somewhat the “norm.” 1) Moses and Joshua; 2) Elijah and Elisha, 3) Jesus and the apostles. John is the gospel that emphasizes SIGNS. At the end of the book, in his purpose statement, John says that Jesus did many other signs, but that these “are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” (Jn. 20:30-31) These sign-miracles validated the truth that Jesus was the promised Divine/Human Messiah who came offering the kingdom. Validation of His kingdom offer was the doing of kingdom miracles. No one is offering the kingdom today! No one is doing kingdom miracles! Only Christ Himself will bring in the kingdom! That is NOT our assignment!

The apostles, as an extension of Christ’s revelatory ministry, were validated with “signs and wonders”. These were uniquely “the signs of an apostle” (2 Cor. 12:12). The apostles and their contemporary associates (the prophets) laid a revelatory foundation for the church as they gave forth New Testament revelation (Eph. 3:5-6). Their NEW revelation was confirmed “both with signs and wonders, with various miracles” (Heb. 2:3-4). This was NEVER the norm for anyone else in the Church Age!

Jesus warned that MANY on judgment day will claim to have prophesied, cast out demons, and done many miracles in His Name, only to have Him say, **“I never knew you...”** (Mt. 7:21-23). The description of the “MANY” as defined by Christ fits MANY false prophets in charismania to a tee! There are MANY!

Thot: God can work miracles any time He wants to, and He works powerfully through prayer, but SIGN-MIRACLES were unique to Christ and His apostles. All those claiming to do SIGN-MIRACLES after the time of Christ and the apostles are “deceiving and being deceived.” (2 Tim. 3:13)

Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald