

# House Group Notes

30<sup>th</sup> May 2017



## Ichthus Values, Characteristics & Distinctives Session 14:

### Means: Words, Works and Wonders

#### Part 3 of 3: Wonders

##### Introduction

As part of our House Group series on Ichthus' values, characteristics and distinctives, last week we looked at "Works", part two of the topic of "means" – essentially, this is "what we do about what we believe". Tonight we will be looking at part three "Wonders".

##### The 3 Ws – Words, Works and Wonders

We can sum up what we do about what we believe through three categories: words, works and wonders. Hopefully you remember that on the Ichthus website they also link them to other words too:

<b>Words</b>	=	<b>Truth</b>
<b>Works</b>	=	<b>Goodness</b>
<b>Wonders</b>	=	<b>Beauty/Glory</b>

##### Read the statement below taken from Ichthus' website to remind everyone about it:

###### **MEANS: WORDS, WORKS, WONDERS.**

*We proclaim the good news of Jesus through our words in evangelism (truth), through the good works which we practice in the church and the community (goodness), and through the miracles and grace of healing and deliverance which we expect to flow from the church (beauty/glory). All these reveal the heart of God.*

We stated that as we look at the topic of "means" we will hopefully come to the conclusion that each of the "W"s is as important as the others, that they all tie in together, and that we want to see each of these means present in our own lives and throughout Ichthus Lee Green church. You have probably noticed that Words, Works and Wonders often appear with at least one of the others. After we have looked at Wonders tonight, we will finish by looking briefly at how the three means work together.

##### **Wonders – Beauty/Glory**

##### Opening discussion questions:

- What do you think we mean by wonders?
- What kinds of wonders do we see in the bible? Would you like to share any biblical stories that refer to them?
- Why do you think wonders are important?

##### Read these as examples of wonders in the bible (don't aim to discuss them):

1. Mark 8:22-26 (Jesus heals a blind man)
2. John 4:15-19 (Women at the well – word of knowledge)
3. Acts 19:11-12 (handkerchiefs and aprons touched by Paul heal people)
4. Exodus 16:3-4 & 11-15 (Manna & quail from heaven given to the Israelites)
5. Luke 9:12-17 (Jesus feeds 5,000 men)
6. 1 Kings 17:17-24 (Elijah raises child from the dead)
7. John 11:38-46 (Lazarus raised from the dead)
8. Acts 16:22-34 (Paul & Silas break out of prison and jailer is saved)
9. Exodus 13:21 (The Lord lead them by a pillar of cloud/fire)

As you can see from this small selection of biblical accounts (there are hundreds more!!) wonders happened in the Old and New Testament. God also used lots of different people to perform them and wonders come in all sorts of forms: it could be a prophetic word; a miraculous healing; someone resurrected from the dead; some kind of supernatural provision; God leading us; or in some other way too. God has always been active, performing wonders through His people, if His people will work with Him. This is still the same today!

**Discuss:**

- What kinds of wonders have you seen or hear of today? Would you like to share any testimonies?

**Wonders, Works & Wonders Together**

**Re-read Luke 9:12-17**

**Discuss:**

- In what ways can you see all three of Words, Works & Wonders in action here?
  - Words:
    - He had already been teaching the crowds
    - He blessed the bread
    - Instructed the disciples
  - Works:
    - Broke the bread
    - The disciples served the food
  - Wonders:
    - 5,000 men (20,000 people) were full from 5 loaves and 2 fish
    - More food leftover than they had to start with!

Although this is a simple example we can see all three means in action here, as you can with virtually all of Jesus’ miracles, and most other instances of God moving powerfully. For there to be a wonder we must use words to speak to people and pray, we must also make sure our words are backed up by our actions (Works), that we demonstrate we care and practice what we preach. If this isn’t the case then perhaps the Lord won’t be able to use us to perform a wonder!

**Pray to finish:**

- For us to see more wonders
- For faith to see God move in power
- For us to be used by God in all three means