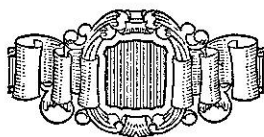


# MIRACULOUS DIVINE HEALING

DONALD TOWNSLEY  
320 Oak St.  
Lebanon, Ky.



Park St. Church of Christ  
PARK AT THIRTEENTH STREET  
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

By ROY E. COGDILL

# **MIRACULOUS DIVINE HEALING**

By ROY E. COGDILL

## PREFACE

The following sermon was delivered by Brother Roy E. Cogdill Sunday afternoon, October 5, 1952, at Bowling Green, Kentucky, during a tent meeting conducted by Mr. Charles Jessup. It is estimated that 12,000 people were present. Mr. Jessup is a well-known, sensational, fake healer and repeatedly invited preachers of the city to deny what he was preaching—to show him where he was wrong. Brother Robert Pressnell and I met him and his brother at the Helm Hotel September 27 and arranged for a discussion between him and Brother Cogdill who was in a meeting at that time at Horse Cave. He agreed to speak an hour and then let Brother Cogdill speak an hour. He would not agree to rebuttals. However, on Monday after arrangements were made, they called and stated that if Mr. Jessup could not have the last speech, there would be no discussion. Brother Cogdill agreed to make the first speech. It was a masterpiece. Mr. Jessup did not attempt to answer an argument but resorted to ridicule and quibbling. Many people left the discussion convinced that Mr. Jessup was a fake. Other attempts in this area by him have failed. We believe that the sermon by Brother Cogdill helped to kill his influence.

This booklet contains not only the sermon by Brother Cogdill, but also answers to Mr. Jessup's arguments. The booklet should be widely distributed.

B. G. HOPE

Bowling Green, Kentucky  
November 14, 1953

BROTHER PRESSNELL, MR. JESSUP,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I am grateful to Almighty God for His good providence that brings us to this occasion and presents to us the opportunities and privileges of this service. It is a tribute to the good land in which we live that we can meet in such a service as this. It is likewise a tribute to all of you, whether you are among Mr. Jessup's congregation or among my brethren who have come from so many different communities to be with us in this service, that you are each of a mind to come here today for the purpose of studying a Bible question. I appreciate also the kindness of Mr. Jessup in extending to us the invitation to be here and discuss with him the important question for our consideration this afternoon. I am especially grateful to my brethren of the Twelfth Street and East Park Churches of Christ in this city for their kind invitation to represent them here this afternoon in the investigation and for their confidence. The vast audience assembled here this afternoon is certainly an indication of the genuine interest throughout this country in any discussion concerning a Bible question and in this question in particular. (The audience was variously estimated at 12,000 to 15,000 people.)

Our question for study this afternoon is: Has the gift of healing which was among the spiritual gifts of the New Testament age continued until this age? Is God healing men miraculously now as He did in the New Testament age? Are there men living today upon whom God has bestowed the "gift of healing" as it was bestowed in the New Testament age and mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:9? In this passage of scripture gifts that were bestowed upon early Christians by the power of the Holy Spirit and performed through them are mentioned. While there were "diversities of gifts," they were all wrought by the same Spirit. Mentioned in this passage are the gifts of: (1) wisdom, (2) knowledge, (3) faith, (4) healings, (5) working of miracles, (6) prophecy, (7) discerning of spirits, (8) tongues, (9) interpretation of tongues. You will notice that the "gifts of healings" is but one of the special miraculous powers

given by the Holy Spirit. Does this gift exist now and are men exercising such power now by the will of God?

Mr. Jessup answers this questions in the affirmative and at first offered to affirm that such is true and speak first. Later he changed his mind and decided that he wanted the last speech and rather than lose the opportunity we accepted his invitation to speak in affirmation of the proposition that: The "Gifts of Healing" along with all other miraculous power bestowed in the New Testament Age upon Christians have ceased. To the proof of this proposition from the Word of God we direct your attention.

I have nothing to offer you in support of this proposition, my friends, but the Word of God. Every statement that I make and every plea that I enter shall be based upon what the Bible plainly teaches. The question we deal with, as all other Bible questions, should be decided upon the basis of what God has said about the matter. Someone is mistaken about this matter. Somebody is wrong in what they teach and undertake to practice. Those who claim that miracle healing continues today and those who claim that miracle healing ceased with the apostolic age or the New Testament age cannot both be right. Mr. Jessup and I cannot settle the question for you. Only by a study of the Word of God with an honest mind can you learn what is right and what is wrong about this matter. God's Word is right. I might be wrong. Mr. Jessup might be wrong. You may be wrong, but the Bible is right. Jesus said, "Father, sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth." Paul said, "Let God be true and every man a liar." We shall then strive to offer you only a "Thus saith the Lord" and trust that in his rejoinder Mr. Jessup will be forthright enough to honestly try to meet the issue on the ground of what the Bible plainly teaches.

It would be impossible to arrive at a correct conception of what the Bible teaches on this subject without first coming to a correct conception of the teaching of the Bible on the subject of the Holy Spirit, His mission, and His work.

#### *The Holy Spirit Is A Person*

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is a person. To

the Holy Spirit is attributed by the scriptures life, thought, volition, action, individuality, character, and influence. Whatever is attributed to the personality of God and of Christ is also affirmed of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament Jehovah was a plurality of persons.

Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let us make man in our image."

Genesis 3:22, "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us."

In the work of creation the Holy Spirit was present.

Genesis 1:2, "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

In the New Testament Jehovah is revealed as God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. All three are spoken of in equality.

Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Romans 15:30, "Now I beseech you brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me."

2 Corinthians 13:14, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all."

The New Testament scriptures attribute to the Holy Spirit personality. Paul declares in 1 Timothy 4:1 that the Spirit "Speaketh." Jesus said the Spirit when He came would "Testify." (John 15:26) Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit "bears our infirmities" and "maketh intercession" for us. (Romans 8:26) All of this evidences that the Holy Spirit is a person, just as God is a person and Christ is a person. The Spirit is the third person in a triune Godhead revealed to us in the New Testament.

