

INTRODUCTION

For some time now, I have wondered what Jesus really meant when he said,

"Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can't believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it. That's how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I'll do. John 14:11-14 (The Message)

I have wondered if this was just for his chosen twelve disciples, or does this God-thing also pass on to all His followers down through the ages? Having read a number of booksⁱ and testimonies of others that God is still at work in a supernatural way, I decided to read through the gospel accounts and pull out a number of scripture verses that might back up the supposition that signs and wonders are being observed in this day as a way to bring people to a belief in God.

I have used The Message, a Bible translation by Eugene Peterson. He says in his Preface to The Message that, "It is not intended to replace the excellent study Bibles that are available. My intent here is simply to get people reading it who don't know that the Bible is read-able at all, at least by them, and to get people who long ago lost interest in the Bible to read it again. But I haven't tried to make it easy—there is much in the Bible that is hard to understand. So at some point along the way, soon or late, it will be important to get a standard study Bible to facilitate further study. Meanwhile, read in order to live, praying as you read, 'God, let it be with me just as you say.'"

With the gospel accounts being my guide, I have culled the following verses--trying not to duplicate too many of the same accounts from the four writers--that have helped me come to some understanding to what Jesus meant when he spoke the words, "I am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing." I want to let these various verses penetrate my being—to become part of my conscious thoughts and actions.

"Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; they will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for 'God is with us')." Matthew 1:23

"And then—then!—they'll see the Son of Man welcomed in grand style—a glorious welcome! When all this starts to happen, up on your feet. Stand tall with your heads high. Help is on the way!" Luke 21:28