

HAVE MIRACULOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CEASED?

INTRODUCTION:

1. The subject of the Holy Spirit is, and always has been, a controversial subject.
2. Even in the first century there were false apostles, and others who falsely claimed to speak by the Holy Spirit and perform miracles (II Cor. 11:13; I John 4:1; II Thess. 2: 2, 9).
3. Jesus said there would be men in this age who would claim they had miraculous powers, who did not (Matt. 7; 21 - 23).
4. The denominational world has a warped and distorted view of the mission of the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) The Calvinist teach that the Spirit works SEPARATE AND APART from the WRITTEN WORD to save the sinner.
 - (2) The PENTECOSTAL GROUPS CLAIM the Spirit speaks directly to them giving them REVELATION; they claim they can speak in TONGUES.
 - (3) The Catholic church claims to be guided by the Holy Spirit today:
 - A. They claim the Holy Spirit perpetually gives life to the Catholic church.
 - B. "By his (Holy Spirit) gifts guides her infallibly in the way of truth and holiness."
 - C. The Spirit-guides deliberation of the councils.
 - D. The Catholic church is constantly setting forth New Doctrines and rulings.
 - E. The pope claims to be guided by the Holy Spirit ; he claims to be infallible when he teaches on faith and morals.
 - (4) The Mormon church teaches LATTER-DAY REVELATION.
 - A. They say, "We believe in the principle of continuous Revelation; that the cannon of scripture is not full; that God inspires man in every age and among all people, and that he speaks when, where and through whom he may choose."
 - B. They claim "The Book of Mormon is an added witness for Christ" -- From the book "The Word of the Lord" p. 79
 - (5) The Methodist church believes the Holy Spirit moves and calls men to preach.
5. The QUESTION: "Is the Holy Spirit working MIRACLES and giving REVELATION TODAY?"
6. Let us examine this question in light of Bible teaching.

I. MIRACLES CEASED WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT CAME.

1. I Cor. 13:8 - 10 "*But when the totality comes*"

(1) "*Whether there be prophecies, they shall fail*" -- The Gift of prophecy would cease to be necessary -- I Cor. 12:10

A. The message of the prophet was a direct revelation of the mind of God for the occasion.

B. The gift of Prophecy (I Cor. 12:10) NOT the TRUTH delivered through the gift , would cease -- only the Gift would CEASE -- would fail to be bestowed.

(2) "*Whether there be tongues, they shall cease*" -- the Gift of Tongues ceased BUT not the truth which was delivered through tongues -- The gift of tongues would stop.

(3) "*Whether there be KNOWLEDGE, it shall vanish away*"

A. The gift of knowledge would be withdrawn -- we do not have gospel knowledge today by miraculous gift.

B. We have gospel knowledge today by studying the New Testament (II Tim. 2:15).

(4) The gifts would cease, not the gospel which they revealed and confirmed.

(5) We have the confirmed gospel in its TOTALITY in the New Testament.

(6) The special gifts and miraculous signs were simply to be used in the first days of the church, to serve until "THAT which is PERFECT should come" (I Cor. 13: 10 - 12).

II. MIRACLES CEASED WHEN THE WORD WAS CONFIRMED -- Mk. 16: 17 - 20; Heb. 2: 3 - 4

1. The New Testament is the CONFIRMED, complete REVELATION of God to man in this dispensation of time.

(1) II Tim. 3: 16 - 17

(2) It is the revelation of ALL truth through the Apostles (John 16:13).

(3) It gives "us all things that pertain unto life and godliness" -- II Pet. 1:3

(4) "*The faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*" -- Jude 3

2. The purpose of the BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT was to convince the audience that God was with the Apostles, for that is the use Peter made of the miraculous events -- Acts 2: 14 - 21, 33; Matt. 3:11; John 14:26; 15: 26 - 27.

(1) This was to confirm the word.

3. The house of Cornelius was BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT -- this was to show that the Gentiles were accepted of God; they convinced the Jews that the Gentiles could be saved on the SAME terms as the Jews -- Acts 10: 44 - 48; 11: 1 - 18; Acts 15: 7 - 11
4. Only two cases of Holy Spirit baptism -- In 62 AD -- ONLY ONE BAPTISM -- Eph. 4:5
5. The Apostles were chosen AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST to be guided by the Holy Spirit into all truth -- II Cor. 5: 18 - 20; Eph. 6:20; John 15:16; Matt. 18 :18; Lk. 24:49; John 16:13

(1) They were given the signs of an Apostle -- II Cor. 12: 11 -12

(2) These signs confirmed the Word and their office.

(3) When Christ chose the twelve, He gave them POWER to work all kinds of Miracles -- Matt. 10: 1 - 8; Mk. 3: 13 - 15

III. NO NEED FOR MIRACLES TODAY

1. The inspired scripture furnishes us "*Unto all good works*" -- II Tim. 3: 16 - 17; II Pet. 1:3
2. The Christian today is furnished by the Scriptures in all he needs -- NOT by Spiritual gifts.
3. If we are furnished with miraculous gifts in addition to the scriptures, then certainly we are NOT furnished completely by the Scriptures.
4. Paul said we are completely equipped by the Scriptures -- II Tim. 3: 16 - 17
5. Paul said when the Totality of the Scriptures came that which "*is in part shall be done away*" -- I Cor. 13: 10
6. God took away miraculous signs and gave us the Scriptures of the New Testament instead.

CONCLUSION:

1. The man who claims today that miraculous can still be performed--is saying:
 - (1) That the church is still a child -- I Cor. 13:11
 - (2) That it has not attained Manhood.
 - (3) That the word of God has not been confirmed.

(4) "That which is perfect" -- God's complete revelation has not come -- I Cor. 13:10; James 1:25

2. ZECHARIAH PROPHESED THAT GOD WOULD CAUSE THE PROPHETS TO PASS OUT OF THE LAND -- Zech. 13: 1 - 3; I Cor. 13: 8 - 10