#### *The Work of the Spirit In Redemption*

The same scriptures teach us that the Holy Spirit in the redemption of mankind is the work of divine revelation. God originates, Christ procures, the Spirit reveals. When



Jesus selected, schooled, and trained His apostles to be His ambassadors among the nations of this earth, He promised them the Holy Spirit to guide them in their work of making known His divine decrees. Those promises are recorded for us in:

*John 14:16*, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him: for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

*John 14:26*, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

*John 16:7*, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because the prince of this world is judged. I have many things to say unto you but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine and shall shew it unto you."

The very words in which Jesus describes the mission of the Holy Spirit in these promises identified His work in redemption to be that of revelation. Notice them: "teach," "remind," "reprove," "guide," "speak," and "shew." This should remove the idea that the work of the Holy Spirit is so mysterious.

The promise that the Spirit would come upon the apostles to guide them and bring to their remembrance was fulfilled on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The record of this fulfillment is found in chapters one and two of the book of Acts of the Apostles. In the first chapter we read the story of the ascension of

Jesus back to the God of Heaven. He had commissioned the apostles to preach repentance and remission of sins in His name beginning in Jerusalem but had instructed them to tarry in the city of Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit. While they tarried they selected Matthias to take the place of Judas. The last verse of chapter one says, "And Matthias was numbered with the eleven." Reading on into chapter two the record says, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Thus was fulfilled to the apostles of Christ the promise he made them of another comforter to guide them into all truth and abide with them when he had gone away. The Spirit was promised to the apostles and the Spirit fell only on them as the language of the passage will show. Only those upon whom the Spirit fell were speaking and only those were speaking upon whom the Spirit came. "They all began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance." Verse 14 tells us that, "Peter stood up with the eleven and lifted up his voice." Then followed the first Gospel sermon convicting the Jews of crucifying the Son of God. Thus began the preaching of repentance and the mission of sins in the name of Jesus Christ under the influence and guidance of the Spirit of God.

We hear Paul saying, "Now we have received, not the Spirit of the World, but the Spirit which is of God; *that we might know* the things that are freely given us of God." He further declares, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth;" 1 Cor. 2:12-13. This was the work of the Spirit in divine revelation—*that men might know*—the things freely given to us of God—in words of God's own choosing—through the guidance and direction of the Spirit upon the apostles. This revelation, however, was not all given in a day. It was "line upon line, precept upon precept,

here a little and there a little." As it accumulated and grew the mind of God was revealed until it was entirely completed and revelation was perfect and all that God wanted men to know that they might be saved had been made known. In this way, the Spirit of God guided the apostles into all truth and brought to their remembrance all things that Jesus had said unto them that they might tell others. Paul declares that we can understand the things revealed to him by reading what he wrote. Eph. 3:3-4. Hence by the good providence of God through the preservation of the writings of the apostles of Christ and the inspired men of the New Testament period we have access in the New Testament to "all truth." This is the work of the Spirit. The Spirit has given us the "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25), the "Unity of the Faith" was achieved (Eph. 4:13), and that "which is perfect" has come. 1 Cor. 13:10. As Peter expresses the matter, "According as his divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him hath called us to glory and virtue." 2 Peter 1:3.

Upon one other occasion this overwhelming or baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit was given and that was at the house of Cornelius, the first Gentile convert. You read about it in the tenth chapter of the book of Acts. The baptism of the Holy Spirit came upon this occasion to give evidence that the Gentiles were accepted of God upon equal terms with the Jews. Hear Peter on this, Acts 15:7-9, "And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, men and brethren ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as He did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." These are the only two instances of the baptism of the Holy Spirit on record in the Word of God. There are no more. I am challenging Mr. Jessup to produce another. If he knows of one surely he will tell us about it. Only twice did the baptism of the Holy Spirit occur in fulfillment of the promise of Christ. They are found in Acts

2 and Acts 10—upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost and at the house of Cornelius. Each time for a special purpose—upon the apostles for the work of divine revelation—and at the the house of Cornelius to "bear witness" that God had "put no difference" between the Gentile and the Jew. It never occurred again. In both of these instances this experience was attended by a miraculous sign, and only one miraculous sign, the ability to speak in other languages or tongues. This experience is not being repeated today and has not been since the New Testament day as far as anyone knows or God has testified. It served its purpose and was never repeated. We do not need the baptism of the Holy Spirit today for either reason that it was given in the New Testament. Divine revelation has already been made and is complete. We need only to believe the testimony of God's word to know that there is "no difference" between Jew and Gentile.

#### *Signs Confirming the Word*

Another mission of the Holy Spirit in the work of divine revelation was to confirm the word preached with "signs following." Jesus promised this.

*Mark 16:15-20*, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord has spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."

Paul declares that this work of confirmation was done.

*Hebrews 2:1-4*, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and

every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"

These miracles and signs following the preaching of the Word of God in the New Testament day were to confirm the message as a message from God. The things being revealed were a new message. They had to be confirmed as the word of God in order that they might be accepted by faith in God. In 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Paul says of the purpose of these miracles and wonders:

"And I brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

Hence these miracles that accompanied the revealing of God's Word were to produce faith in God and in the message revealing His will. Our faith today needs to be in the word of God thus confirmed and not in the testimony of man. Far too many people want to trust in their testimony and not in the Word of God. You should always beware of such. Put your faith only in what the Word of God says. Mr. Jessup and purported healers today are not revealing the Word of God to us. They do not belong in the class with the apostles and prophets and hence do not have the powers that belonged to this work of revelation. The word of God needs no confirming today—it needs only believing.

