

What Does the Bible Teach About Miracles?

Conclusion: Modern Miracle Workers Or
Pious Pretenders?

4/29/21 - Thursday Indepth Bible Class
of the Trilacoochee church of Christ

Previously

- Five great periods of miraculous activity in the Bible
 - What are Bible miracles?
 - Major periods of miracles
 - Miracles had a purpose
 - Duration of miraculous periods

Are Miracles Necessary Today?

- When the Old and New Testaments were completed, God's revelation was finished.
- Does God have to keep doing miracles?
 - Is there a need for ongoing miracles to authenticate the Bible?
 - Does weak faith require a miracle to remedy it?
 - Does God do miracles on demand?
 - Are the phenomena that are occurring today, hailed as "signs and wonders and healings," really necessary and authentic?
- The answer to all of these questions is no.

Are Miracles Necessary Today?

B. B. Warfield writing in 1918, said: “Miracles do not appear on the pages of Scripture vagrantly, here, there, and elsewhere indifferently, without assignable reason. They belong to ‘revelation periods’ and appear only when God is speaking to His people through accredited messengers declaring His gracious purpose. Their abundant display, in the Apostolic Church, is the mark of the richness of the Apostolic Age in revelation... Between 36 A.D. and 95 A.D., all 27 books of the New Testament were written. And so there was a proliferation of authentication because of the vast volume of literature being revealed in a brief period of time. When this revelation period closed the period of ‘Miracle Working’ had passed by also as a mere matter of course. God the Holy Spirit has made it His subsequent work, not to introduce new and unneeded revelations into the world, but to diffuse this one complete revelation through the world and to bring mankind into the saving knowledge of it.”

Are Miracles Necessary Today?

Abraham Kiper, Dutch theologian, writes in 1898: "It has not been God's way to communicate to each and every man a separate store of divine knowledge of his own, to meet his separate needs. But He rather has spread a common board for all, and invites all to come and partake of the richness of the great feast. He [God] has spread a common board for all, and invites all to come and partake of the richness of the great feast. He has given to the world one organically complete revelation, adapted to all, sufficient for all, provided for all, and from this one completed revelation he requires each to draw his whole spiritual sustenance. Therefore, it is that the miraculous working which is but the sign of God's revealing power cannot be expected to continue, and in point of fact, does not continue after the revelation of which it is the accompaniment has been completed."




Modern Miracle Workers Or Pious Pretenders?



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Failing To Do?

- Every miracle that Christ did, and more
 - John 14:12 - “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Failing To Do?

- Every miracle that Christ did, and more
 - Works of nature - John 6 - calm storm, walk on water.
 - Control elements - water to wine, feed 5000
 - Control demons and madness - Gadarene man
 - Read minds - Matt. 9 - Palsied man
 - Cure all diseases - Cancer, leprosy, paraplegics, AIDS
 - Prophecy - Deut. 13:1-3; Speaks consistently with what has been revealed - Deut. 18:20-22
 - Raise the dead - Luke 7:15; John 11 - Lazarus



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Doing?

- Making excuses
 - “You don’t have enough faith.”
 - Mark 16:17 - “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues.”
 - Matt. 17:20 - “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”
 - How much faith did the water have to be turned into wine? The faith is in the one performing the miracle.



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Doing?

- Making excuses
 - “You don’t have enough spirit; you are weak in the Lord.”
 - 1Cor. 3:1-2 - “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able”
 - Corinth was weak and carnal, and they still performed genuine miracles.



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Doing?

- Getting the cart before the horse.
 - John 10:37-38 - “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.”
 - Jesus used the miracles to prove the word; modern day miracle workers use the word to try to prove their miracles.



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Forgetting?

- The purpose of miracles
 - Confirm the deity of Christ
 - John 20:30-31 - “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Forgetting?

- The purpose of miracles
 - Confirm the teaching of the word
 - Mark 16:17-20 - “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. 19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.”



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Forgetting?

- The purpose of miracles
 - Confirm the teaching of the word
 - Heb. 2:3-4 - “For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Forgetting?

- Not everyone received a gift nor the same gift.
 - 1Cor. 12:29-30 - “Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Forgetting?

- Tongues aren't the best gift, yet that's the one they all want. And gifts aren't even the best "way."
 - 1Cor. 12:31 - "But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Forgetting?

- Every tongue speaker must have an interpreter or he is to keep silent. They must speak one at a time, too.
 - 1Cor. 14:27-28 - “If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.”



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Forgetting?

- Tongues are a sign for unbelievers, not to confirm one's salvation.
 - 1Cor. 14:22 - "Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe."
- Is God redundant or so uncertain that He needs to re-confirm that which has been proven?



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Doing To Themselves?

- Bringing themselves under a curse
 - Gal. 1:7-9 - “There are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”



What Are Modern Day Miracle Workers Doing To Themselves?

- Making fools of themselves
 - 2Tim. 3:8-9 - “Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.”
- Burning themselves out religiously



Have Modern Day Miracle Workers Performed Any Miracles?

- They have followed no New Testament authority or examples in their performance; therefore, a performance is all they are accomplishing.



Have Modern Day Miracle Workers Performed Any Miracles?

- Miracles have ceased
 - 1Cor. 13:8-10 - “Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.”



Have Modern Day Miracle Workers Performed Any Miracles?

- Miracles have ceased
 - Zech. 13:1-3 - “In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. 2 It shall be in that day, says the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land. 3 It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who begot him will say to him, ‘You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the LORD.’”



Have Modern Day Miracle Workers Performed Any Miracles?

- Only the apostles could give gifts to obedient believers.
 - Rom. 1:11 - “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established.”



Have Modern Day Miracle Workers Performed Any Miracles?

- Transmission of gifts was by apostles only.
 - Acts 8:14-18 - “Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money.”



Have Modern Day Miracle Workers Performed Any Miracles?

- There never was any doubt over New Testament miracles.
 - John 11 - Lazarus was dead four days and walked from the tomb.
 - Matt. 12 - man with withered hand in presence of skeptical Pharisees.



Have Modern Day Miracle Workers Performed Any Miracles?

- There never was any doubt over New Testament miracles.
 - Acts 3:6-10 - “Then Peter said, Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”



Have Modern Day Miracle Workers Performed Any Miracles?

- There never was any doubt over New Testament miracles.
 - Acts 5:14-16 - “And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. 16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.”



Have Modern Day Miracle Workers Performed Any Miracles?

- There is nothing but doubt over modern miracles.
- 2Cor. 12:12 - “Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty works.”
- “Be patient with me, and show me a mighty work.”



Have Modern Day Miracle Workers Performed Any Miracles?

- There are no more miracles.
- Those who are involved with them are either deceivers or deceived. It is our duty to bring them out of this error.
- Many of them are sincere, but they are sincerely mistaken.

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matt. 7:15).

