

The Miraculous Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- God is capable of miracles, in the OT, NT, and today.
- However, in NT times the ability of men to perform miracles at will, for men to specifically use at their will was a gift originally given to the apostles. Then also the apostles were given the ability to pass the power of miracles onto others.
- All this was done as a confirmation of the word, which God used to usher in his new covenant, but it was not a permanent issue.
 - o Again, its not that miracles were not a permanent issue, but people having the gifts to use at will was not a permanent issue. But one that would phase out as the New Covenant was established and the apostles passed away.

Jesus the miracle worker

Mk 1:21-28

- The miracle of Christ confirmed his message.

Mk 2:8-12

- Again, it was confirming who Jesus was.
- Acts 2:22 – Jesus was accredited by God to them through the miraculous.

The Apostles: men with authority to do the miraculous

Mk 3:13-19

- There were 12 men given a special power to do the miraculous.
- It was not anyone else.
- It's what made an apostle and apostle.

Mk 6:6-13

- Again, they were going out preaching and doing miracles to confirm the message.
- But it wasn't anyone else; there were 12 with this special ability, yet there were many disciples (Jn 6:66; Acts 1:15).

Now we have the Book of Acts

Acts 2:4; 2:42; 3:8; 5:12-16

- For the 1st three years of the church in Jerusalem, with thousands of believers (Over 5,000 men by Acts 4:4) it was only the apostles that had authority from God to do the miraculous.
- Even after the Acts 2 outpouring there are no others performing the miracles of the Spirit, just the apostles.
- Until Acts 6:8 and Acts 8:6. The 1st 2 non-Apostles begin performing the miraculous: Stephen and Philip.
 - o What happened to them?
 - o Acts 6:1-7 – the apostles laid their hands on them.
 - o Giving them the ability to perform the miraculous.
- Even the disciples in Acts 19 received the powers of the spirit after what?
 - o The laying on of Paul's hands (Acts 19:6).
 - o And this had nothing to do with the fact that the indwelling Holy Spirit that we receive at baptism and is essential to salvation (Acts 2:38; Rom 5:5; 8:9-11, 15; 1Cor 6:19; Eph 1:11-14; Gal 5:16-26).
- Could now Philip and Stephen lay hands on people to give them the authority to do it?

Acts 8:14-25

- Simon saw that the ability to have miraculous power in the Spirit was given only at the laying on of the apostles' hands.
 - o The miraculous power of the Spirit came only at the laying on of the apostles' hands.
 - o Therefore the implication is that after the apostles all died the authority of miracles in the hands of men passed away.
- Why did they pass away?
 - o John 14:11
 - The miracles helped people believe as the covenant was changing.
 - o Mk 6:19-20
 - o Heb 2:2-4
- The word confirms itself now.
 - o Jn 20:20-21
 - Once the word was written and New Covenant established there was no need for the miraculous, for the word testifies to Jesus now.
 - o Rom 10:17

Now, what about Corinth and Cornelius?

- 1Corinthians deals with miraculous gifts of the Spirit all throughout the letter.
 - o What it doesn't deal with was how to get them.
 - o The letter is dealing with those who have them already.
- Acts 18:1-17 Paul, an apostle, starts the church there and stays for 1 ½ years.
- The logical assumption is that he, as an apostle, had laid his hands on numbers of different people in that congregation.
- 2Corinthians 12:12 make it clear that:
 1. The miraculous nature of an apostle was a unique mark.
 2. Paul did many miraculous things among them.
- 1Cor 12:28-31 makes it clear that every Christian in the church were not workers of miracles.
- Paul hadn't laid his hands on everyone.
- Also, look at the letter to the Romans.
- Paul states a number of times that he had never been there.
 - o Rom 1:11-13
 - He wanted to come, to give them gifts, but had never been able to.
 - o Rom 12:3-8
 - None of the spiritual gifts mentioned were miraculous.
 - No Apostle had been there.

Acts 2 and Cornelius

- The Spirit came down on Cornelius and his family the same way it had on the apostles 8 years earlier. And by no means was this a normal event (Acts 11:15).
 - o In Acts 2 this was a confirmation to the people (Acts 2:7, 12).
 - o In Acts 10 this was a confirmation to Peter and the others that Gentiles can indeed be saved (Acts 10:47).