#### *The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit*

Peter declares in Acts 5:32 that "God hath given the Holy Spirit unto them that obey him." In Acts 2:38 he

promised those who repented and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, "and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Note that this is not "gifts" of the Holy Spirit. Acts 3:19, a parallel passage, identical with Acts 2:38 in its meaning, identifies to us what the "gift of the Holy Spirit" in Acts 2:38 means. It tells us, "repent ye therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, *when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*"

Other passages promising this indwelling of the Spirit to lead and guide the Christian into seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord are:

*Ephesians 2:22*, "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

*Romans 8:9-14*, "But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

*Galatians 5:22*, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law."

The evidence of the possession of the Spirit of God today is seen not in miraculous power to heal, speak with tongues, or other like signs but rather in righteousness and godliness in life and character. Mr. Jessup cannot demonstrate that he has the Spirit of Christ dwelling in him by his attempts to heal. He needs to demonstrate that rather in godliness and righteousness in his life. That is the fruit of the Spirit. Only the man who bears that fruit has the Spirit. In another passage Paul tells us how we receive the Spirit. It

is not in a miraculous experience as many claim but rather by the "hearing of faith." Gal. 3:2. The Spirit of God leads and guides us today into seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord through the teaching of the Word of God and our reception of that teaching by faith. Willingness to abide by the Word of God is evidence that the Spirit is leading you.

#### *The Nature of the Miracles of Jesus*

John 3:34 tells us that Jesus possessed the Spirit without measure—that is, without limitation. The text says, "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him." An analysis of the miracles performed by Christ while here on this earth reveals that they fall into the following classifications:

- 1—He demonstrated His power over nature in the stilling of the tempest. Matt. 8:26.
- 2—He demonstrated His power over the demon world—therefore over the devil by casting out demons. Matt. 8:16.
- 3—He demonstrated His power over material things by multiplying the loaves and fishes and feeding the five thousand men besides the women and children. Matt. 14:15-21.
- 4—He demonstrated His power over diseases by healing leprosy (Matt. 8:2-3) and every disease and every sickness. Matt. 9:35.
- 5—He demonstrated His power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. John 11.

Modern miracle healers will not undertake what Jesus did yet they would lead you to think they have the same power and that Jesus is healing through them. If Jesus is doing the healing now why doesn't He heal now like He did then?

#### *The Purpose of the Miracles of Christ*

The miracles of Christ were performed in order to demonstrate that He could forgive sins. This is evidenced

by Matthew 9:6, "That ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, then saith he to the sick, and palsy, arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house."

Jesus also performed his miracles in order to prove that He was sent of God and that He was the Christ.

*John 5:36*, "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."

*John 10:25*, "Jesus answered them, I told you and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me."

*John 10:36-38*, "Say ye not of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemeth; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not, But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works; that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."

If it is possible that we have miracles today for these purposes, then we need Jesus here to perform them and not someone else. But we do not need miracles for these purposes. We have divine testimony recorded and preserved for us in the Word of God for this purpose and all we need to do is believe that testimony.

*John 20:30-31*, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

#### *The Miracles Performed By the Apostles*

When Jesus appointed the twelve to their apostleship, He gave them miraculous power.

*Matt. 10:5-8*, "These twelve Jesus sent forth and commanded them saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."



These miraculous powers given to the twelve were signs of their apostolic office.

*2 Corinthians 12:11-12*, "For in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing. Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds."

In analyzing the miracles performed as signs of the apostolic office we find the apostles had these powers:

- 1—They healed all manner of diseases. *Mark 6:13; Acts 19:11-12.*
- 2—They cast out many devils. *Mark 6:13.*
- 3—They imparted miracle working powers unto others by laying their hands on them. Peter and John at Samaria were such a case.  
*Acts 8:14-18*, "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: for as yet he had fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostle's hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money."
- 4—They had power over death. They demonstrated this by raising the dead. Peter raised Dorcas from the dead. *Acts 9.* Paul restored the young man who fell out of the window at Troas. *Acts 20.*
- 5—They had power to pronounce a curse upon those who stood in their way. Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for trying to deceive God. *Acts 5.* Elymas was struck blind by Paul. *Acts 13:10-11.*

Only a very limited and partial examination of present day—so called—healers will reveal they do not have the power the apostles had. They do not dare attempt even the healing which the apostles did. These present-day professed healers will attempt only certain cases and ordinarily will hastily

reject anyone who has anything seriously wrong with him especially if it is something visible.

#### *The Purpose of These Miracles Wrought By the Apostles*

The miracles wrought by the apostles served a divine purpose. It was not for propaganda or promotion purposes that they did what they did. It was not in a money raising campaign or to create excitement but the purposes served were in harmony with the divine will. Let us see what they were:

- 1—God bore the apostles witness by the miracles which He wrought through them that their testimony was true.  
*Hebrews 2:4*, "God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will."
- 2—By these miracles which they did, God confirmed their preached word.  
*Mark 16:19-20*, "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."
- 3—These miracles were performed by the apostles in order that those who heard them preach might not place their faith "in the wisdom of man but in the power of God." *1 Cor. 2:5.*
- 4—These miracles were the signs or evidence of their apostolic office and authority in the kingdom of God.  
*2 Corinthians 12:11-12*, "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds."  
*Romans 15:19*, "Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so so that from Jerusalem and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ."  
*Acts 2:43*, "And fear came upon every soul and many wonder and signs were done by the apostles."

Since those who profess to be engaged in divine healing today do not fill the apostolic office and are not engaged in the work of divine revelation, then they could not need to be able to demonstrate the powers demonstrated by the apostles and surely we do not need to tell you that they cannot do so.

#### *Miraculous Powers Distributed Among Early Disciples*

We have previously pointed out to you from 1 Corinthians 12 that various miracle working powers were distributed to the early Christians by the Spirit. But let us read the passage:

*1 Corinthians 12:1-11*, "Now, concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues; but all worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

There are only about two of these powers given to Christians by the Spirit in the first century that men try to imitate now. They are the easiest to feign and counterfeit. They are tongues and healings. Why do they profess to possess only these two miraculous powers without the rest? If men today can heal as the apostles and early Christians healed, why cannot they perform the rest of the miracles as well as they? Why has just healing continued? Do you not

see that if one of these powers has been continued there is no reason why the rest cannot be performed also? Why not prophecy? Why not the power to discern the spirits of men? Why not speak with tongues and interpret them? Why not the word of knowledge as it was specially imparted by the Spirit in the New Testament day? If we have one now we should have all and the absence of some should evidence the existence of none now.

