

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM, MIRACLES & DIVINE HEALING

Text: Acts 1:1-5

INTRO: No one who believes the Bible denies that there were in the early church those who had power to heal the sick, raise the dead, & work other miracles. The question is, are these miracles still being worked today?

I. DEFINITION.

- A. Sometimes people misunderstand one another because they use the same words with different meanings. The word “miracle” is often used to describe that which is difficult to understand or explain. “Every time a baby is born, that is a miracle.” No. Babies are born in accordance with natural laws, Gen. 1:26-29.
- B. As the term is used in Scripture, a miracle is an event which is above the laws of nature; something that could not be produced by natural agents & means. This is the definition we will use in this lesson.

II. THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES IN N.T. TIMES.

- A. The underlying purpose of all N.T. miracles was to confirm the Divine source of Jesus & His doctrine. This is the reason they were recorded. John 3:2; 20:30-31.
- B. But the identity of Jesus & the Divine origin of His doctrine has already been fully confirmed. READ HEB 2:2-4.

[The apostles] went out & preached everywhere, the Lord working with them & confirming the word thru the accompanying signs. (Mark 16:20).

- C. Therefore the 1st century need for miracles has ceased with the confirmed & written word.

III. N.T. MEANS OF SECURING THE POWER TO WORK

MIRACLES HAS CEASED. There were only 2 means mentioned in the N.T. of achieving that power.

- A. H.S. baptism. There are 2 recorded cases & one implied case of H.S. baptism.

1. The 12 apostles, a.d. 30, Acts 2:1-4.
2. The household of Cornelius, a.d. 41, Acts 10:44-48
3. (Implied) The apostle Paul, a.d. 36
2 Cor. 11:5; 12:11-12
4. By 64 a.d. Paul recognized the continued existence of only 1 baptism, Eph. 4:5. Peter, writing about the same time indicated the importance of water baptism, 1 Pet. 3:20-21. Therefore H.S. baptism had ceased before 64 a.d. & only water baptism remained. No one can receive the power to work miracles by H.S. baptism today.

B. Spiritual gifts could be conferred to other Christians by the laying on of the apostles' hands, Acts 8:18; Rom. 1:11. But the last apostle died by the end of the 1st century, thus no one today can receive the power to work miracles by H.S. baptism today.

C. There was never a 3rd means of securing the power to work miracles, therefore we conclude that no one today is working miracles such as were taking place in the 1st century a.d.

D. Another indication that this is true is the fact that the Scriptures indicated that H.S. gifts were to cease.
1 Cor. 13:8-11.

God's revelation in the N.T. is complete & perfect, & all partial revelations have ceased, Rev. 22:18-19.

IV. THOSE WHO THINK THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED H.S. BAPTISM HAVE BEEN MISLED AS TO THE FRUITS OF REAL H.S. BAPTISM.

A. The tongues were not "unknown" in the sense of today's so-called "tongue speaking."

1. They were languages previously unknown by the

speakers but well known by the audience.
Acts 2:4, 6, 11

2. They could be translated into the languages of those who did not understand them, 1 Cor 14:27-28.
3. The gift of tongues was not to be used unless the assembly could understand the language being spoken, or unless there was someone there who could interpret the message into their language.
4. Not all Christians had the gift of tongues, 1 Cor 12:8-10.

B. There is no indication that emotional outbursts such as shouting, dancing, jumping, etc., were **ever** produced by H.S. baptism or by the indwelling of the H.S.

C. Emphasis was **never** on human feelings. The Bible repeatedly tells us what people saw & heard. It never emphasizes how they felt. Acts 4:20; 22:15.

V. THEN, WHAT ABOUT DIVINE HEALING TODAY? Divine healing is the only kind of healing there ever has been. All healing is & always was effected by Divine law or by Divine intervention.

A. Doctors work in cooperation with Divine laws of health, Matt. 9:12; Col. 4:14

B. Medicines are also applied to conform to Divine laws of health as best we understand them, Prov. 17:22; 1 Tim. 5:23; Luke 10:34

C. Prayer is also an element & the providence of God is not to be dismissed. James 5:15-16.

CONCLUSION: We must remember that the God who could & did empower the apostles & prophets of Biblical times to work miracles, can also work without miracles thru His control of the laws & forces of nature. We must apply those laws of good health with use of doctors & medicines when needed, combined with sincere prayers to the God who rules the

universe. And we must submit ourselves to His revealed spiritual will, that our prayers may be effective.

Cox Springs, TX, August 29, 1965
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, October 24, 1965
White Park, Leesville, LA, November 23, 1967
Springhill, LA, September 19, 1971
KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, October 10, 17, 24, 1971
La Porte, TX, December 5, 1976
Exton, PA, July 22, 1990
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, February 11, 1996