

It's a Miracle!...Or Is It?

(1 Corinthians 13:8-10)

Introduction: 1. We hear a lot of talk about miracles today, so let's examine and evaluate the things in hear in the light of Scripture.

I. What I Am And Am Not Saying In This Lesson

- A. I am not denying the miraculous.
 - 1. Creation, Parting Red Sea, Fiery Furnace, Jesus walking on water, Resurrection of Lazarus, etc. (Acts 2:22).
- B. I am not stating that God is deficient in power.
- C. I am not stating that God is no longer active in the affairs of men today (James 5:16).
- D. What I am asking is whether God chooses to empower men to perform miracles today as he did in Bible times.

II. What Difference Does It Make

- A. It's a Bible topic (2 Peter 3:18; Acts 17:11).
- B. A misunderstanding can damage one's faith (2 Peter 2:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:18).
- C. People can be and are being exploited (Jude 3-4,12; 2 Peter 2:1-3).

III. The Purpose Of Miracles?

- A. To Make Believers of Unbelievers (2 Kings 5:1-15; John 11:45; Acts 3:6 - 4:4).
- B. To Confirm The Word (Mark 16:20; John 20:30-31).

IV. Observations And Analysis

- A. Why are the alleged miracles being performed today nothing like the miracles we read about in Scripture?
 - 1. Instant, complete, non-psycho-somatic diseases.
- B. Unvalidated claims.
 - 1. (Acts 2:22) As you yourself know...

V. When Did Miracles Cease?

- A. (1 Corinthians 12-14).
- B. (Ephesians 4:8-16).
- C. They were to last *until* — “we arrive at the unity of the faith” or “that which is perfect has come.”

VI. Common Objections

- A. Testimony of men (Romans 3:4).
- B. Jesus never changes (Hebrews 13:8).
- C. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

Conclusion:

- 1. We serve an all-powerful God; a God of miracles.
- 2. God is still just as powerful as he ever was, and he still intervenes in the affairs of men today.
- 3. However, the miraculous gifts that he gave to the New Testament church and were characteristic among those first century Christians are no longer available to men today.
- 4. Instead, sufficient miracles have been recorded so that we can come to faith by the things that were written (John 20:30-31).