

The Holy Spirit – an Enabler

“Power” in the Acts Period, compared with Today.

During the Acts Period, and in the letters of the Acts Period, we read of people performing God-given “miracles (*dunamis* – display of ability), signs (*semeion*) and wonders (*teras*)”.
E.g. Acts 2:22; Acts 6:8; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:4.

After the Acts Period, God-given powers and abilities (*dunamis*) are present, but those two words “signs” (*semeion*) and “wonders” (*teras*) are not present.
E.g. Ephesians 1:19; Ephesians 3:16,20; Colossians 1:11.

	Acts Period	After Acts (Today)
Holy Spirit permanently present in the believer	Yes	Yes
<i>dunamis</i> (power/ability)	present <i>works outwardly visible</i>	present <i>at work in the inner man</i> <i>– not openly visible</i>
[<i>semeion</i> (“sign/s”) & <i>teras</i> (“wonders”)]	present <i>Outwardly visible working of the Holy Spirit</i>	not present <i>Spirit’s work in the believer is no longer outwardly visible</i>

The Holy Spirit’s activities through the believer today are no longer actions that other people can observe and recognise as being a “sign” (*semeion*) somehow, or observe and be “amazed at” (i.e. *teras* – wonder). Rather, this working is in the “inner man” (Ephesians 3:16).

* * * *

A consistent chain of thoughts keeps appearing in the writings after Acts ...

- Christ loved us and sacrificed Himself for us.
- If we have placed our faith in Christ, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling with us.
- The Spirit may strengthen us with power to know this sacrificial type of love Christ had.
- We may be strengthened by the same Spirit to exhibit that same love in our daily lives.