Then another thing: These miracles of the New Testament day were not confined to preachers. They were distributed among Christians in general. Why should God heal only through the preacher now. He did not do it that way in the New Testament day? Today there are preachers, like Mr. Jessup, parading up and down through the country professing to heal as they did in the New Testament day. Great campaigns are carried out, people come from all over to be healed, thousands of dollars in money are contributed to these professed healers and yet there is nothing in the New Testament that begins to look like such a campaign. In every church there were individual Christians that were made able to heal the sick and it didn't take the preacher to do it. No preacher that had that power ever used it for a money raising campaign such as has been going on here. Such a campaign rings false from every angle when you compare it with New Testament history and teaching. The miracles of the New Testament day were generally distributed among Christians—one miracle working power to each individual Christian. Perhaps God didn't give such power only to preachers then because He knew that they would make a racket out of it.

#### *The Purpose of These Miraculous Powers*

We are not left in the dark concerning the purpose of these miraculous powers distributed by the Spirit among early Christians. They were:

- 1—To confirm the Word that was being revealed.  
*Mark 16:20*, "And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."

The New Testament had not been written. Revelation of divine truth was being given gradually, "here a little and there a little," and as it was given, God confirmed it as a divine message by these "signs that followed" those who believed. They could not turn to the New Testament and prove what they preached to be the truth as I can today for they did not have it then. They had to establish their preaching to be the truth of God in another way. God provided for that by giving them these miraculous powers. All you need now to establish the truth to any man who believes the Bible to be the word of God is to turn to it and read what the Bible says. If he will not accept that, he would not believe no matter what miracle you might work. He is in exactly the same position as the rich man in Luke 16: Abraham said to him concerning his brethren, "If they will not hear Moses and the prophets, they would not believe even if one arose from the dead." If you do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, if you do not respect apostolic authority, if you are not willing to put your faith in the Bible and its testimony, then you would not be convinced if one arose from the dead. The Word of God has been confirmed. It was confirmed by these miracles that are recorded in its pages. We have the testimony that they were done. We must believe that testimony to be true. Its testimony has stood the test of nineteen centuries and not one of the miracles that God wrought through Christ, the apostles, or the early Christians has ever been proven to be untrue. Then for poor puny men to come along and tell us that we must take their testimony, put our faith in them and their power, be convinced by what they can do now, is nothing short of insulting to our intelligence and faith and blasphemy of the Word of God and its power. Your faith should stand in the word of God and not the testimony of man.

When testimony has once been confirmed by an oath or in other acceptable or legal manner it does not need to be done again. A witness sworn in once before the court does not need to be sworn in again but upon that one confirmation can complete his testimony and it will stand. An instrument once notarized according to law does not need

to be notarized again and again. A check once certified does not need to be certified again. The word of God once confirmed does not need confirmation again.

2—A second purpose for which these miracles were given in the New Testament day was to edify the church.

*1 Corinthians 14:26*, "Let all things be done unto edifying."

Here Paul was discussing these spiritual gifts. Chapters 12, 13 and 14 in First Corinthians are given over to a discussion of them. Paul specifies that the church was to be established in the faith—built up and made stronger in conviction and confidence by these miracles. Again we have the testimony of the word of God already confirmed by miracles unquestioned and undeniable to strengthen our faith. If you would confirm the church today, teach the church the word of God.

3—Tongues were for a sign to the unbeliever. *1 Cor. 14:22*. ✓

4—Prophesying for the believer. *1 Cor. 14:22*. ✓

Thus both believer and unbeliever was provided for in God's plan for these miracles to produce and strengthen faith in His word—the word being preached by the apostles and prophets of the New Testament period. Surely we do not need these signs today, whether believer or unbeliever, to convince us that the Bible is the divinely revealed word of God.

5—These miracles were for the purpose of establishing God's order and respect for it in the hearts of men. The proper respect for divine authority and the government of God's church depended upon this.

*Ephesians 4:7*, "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men."

*Ephesians 4:11*, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers . . ."

*Ephesians 4:14*, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

Hence we learn that the genuineness of the miracles of the New Testament day was for the very purpose of protecting the church of the Lord against racketeers and false teachers. A comparison of the miracles of healing of the New Testament day with the professed healing of present day counterfeits will serve now to protect us against the "sleight of men, and cunning craftiness" of those who would deceive.

#### *How Were These Miraculous Powers Conferred?*

Jesus had the Spirit without measure. The apostles were bestowed miraculous power by the Lord when He ordained them to their apostolic office. But how did these early Christians receive their miraculous power? We need not guess about it. We can turn to our Bibles and see:

*Acts 6:5-8*, "And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicholas a proselyte of Antioch: whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the word of God increased and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people."

*Acts 8:5-8*, "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Jesus unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city."

Who was Philip? He was one of the seven men upon whom the apostles laid their hands in Jerusalem. Who was Stephen? He was one of the seven men upon whom the apostles laid their hands. Where did they get their miracu-

lous power? By the laying on of apostolic hands, of course. But read again:

*Acts 8:14-18*, "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: for as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands he may receive the Holy Ghost."

*Simon saw* that through the laying on of the apostles hands these miraculous powers were bestowed. We should be able to clearly see that this is the way these miraculous gifts were imparted. But hear another witness:

*Acts 19:6*, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

Where did these miraculous powers come from given to these Ephesians? Why from the Holy Spirit? But how were they imparted? Clearly through the laying on of the hands of Paul. But listen again to the testimony of God's word.

*2 Timothy 1:6*, "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by putting on of my hands."

