

# MIRACLES

## 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 10, 28-29

**Introduction:** MIRACLES! Everybody wants to see a "miracle." Some things that happen are called "miracles" that later on proven not to be out of the ordinary. So what is a miracle?

The Greek word translated "miracle" is "semeion-tera-dunamis." "semeion" meaning a sign of authority of the doer, a sign, a wonder.. "tera" meaning the effect on those witnessing the miracle (astonishment, etc.). "dunamis" meaning the exhibition of divine power, a miracle. "Miracle" meaning the interruption in the laws of nature: virgin birth of Jesus; dividing of the stream by Elijah, feeding the 5,000 and turning water into wine by Jesus, etc.

## I. THE GIFT OF MIRACLES

- Healing (*1 Corinthians 12:8-10*), listed as the fourth of nine.
- Miracles listed as the fifth of nine.
  - The coin found in the mouth of a fish; Jesus walking on water; Peter freed from prison.
- Miracles were not for entertainment or for hire.
  - Satan tempted Jesus to show people a sign of who He was.
- Miracles were not a cheap show.
- Few converts to Jesus were ever won by signs and wonders.
  - Jesus fed thousands, raised Lazarus from the dead, but NO converts.
- *Acts 14:8-18* - Paul healed a cripple, but was stoned.
- *Acts 16:12-24* - Paul healed a girl of evil spirit possession and was beaten.
- No saving faith comes by miracles.
- Salvation comes by FAITH, not Sight.

## II. THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

- Miracles were for the introduction and for verifying who the one performing the miracle was.
- *Genesis 1-3* is full of miracles.
- The manner in which the Laws were given to Moses was full of miracles.
- Elisha and Elijah's preaching were filled with miracles.
- When Christianity was introduced, there were many miracles.
- At the end of the ages there will be many miracles.
- After the Book of Acts, miracles are seldom mentioned. Why?
- *Hebrews 2:3-4*, miracles had died out by the second generation of Christians.
- Why did miracles die out? Miracles had served their purpose and were no longer needed
  - Moses needed miracles to lead the Jews out.
  - Jesus needed miracles to prove who He was.
  - Paul needed miracles to prove Jesus Christ had called him.
  - When need for a sign ceased, miracles ended.
  - When the Church was founded, there was no more need of Apostles or signs.
  - Miracles were to introduce and to authenticate.
  - Today people have the Word of God, the Church and the Holy Spirit.
- No one person has all the gifts, no one age has all the gifts.

### **III. THE GIFT OF MIRACLES AND THE MIRACLE-WORKING GOD**

- There is a vast difference between the gift of miracles and God's work of miracles.
- The sign of God's presence is always a miracle.
- The gift of miracles is temporary and God is silent at times.
- Miracles are everywhere on every hand. God does not change. *Hebrews 1:10-12*
- The gift of miracles to Christians is not given to all or for permanent use.
- One's faith is not rewarded by spiritual gifts.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God's Word is enough! If God chose to reveal Himself to us in a burning bush, GREAT but we do not need that to confirm that God is God. His WORD is enough.
2. Today there is the Believer in Jesus Christ, there is the Church, the body of Christ, there is the permanent presence of the Holy Spirit. What more is needed?
3. Salvation comes by hearing the WORD of God, then believing the WORD of God and trusting the SON of God. Not by seeing anything miraculous.
4. The most miraculous thing today is that God loves us, Jesus died for us and eternal life in Heaven is offered to us through our faith and belief in Jesus Christ. NOW THAT'S A MIRACLE!