

Here's Your Sign.

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 7, 2024 (Baptism Sunday)

I. 5 Reasons People Look For Special Signs & Wonders

1. You might be looking for a good thrill.

John 6:2 “And a large crowd was following Him, because they saw the signs that He was doing on the sick.”

Luke 23:8 “When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see Him, because he had heard about Him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by Him.”

2. You might be looking to get something for yourself.

John 6:26 “Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.’”

3. You might be looking for God's Word to be confirmed.

John 2:23 “Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs that He was doing.”

Exodus 4:1,10, 13-14 “Then Moses answered, ‘But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, “The Lord did not appear to you.”’...¹⁰ But Moses said to the Lord, ‘Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since You have spoken to Your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.’...¹³ But he said, ‘Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.’¹⁴ Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses...”

4. You might be looking for a reason to not believe.

Luke 11:16 “While others, to test Him, kept seeking from Him a sign from heaven.”

5. You might refuse to believe THE sign God already gave you.

Matthew 12:38-40 “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered Him, saying, ‘Teacher, we wish to see a sign from You.’³⁹ But He answered them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.’⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.’”

II. There is no greater sign of God's love for sinners than Him sending His only Son to die for the sin of the world, and then rise from the grave. That's what baptism points to!

John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...”

Romans 6:3-7 “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin.”

Today's Baptisms

9am Service

Josiah Richard

Randy Stacy

Ana Ashley

Shelly Sander

Taniel Sreditcor

Noah Clark

10:45am Service

Jonathan Jones

Lorrie Cornell

Levi Nein

Audrey Lee

Matthew Leeper

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion

1. When and why have you looked for a “sign” in your life?
2. Call to mind and/or share about your baptism experience.
3. How are you encouraged or blessed by observing other people being baptized?
4. What reasons do you have for not having been baptized today?
5. If you haven't been baptized, what steps of repentance should you take in order to be obedient to Christ in this way?