

Miracles Part Two

Due to the length of this topic the lesson begun in Miracles Part One will now continue and conclude as the lesson Miracles Part Two.

What about claims of miracles today?

Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Christ did command all Christians to go forth and spread His Gospel, and He promised He would be with His followers. Jesus never claimed all His followers would be able to perform miracles, just that He would be with them. We know from the Bible, that in the first century the Apostles and the people that the Apostles laid hands on could perform miracles. There was no promise made that Christians would always be able to perform miracles. The Bible tells us that the time of people performing miracles would one day end. We will in fact cover that later in this two part lesson.

Mark 16:14-20 “Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” and **Acts 2:1-4** “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Some people today claim they can speak in tongues or heal people miraculously. First, when they make this claim, do they then speak in gibberish or do they fluently speak in a real language they never studied so well a native speaker of the language has no difficulty understanding them? Second can they restore someone’s health in a completely undeniable way, and do all of the other things the Apostles could do? If they have one power the Apostles did why don’t they have all of them? Every Apostle had many spiritual gifts. If you fully test someone today that claims miraculous abilities they will fail.

Hebrews 2:3-4 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” The purpose of miracles in the first century was to confirm

the Word. Back in the first century, Christians did not have the Bible to turn to so they would know if someone was speaking the Word of God, or was a false teacher. By performing miracles one could confirm they were truly speaking God's Word. Today we have the fully completed Word of God in the Bible and can check for ourselves to see if what we are being taught is truth or error. We no longer need miracles to confirm the Word because we have the Word. When the time came that miracles were no longer needed to confirm God's Word they ceased.

Apostles were able to:

The following are examples of miracles that the Bible tells us could be performed by the Apostles, through the power given to them by the Holy Spirit. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, just a few examples of actual miraculous power; and it is always possible they could have done other miracles that are not recorded in the Bible. The people that the Apostles laid hands on could also perform many of the same miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit, but they could not pass on spiritual gifts like the Apostles could.

Mark 16:17-18 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." The Apostles could cast out devils, speak fluently in languages they did not know, be unharmed by poisonous snakes or toxic liquids, and also completely heal sick people they touched.

Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." The Apostles could speak in foreign languages they did not know or have any type of training in fluently.

Acts 3:1-10 "Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him." The Apostles could completely heal someone that was lame.

Acts 8:9-20 "But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself

believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.” and **Acts 19:1-6** “And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” The Apostles could confer miraculous gifts on other people, by laying their hands on them. By this process, people other than the Apostles were granted various miraculous gifts. However, only the Apostles could confer miraculous gifts on others. Thus, once the Apostles and all the people they laid hands on died miraculous gifts would cease.

Acts 9:33-34 “And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.” The Apostles could instantly heal the sick.

Acts 9:36-42 “Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.” and **Acts 20:7-12** “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell

down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.” The Apostles could raise the dead. Try to get someone that claims to be a miracle worker today to do this!

Acts 13:6-11 “And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.” The Apostles could strike a false teacher blind.

Acts 14:8-11 “And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.” The Apostles could heal a crippled person that had never before walked instantly.

Acts 27:10 “And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.” and **Acts 27:21-24** “But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.” The Apostles could predict the future accurately.

Hebrews 2:3-4 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” The Apostles could reveal and confirm God’s Word to others before it was written down for all people to be able to read.

How to explain claims of miracles today

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you:

depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” and **1 John 4:1** “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

Today some people will claim they do miracles, or perform various other works in the name of God. However, Christians must study their Bible and grow in knowledge so they can recognize false teachers. Not everyone that claims to preach or teach in the name of God truly does. Some people teach contrary to God’s Word and their doctrine will lead people to Hell. Anyone today that claims to perform miracles is either having mental health issues or is a liar. We know this because of verses like **1 Corinthians 13:8-13** and **2 Timothy 3:16-17**.

Today not once has someone been raised from the dead.

Today not once has someone with a missing limb had that limb restored.

Miracles, for example speaking in unknown tongues, have ceased:

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” In the first century, people did not have a Bible they could open up and study to know God’s will, but today we do. God tells us, through His inspired Apostle Paul, that when the Gospel has fully been revealed spiritual gifts, or miracles, will cease. The purpose of miracles is to confirm the Word of God. Being able to perform miracles confirmed that the person was a servant of God, and therefore what they are communicating to their listeners is from God. After all, how could anyone perform a miracle unless they were God, or empowered by God? Today we have the entire inspired Word of God so that we can study it for ourselves, thus we no longer need miracles to confirm someone is speaking what God wants us to know. We have the Truth we just have to open it up and study it.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” The Bible has been given to us by God so that we can have all that we need, in order to get to Heaven. If we obey God’s Word, we will be in Heaven. If we need miracles, or anything else, in addition to the Bible to please God, than the Bible can not thoroughly furnish us to all good works, and can not guide us to Heaven. God ended miracles because the Bible is all we need to find the path to Heaven.

Conclusion

Hopefully, in this two part lesson we have come to a better understanding as to what the Bible means by a miracle. Hopefully, we can also better see that the term miracle is often misused today, by claiming something is a miracle that was in fact not supernatural in any way. We also saw that the Bible tells us the time of miracles is over and that they do not occur any more today.

So if you hear of anyone claiming they can speak in tongues or perform any other miracle, you will know not to believe this. (Remember speaking in tongues in the Bible was always done in a language that people understood, it was never gibberish.)