Whatever Timothy's gift was, he received it by the laying on of apostolic hands. This is the evidence from the word of God as to how these miraculous gifts of the New Testament age were imparted to Christians. They were never given in any other way but by the laying on of apostolic hands. They never came in answer to prayer and I challenge the gentleman who will speak to you in a few minutes to point out one instance of where they came in answer to prayer without apostolic hands being laid upon them. He cannot and will not produce it, yet he preaches and teaches that



such gifts as the gift of healing will come in answer to prayer. It is not true. The word of God does not so teach.

I am asking Mr. Jessup to give us just one Bible instance of any New Testament Christian outside of the apostles themselves, who received the gift of healing or any other miraculous gift in any way other than by the laying on of apostolic hands. I am insisting that he cannot find the example of these gifts being imparted in any other way.

#### *How Long Were These Gifts To Last?*

If these miraculous gifts were conferred only by the laying on of apostolic hands, then when the apostles were no longer upon earth to lay their hands upon others, these gifts could no longer be imparted. When all upon whom the apostles laid their hands died, the gifts ceased. That should be apparent to even the slowest to comprehend. Here are the facts:

- 1—These miraculous gifts of the New Testament day were imparted only by the laying on of apostolic hands.
- 2—When the apostles died the distribution of these miraculous gifts ceased.
- 3—When those upon whom the apostles laid their hands died, the gifts ceased.

That is the testimony of God's word in this matter. I want Mr. Jessup to deal with it when he speaks. I want him to produce just one instance of any New Testament Christian receiving these miraculous gifts in any other way than by the laying on of apostolic hands. If there is one in the Bible surely he knows about it and if he knows about it surely he will produce the instance for our enlightenment. If he ignores the matter in his speech, and I predict that he will, it will be sufficient evidence to all in this audience who think that there is no such instance which can be produced. In that case these gifts have ceased with that generation.

But let us look at another scripture:

*Ephesians 4:7-14*, "But unto every one of us is is given grace according to the measure of the gift

of Christ. Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men . . . .

*Verse 11*, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: TILL we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

This passage tells us when these gifts were given, why they were given, unto whom they were given, and how long they were to last. Notice it:

- 1—They were given when He ascended up on high. That is when they began.
- 2—They were given to apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers.
- 3—They were given to protect the truth and the people of God against false doctrines and false teachers.
- 4—They were given *until* they reached "the unity of the faith, the knowledge of the Son of God, a perfect man, the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

The word "TILL" marks duration. "The unity of the faith" does not mean unity in faith or all of us believing the same thing—that will never occur, but it does mean the completion of divine revelation. The completion of divine revelation was to be goal—complete knowledge of the will of the Lord made available through His word. The complete stature of what a Christian is to be, that of a perfect man in Christ, was to be revealed in the fulness of divine revelation and these gifts were to endure until that had been completed. When revelation had been completed these gifts were to cease.

Another passage along this same line we call to your attention: In the 12th, 13th and 14th chapters of First Corinthians Paul gives us the most complete discussion of spiritual gifts that can be found in the New Testament. In the twelfth chapter he discusses what these gifts are. In

chapter thirteen he discusses the utility of these gifts, their relative importance to divine principles, and their duration. In the fourteenth chapter he tells us how they were to be used. In the last verse of chapter twelve we hear him saying, "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." There is something more important than those miraculous powers. From the emphasis put upon such things as the healing of the body in some of these meetings you wonder if some men know that there is anything more important than that. Friends, your soul and its healing is the important thing. Jesus said to His apostles, John 14:12, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do he shall do also; and greater works than these shall he do." The Lord did not mean to say that anybody would perform any greater miracles than he performed. No man ever did that as we all know. But he did mean that there is something more important than healing the body of a man and that is saving his soul. Opening the eyes of his heart that he might understand the truth is more important than opening his physical eyes that he might have physical sight when he is blind. So Paul tells us that there is a "more excellent way." In 1 Corinthians 13:13, he tells us what that more excellent way is, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greater of these is charity." These great motives will abide when these spiritual gifts have passed away. Paul what was to abide? These miraculous gifts? Oh no! Friends, that which abides is faith, hope and love. But listen to him:

*1 Corinthians 13:8*, "Charity never faileth: but whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."

There it is friends. These spiritual gifts are in part and remember that he lists among these gifts that are in part, the gift of healing, 1 Cor. 12:8-10. This gift of healing along with the others was *in part* and was to be done away. It was not intended to endure. God says so. It was to pass away and when it did faith, hope, love, would remain in the

hearts of men. But when was this to happen? When "that which is perfect is come." He isn't talking about the coming of the Lord, He had already come. He isn't talking about heaven but rather about the completion of divine revelation. James 1:25 calls the revealed word in its fulness the "perfect law of liberty." Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, . . . that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." But when that which is perfect is come that which is in part shall be done away. The word of God is perfect and has come, spiritual gifts, including the gifts of healing, were in part and have been done away. That substantiates my proposition and I challenge Mr. Jessup or anyone else to disprove it. When revelation was completed gifts ceased.

#### *Their Proof Texts Examined*

We want to examine some of the proof texts used by these professed healers today and see what kind of ground they have to stand upon.

*Isaiah 53:5*, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

I know of no passage which these so-called healers pervert any worse than they do this one. Jesus did not die for our physical healing. He was able to do that without suffering for us on the cross. This passage is talking of the healing of the soul and that should be obvious from even a casual reading of the passage. Christ could not heal the soul of man without dying a sacrificial death upon the cross in order to atone for man's sins. David cried, "Lord, be merciful unto me: heal my soul." Psalms 41:4. Jesus taught that a man must hear with his ears, see with his eyes, understand with his heart and be converted that He might heal him. Matt. 13:15. Was He teaching that conversion is necessary to the healing of the body? I suppose Mr. Jessup would think so since he thinks that Jesus died on Calvary for the healing of our bodies. How ridiculous!

*Hebrews 13:8*, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."

