

LESSONS # 33 & 34
“HAVE MIRACULOUS GIFTS CEASED?”

TEXTS: Mark 16:16-20; I Corinthians 12:7-10; Acts 2:1-4; I Corinthians 14:27,28

INTRODUCTION:

Perhaps more attention has been given to the subject of Miraculous Divine Healing in the past few years than in any period of history since the days of the apostles.

The belief that Christ heals today, miraculously, as He did when He lived upon the earth Overpowers the religious thinking of countless thousands of honest and sincere people. It has been and is a major part of the doctrine of a number of denominations and is considered of most importance by many others. In the past it could be said that only the very poor and many illiterate were attracted to these religious bodies. This can no longer be said. This teaching has become so widespread that many leading denominations in the world have caught on the bandwagon. Many of the very top of the social ladder are adopting this doctrine and are passing it on.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. WHAT IS A MIRACLE?

First of all, a miracle must not be confused with a work of nature. Because the natural and the supernatural are both from God, some people do not distinguish between the miraculous and the natural.

When one knows the difference between how Adam’s wife arrived in the world and how his own wife arrived, he knows the difference between the miraculous and the non-miraculous.

What the Bible means by MIRACLE can be determined by the words used to describe miracles in Acts 2:22. They mere mighty works and wonders and signs.

2. CHRIST WORKED MANY MIRACLES:

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|-------------------|--------------------------|
| a. John 3:1,2 | Nicodemus |
| b. Matt. 8:28-34 | Demons were cast out |
| c. Matt. 21:14 | Lame made to walk |
| d. Matt. 14:13-21 | Thousands were fed |
| e. Matt. 14:22-33 | Walked on water |
| f. Matt. 8:27 | Wind and sea obeyed Him. |
| g. John 11:32-45 | Jesus raised the dead |

3. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES?

(John 20:30) And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

(John 20:31) But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Before the New Testament was written, it was necessary that men believe in Christ on the basis of verbal teaching and the backing up by the signs and wonders. The first preachers of the Gospel were inspired to know what to say and they performed miracles to confirm the word. How else could men have known they were accepting the pure Gospel?

a. Mark 13:11; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:13; Luke 24:48.49

The signs that were to accompany the preaching were promised at the time the eleven were commanded to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Mark 16:17-18

For what purpose were the signs to accompany the Word? Mark 16:20

Acts 1:8; Acts 2

The speaking in tongues was only one of the signs that followed them.

(only the apostles had the power to confer the gifts of the Spirit. Acts. 8: 5-25

4. WHAT WERE THE GIFTS?

I Corinthians 12:8-12

If any of the miraculous gifts are available today, all are available. There is no ground on which to say that some are for us today while others have ceased. If one person can speak in tongues, another can raise the dead.

Matt. 9:18-26

News went into all the land.

Matt. 4: 24

News went into all Syria

Luke 4:14

News went through all the surrounding district

Luke 5:15

Great multitudes were gathering to see and hear

(WHAT ABOUT TODAY WITH; FOXNEWS; ABC; NBC; CBS AND CNN!!)

V. THE ISSUE IS NOT WHAT GOD IS ABLE TO DO. THE ISSUE IS WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US TODAY.

- a. He once made man from the dust of the ground, He still can, if it's His will.
- b. It's not a question of miracles of the past.
- c. It's not a question of the power of God.
- d. It not a question of should we still pray for the sick.
- e. It's not a question of if God still heals today.

MEASURES OF THE SPIRIT

BAPTISMAL	SECONDARY	INDWELLING
Apostles & Cornelius Acts 2 Acts 10	Some Disciples Acts 8:12-18; 19:6	All Christians Acts 2:38; 5:32; Gal..4:6
Christ - Administrator John 1:33; Matt. 3:11	Apostles Rom. 1:11; Acts 18:18	When Baptized Acts 2:38,39 Acts 5:32
Not To Save Acts 2:1-4; 11:13,14	Not To Save Acts 8:12-18	Dwells In Church I Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:20-22
To Reveal Truth John 16:13; 14:26	Till N.T. Written Eph. 4:11-13	Gives No Miracles Rom. 8:9;1:11; John 10:41
To Confirm Truth Acts 1:8;Mk.6:20; 2Cor.12:12	Purpose of Gifts I Cor. 12:1-10 Not Needed Now	Not Spirit Baptized Rom. 8:9 ; Eph. 4:5
CEASED AD 64 Eph. 4:5	CEASED AD 96 I Cor. 13:8-13	CONTINUES Acts 2:38; 5:2