

Miracles and Spiritual Gifts

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Introduction

1. There are many in the religious world today teaching that real miracles occur today.
 - a. We hear a many great claims from modern-day "faith healers."
 - b. Many say that they can "speak in tongues", handle snakes, etc.
2. What are we to believe about this? What does the Bible say?

Lesson

I. WHAT IS THE BIBLE DEFINITION OF A MIRACLE?

- A. Modern usage of the word has become very loose and confusing, so that it is now applied to many easily explained phenomena events.
- B. In the Bible a miracle meant the suspension of natural law something supernatural.
 1. Jesus walking on the water (Matthew 14:22-33).
 2. Lazarus being raised for the dead (John 11:1-46).

II. WE BELIEVE EVERY RECORDED MIRACLE IN THE BIBLE!

- A. Miracles serve a vital role in our faith. Without them we could not know:
 1. That Jesus is the Son of God (Romans 1:4).
 2. God's will for us today (1 Corinthians 2:9-12).
- B. Many other miracles were supernaturally preformed that are not recorded in the Bible.
 1. John 20:30.
 2. Acts 2:43.

III. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT MIRACLES HAVE NOW ENDED.

- A. The purpose of miracles has been completed.
 1. The miracles of Jesus proved that He is the Son of God.
 - a. Matthew 11:2-5.
 - b. John 20:30-31.
 - c. No further proof is needed.
 2. The miracles of the apostles served to verify that they were speaking the word of God.
 - a. Mark 16:19-20.
 - b. Hebrews 2:3-4.
 - c. No further verification is needed.
 3. In the absence of God's completed revelation, the miracles preformed by other first century Christians served to confirm the work revealed through prophets and to edify the church.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 14:12.
 - b. Since we now have a complete revelation (see point B. #2 below) the need for miracles no longer exists today.

- B. The Bible tells of a time when miracles were to end.
 - 1. Zechariah 13:1-2.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 13:8-13.
 - a. Prophecies, tongues, and divinely imparted knowledge (i.e., all spiritual gifts) were to pass away when the "perfect" had come.
 - b. The "perfect" does not refer to Christ.
 - 1. Notice, it is "that which", not "he who" is perfect.
 - 2. Even when the perfect arrived, faith, hope, and charity were to abide (vs. 13).
 - 3. Therefore, the perfect cannot be Jesus, for when He returns, faith and hope will not be needed.
 - c. The "perfect" is God's completed revelation, the Bible.
 - 1. It is that which allows us to "know even as we are known".
 - 2. Since we now have that complete word of God the time of miracles is now past (James 1:25; 2 Peter 1:3).

- C. The way spiritual gifts were imparted to others has been removed.
 - 1. We have only two recorded instances of Holy Spirit baptism.
 - a. The apostles (Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4).
 - b. The household of Cornelius (Acts 10:44; 11:15).
 - 2. Others with spiritual gifts received them only by the laying on of the apostles' hands.
 - a. Acts 8:14-19; 19:6.
 - b. These recipients could not pass the gifts on to others.
 - 1. Acts 6:5-6.
 - 2. Acts 8:5-6.
 - 3. Acts 8:14-18.
 - 3. Since there are no longer apostles who can impart these gifts, we must conclude again that the time for miracles is past.

Conclusion

- 1. While we believe every recorded miracle in the Bible, we must also believe that miracles have ceased.
- 2. People making such claims today are false teachers and they deceive many.
- 3. VERSES TO REMEMBER: John 20:30-31, Mark 16:19-20, and 1 Corinthians 13:8-13.