Here is another of their favorite proof texts which, in order to use, they pervert and misapply woefully. Does this mean that Christ works in the same way, does things like He once did them? That is what it must mean if it proves that Christ heals miraculously now because he once healed that way and they make the passage so teach. But let us see if that doesn't prove too much: God created the first man out of the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Does He still make men that way? According to their use of Hebrews 13:8, God must make every man that way since He once made man that way. If Christ, the same yesterday, and today and forever proves that Christ must heal men today because He did then, then it also proves that He must feed men now like He did then and because He did then. Can you do it Mr. Jessup? How many times have you seen one of these so-called miracle healers stop a tornado? Jesus stilled the tempest on Galilee and He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, therefore Mr. Jessup can stop a storm. Does it follow?

If this passage means what they make it teach, then we would have to go back to Sabbath keeping and animal sacrifices. We would have to go back to polygamy because God once permitted it. Does Mr. Jessup believe in more than one wife? He would have to if his use of Hebrews 13:8 is worth anything. The passage does not mean that at all. It does not mean that Christ cannot change His law. Paul declares in Hebrews 7:12, "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." That was done when Christ ascended to heaven for He was not a priest on earth. Hebrews 8:4, "For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law." So when Christ ascended to the right hand of God the law changed for His priesthood began. The principles of righteousness are eternal and therefore God and Christ and the Spirit are unchangeable since they are altogether righteous but this does not even suggest that these principles are always expressed or applied in the same laws or in the same manner. This is not so and their use of the passage is a mis-use of it.

*Matthew 28:18-20*, ". . . and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

I believe what this passage affirms just as strongly as Mr. Jessup or anyone in this audience, but does it mean that the Lord has to work a miracle in order to be with me or to prove that He is with me? Surely we can have greater faith than that. John 20:29, "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." The Gentile centurion said, "Lord, only speak the word." Aren't you willing to take the word of the Lord that He is with you? Do you have to be convinced by a miracle? You need faith if that is so. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20.

*Mark 16:17*, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Why does Mr. Jessup take healing alone out of all that list? Why not the rest of the signs too. If this passage proves healing, it proves snake-handling, poison-drinking too. If he can't do that it is because he isn't a believer. If he is a believer and can heal the sick, then he can drink poison and handle snakes. Will you do it Mr. Jessup? He will not dare undertake it therefore his healing is a fraud.

These signs did follow in the New Testament age, all of these signs, and for the purpose of confirming the word. They are not needed for that purpose today as we have already shown you.

*James 5:14-15*, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up."

Jesus said call for the elders of the church. I ask what church? Is the gift of healing in the Mormon church? They say it is and they offer the same kind of proof that Mr.

Jessup offers. Does he believe that the Spirit of God is healing through Mormon elders? Let him tell us. Is the gift of healing in the Christian Science church? Does the Spirit of God heal through the practitioners of the Scientist church? They claim that it is so. Will Mr. Jessup deny it? They offer the same kind of testimony that Mr. Jessup offers. His proof is no better than theirs. Is the gift of healing in the Roman Catholic church? They say it is and are constantly claiming instances of divine healing. Their proof is just as good as Mr. Jessup's. They establish it by testimonials from people who say they have been healed. Will Mr. Jessup put his endorsement on all these churches that profess to have the power of healing by the Spirit of God?

James said call for the elders, not the preacher, not the evangelist. It seems that the gift of healing was bestowed especially upon the elders of the Lord's church in the New Testament day. Could Mr. Jessup qualify as an elder in the church of the Lord. The qualifications are found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The gift of healing was not confined in that day to professional preachers or evangelists. Why is it today that only these preachers that carry on these campaigns profess to heal? If God is healing now as He did then, why doesn't He do it through the elders of the church in some instances anyway?

I want you to notice again that this passage promises that there will be no failures. It is a positive and definite promise that "the prayer of faith *shall* save the sick and the Lord *shall* raise him up." There would be no cases passed by and others selected carefully. They would not heal only certain kinds of diseases—the ones that couldn't be detected with the eyes, and there would not be the kind of failures that you witness around a campaign like this one under this tent. I would like for Mr. Jessup to point out to us just one instance after Christ left this earth and went back to God, just one time, when any disciple of the Lord ever undertook to heal anybody and failed. There isn't one in the record. If Mr. Jessup can heal as this passage teaches the elders of the church could heal, if he has the same power now, he can make no failures unless his faith isn't what it should be and

if that is his trouble then he stands condemned because of a lack of faith.

### *Confusing the Issue*

Sometimes charges are made and objections are offered that confuse the issue. They say when you deny that God heals men today like He did in the New Testament day that you are questioning the power of God. Friends that isn't the case at all. The man who says that God must heal by a miracle if He heals at all is the one who questions the power of God. I believe that God heals now and I believe in praying for the sick and practice that and always have. My brethren believe in it and practice it but we do not profess to be workers of miracles and we believe that God can heal without a miracle just like He healed in the New Testament day through miracles. We deny that God is healing today *like* He did then; that is the point of difference. The miracle healer is the first who limits the power of God. It is a question of fact and not power at all. I believe that God has the power to save us in any way He chooses but I believe we must be saved in the way He has chosen. I believe that God will "give us this day our daily bread"; as Jesus taught His disciples to pray and I so pray but I do not believe that He will do it by a miracle or rain it down from heaven as He did the manna for Israel in the wilderness. God can heal by natural law and natural means. Paul left Trophimus at Miletus sick. 1 Tim. 4:20. Why didn't he heal him? Evidently he was under treatment by natural means. Paul advised Timothy to doctor a stomach disorder with a "little wine." 1 Tim. 5:23. Why didn't he heal him rather than advise such treatment?

