

Can Miracles Be Performed Today?

I. The word “miracle” is used loosely.

- A. Many use it in reference to some spectacular event (e.g. someone is healed of cancer through medicine and treatment; the birth of a child).
- B. These things may be amazing, or even *providential*, but they are not miracles.
- C. The word “miracle” is defined as an event that appears to be contrary to the laws of nature (supernatural).

II. Examples of Bible miracles:

- A. The parting of the Red sea (Ex. 14:21-22).
- B. The healing of Naaman’s leprosy (2 Kin. 5:8-14).
- C. The virgin birth of Jesus (Mt. 1:18).
- D. Jesus feeding the 5,000 and walking on the sea (Mt. 14:13-27).
- E. Jesus healing the blind man (Jn. 9:1-7).
- F. Raising the dead (Jn. 11:38-44; Ac. 9:40, 20:9-12).
- G. Some miracles listed (Mt. 11:4-5; Mk. 16:17-18).
- H. *We are not denying the existence of miracles in the Bible.*

III. The purpose of these miracles was to confirm the word (Mk. 16:19-20; Heb. 2:1-4).

- A. In a world where “Bibles” did not exist and knowledge of the kingdom of Christ was minimal, miracles helped to prove the validity of the apostles’ teachings.

IV. Miracles would cease when the revelation of God was completed (1 Cor. 13:8-13).

- A. Miraculous gifts are said to be “in part.” These miracles, which were “in part” would cease when “that which is perfect is come.” *They would not last forever.*
- B. We know that the “perfect” is the complete, revealed New Testament because the part has to relate to the whole, and miracles existed to confirm the word (Mk. 16:20). Also, faith and hope would continue after miracles ceased (vv. 8, 13), but faith and hope will no longer exist after the return of Christ (Rom. 8:24-25; Heb. 11:1). This confirms that miracles would cease at some point before Christ’s return.

V. Miraculous gifts *were* received through the laying on of the apostles’ hands (Ac. 8:17-18).

- A. Apostles do not exist today (Ac. 1:20-22; 1 Cor. 15:5-8) which confirms that the ability to perform miracles ceased to exist when the apostles died.
- B. Holy Spirit baptism only occurred twice in the 1st century (Ac. 11:13-16).

VII. Distinguishing between modern-day “miracles” and true miracles.

- A. In the first century, it was always *clear* that a miracle had been performed. Divine healing involved those who were lame from birth, or blind, or even dead, but “divine healing” today always seems to involve an invisible illness.
- B. In the first century, tongues were actual dialects (Ac. 2:6-8; 1 Cor. 14:10), but “tongues” today are gibberish.
- C. In the first century, there were principles governing miracles in the church (1 Cor. 14), but today, there is only confusion and hysteria. Consider 1 Cor. 14:33.

VIII. What about those who claim to have experienced miracles? (Mt. 7:21-23)

- A. The dangerous influence of an emotional frenzy (1 Kin. 18:25-29).