Neither is this issue just a question of the power of prayer or our faith in it. I believe in prayer and preach that it is a necessity to the Christian life. But Mr. Jessup's claim goes far beyond that. He claims God has given him special power in prayer. The only promise of any indication of that is "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16. Does Mr. Jessup claim that he excels in righteousness. If he does we might have a discussion on that. I am under the impression that it is



subject to dispute. Upon what ground will God heal through Mr. Jessup's prayer and not heal through yours just as quickly? I deny that there is any ground for so believing. I deny that he has any power of healing in any sense either through prayer or otherwise and furthermore I deny that he has done or is doing any healing. I challenge him to let me select a case and put his healing to the test. Would you pray for God to make a man out of the dust of the earth again because He once did? If not is it because you do not believe in the power of prayer? When you pray for your daily bread do you think it is a lack of faith in prayer to not expect God to rain bread down from heaven in answer to it? When you pray for safety from a storm do you think it is a lack of faith in God or in the power of prayer to not expect God to perform a miracle and suddenly stop the storm as Jesus did on Galilee ?

Neither is it a lack of faith in God's promises. God has promised to feed the hungry and provide for His children but must I expect Him to do it as He did in the wilderness by raining manna down from Heaven? Can I not believe that the same God who could accomplish His will in that manner can do it through other means if He chooses?

*New Testament Healing Contrasted With  
Present Day Professed Healing*

1—In the New Testament day they healed "all manner of diseases." They did not select just certain cases or kinds of illness like professed healers today. They healed the palsied, withered hands, those who were impotent and had never walked, those blinded from birth, ears that had been cut off, and many other cases that you could not persuade a professed healer today to even try.

2—There were no failures. Jesus made no failures to heal of course. The apostles and the early disciples did not fail after Jesus left this earth as far as the record shows. Today professed healers make many failures.

3—Their healing in the New Testament day was not conditioned upon faith on the part of the man healed. There are some instances where men who were healed did believe

but there is no instance where it was made a condition of the healing. There are many more instances of healing in the New Testament where faith is not even mentioned and many in fact where it did not exist, for instance, the healing of the lunatic. Today when one of these professed healers fails, they say it was because of a lack of faith upon the part of the party to be healed. Suppose they fail and the individual dies. It would be because of a lack of faith. To lack faith is to be lost. Therefore every time one of them dies, he is lost. If he had had faith, he would have been healed and lived on.

4—They healed completely and perfectly in the New Testament day. It was not just an improvement but it was altogether. Jesus restored a withered hand and made it w-h-o-l-e. It was just as good as the other hand; as good as it had ever been. God doesn't do things half way. No such healing as that is witnessed today. Sometimes a gradual improvement is claimed now. Sometimes the party says that he is better than he was. But in the New Testament day it was always healing altogether.

5—In the New Testament day they healed immediately. They did not get better gradually but were instantly healed altogether. Acts 3:7 is a wonderful example of this. "And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength, and he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God." Here was a man lame from his mother's womb—all of his life—never had he walked—but instantly by the power of God, in the name of Jesus Christ, he was healed, made entirely whole, and went walking and leaping and praising God. You haven't seen anything like that around here and you know it. That kind of healing is not going on today. Another case similar to this one was the palsied man in Matthew 9. To him Jesus said, "Take up thy bed and go unto thine house." Jesus didn't send him home to gradually get better. Oh, no! He went home well and sound.

6—The healing done in that day was such healing as would be a sign to those who beheld it. That is it was a case

of some disease most usually that could be seen with the eyes and where the fact of a cure was obvious, could be seen, when the healing had been done. They did not have to accept the man's word for the fact that he had been healed. They could see his affliction beforehand and see for themselves afterward that it was gone. They healed those who were sick of palsy and they were able to take up their beds and walk. Those who were afflicted with leprosy were healed and their flesh became whole again immediately. Eyes that had never beheld the sunlight of God's day, those whom everybody knew to be totally blind, were given their sight, not partially but wholly and completely. These are the miracles that were performed in the New Testament day and there is a wonderful contrast between them and the sham miracles today. Some man says his sight is improved, that he can walk some better, or his stomach doesn't hurt quite as badly. Even then you must take the word of the individual that something was wrong to start with and that he is some better when it is over. Your faith must be in the Testimony of man and not what your eyes have seen. The unquestioned miracles of the New Testament day were signs—they could be seen and were indisputable. No such thing is being done now as you well know.

7—In connection with the healing of the New Testament day there was no propaganda campaign of any kind. In some instances to avoid too much publicity those who were healed were told to go and tell it to no one. These healing campaigns today are quite different. Jesus and the apostles suppressed publicity but healers, so-called, like Mr. Jessup cultivate it. They herald that "this man is that power of God that is called great" like the Samaritan did of Simon the Sorcerer and like Simon they "give out that they are some great one." Signs proclaiming the power of God to heal on every corner and every means of promotion possible is used in a modern campaign of so-called healing. You can easily see the contrast at this point too if you will look at it.

8—In the New Testament healing they gave no testimonials of what had been done somewhere else. They did

not call on people to testify that they had been healed. No such testimony was needed for the healing was obvious. They needed no testimony by word of mouth or written statements to verify their healing. They healed such cases as were incontrovertible and undeniable. The genuineness of their miracles was not questioned. People in that day claimed that it was done by the power of Beelzebub but they did not dispute the miracle. Today it is different. I am quick to deny that a single case of miraculous healing has been accomplished by Mr. Jessup or any other in this campaign and I am willing for the whole test to be made along that line. Not a single person who actually had something wrong with them has really been completely and instantaneously healed of it. It is just not so. I would demand the right to see it done and am not willing to take anybody's word for it.

9—Another remarkable contrast between the healing of the New Testament day and such a campaign of professed healing as this one carried on by Mr. Jessup and others of his kind all over the country today is seen in the fact that in the New Testament day there were no contributions taken in connection with the healing of anyone. Modern professed divine healing is a system of racketeering. People are worked into a state of frenzied excitement and drained of their money. One of these healing campaigns will take thousands of dollars from a community and most of it comes from the pockets of those who are least able to give. I repeat it is a racket. Those so-called healers are now healing for the purposes which characterized Jesus, the apostles, and the early Christians, but they profess to heal in order to line their own pockets and enrich themselves. That is so self-evident that to those of you who have been in attendance in this meeting right here under this tent that it needs no proof. More time has been spent raising money than preaching any Bible truth. Thousands of dollars have been contributed without any accounting to those of you who have done the giving. I can tell you how to close this campaign down and that in a hurry—quit pouring the money into the promoters of this thing and see how quickly they

lose interest in healing you of anything. They will fold up their tent and leave town when it ceases to be profitable to them. I want to say right at this point that if there is a contribution taken up in this service this afternoon, I will have no part in it. None of it is coming to me, I would not accept it, if it were offered. I am happy for the privilege to present to you the teaching of the Word on this matter without any remuneration whatever and would come again and again were I permitted to do so for the good that I can do the honest listeners who believe the Word of God.

10—In the New Testament day miracles were not confined to preachers. It seems evident that the gift of healing was more commonly given to elders. But whether the gift of healing was given to preacher or elder in the New Testament day it was not used as a professional to promote personal popularity and power over the people or to raise money. It was not given for that purpose and to make such a use of it today is an insult to the intelligence of the people and stands on a par before God with Simon who offered money for the power of the Holy Spirit.

11—Finally by way of contrast let me emphasize that there was never any question about the genuineness of the miracles performed in the New Testament day. That a miracle had been done was obvious to all. The cases of healing recorded were not questioned or denied but were admittedly genuine cures. It was self-evident that the power of God had been present and that a miracle had been accomplished. There is nothing of that kind here today. As before stated, I would deny the genuineness of every case of healing that professedly has taken place during this campaign. There has been no genuine healing done and there will be none. If you think so, you have been deceived.

I have some questions in conclusion that I would like to place before Mr. Jessup and this audience. He can deal with them if he likes, I would be happy if he would do so. But I am asking them more for the purpose of focusing our attention upon the real issues between us and surely he will deal with these issues.

(At this point of the speech there was an interruption and Mr. Jessup and his followers refused to grant Brother Cogdill the privilege of reading aloud the list of questions which he had prepared and which follow. Brother Cogdill insisted that he had about five minutes left of his one hour time agreed upon but Mr. Jessup and his brother claimed that Brother Presnell had used five minutes in the beginning for introduction and that that time was to be charged to Brother Cogdill. Brother Cogdill appealed to the audience and Mr. Jessup's followers refused to allow him to use the full hour in his own speech. It was evident that most of them had about all that they could take of the truth at one sitting.)

#### *Questions Pertinent To the Issue*

- 1—Why do you select just healing from 1 Corinthians 12, why not prophesying, discerning of spirits, direct divine knowledge, etc?
- 2—Drinking deadly poison and not being hurt by it, and taking up vipers, were among the "signs to follow" believers in the New Testament day, why do you not practice these along with your professed gift of healing now?
- 3—Why cannot you strike people blind who oppose you like Paul did if you have the power to heal like the apostles did? Acts 13.
- 4—Have you ever struck anyone dead as Peter did in Acts 5?
- 5—Since you cannot impart spiritual gifts by laying on your hands as did the apostles, you do not have the power to do what they did, do you?
- 6—Why all of the advertising, campaign propaganda, when it was never used in the New Testament day for the genuineness of their miracles was enough?
- 7—Why do you rely on human testimony when it was never used in the New Testament day to establish healing had been done?

- 8—Is it not true that you rely upon publicity, psychology, excitement, hysteria, and emotional intoxication and without them you can do nothing?
- 9—Do you deny the power of the mind over the body to help affect an improvement and even a cure in many cases? Is this not a natural means of healing?
- 10—Is this not the reason why you must require faith as a condition to your efforts to heal in order to make the person think they have been healed?
- 11—If you can heal, why cannot you raise the dead, stop a tornado, feed five thousand men with five loaves and two fishes, change water into wine? Do you believe that the power to do these miracles has continued unto this present day?
- 12—Would deadly poison hurt you, would you be willing to try it? If not, do you not lack faith?
- 13—Do you believe the Bible to be a perfect and complete revelation of the Will of God as it claims to be?
- 14—Has the word of God been confirmed or do you believe it still needs confirming?
- 15—If God's word has been confirmed then why do you heal or profess to do so today? Give us a scriptural reason for doing so.
- 16—Christian Scientists practice healing, they say, by denying the reality of disease, they can offer testimonials by the thousands of supposedly healed cases, do you believe that they are right in their contention and that these testimonials are true? If so, then do they not have the Spirit and His power and are they not right in the doctrine that in reality no such thing as disease of the body really exists?
- 17—Mormons can offer testimonials by the thousands of their supposed cases of healing, do you concede that these testimonials are true and therefore the Spirit of God is working through Mormonism and they are right in what they teach and do? If they are right, are you not wrong in differing with them?

- 18—Do you possess the “signs of an apostle”? Are you one? Could you qualify for the office of an apostle according to Acts 1?
- 19—Are you an elder in the Lord's church? Can you qualify for that position according to the Lord's standard in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1?
- 20—If you are not an elder, then should not those who are sick call for the elders instead of you according to James 5?
- 21—Jesus had the Spirit without measure; the apostles had the signs of the apostolic office; the disciples of the New Testament day received their gifts by the laying on of apostolic hands; since none of these apply to you, where and how did you get your power to heal? If in answer to prayer or however you may say, give us a Bible example to prove it.
- 22—If you heal simply by the power of prayer and not miraculously, can't every Christian do the same? If so, then you do not possess the gift of healing any more than any other Christian, do you?
- 23—Do you believe that God heals by natural means today? Can God answer our prayers for the sick and heal them by natural means?
- 24—Hasn't God promised to feed the hungry, to give us our daily bread, in answer to prayer? Cannot He heal the sick in answer to prayer in the same way that he feeds the hungry and gives to us our daily bread?

Upon the conclusion of Brother Cogdill's speech, Mr. Jessup's brother picked up the microphone attached to the recorder which had recorded Brother Cogdill's speech and handed it to L. L. Dukes of Louisville, Kentucky, who was doing the recording. Brother Dukes told him that he had consented for both speeches to be recorded and that he was going to record Mr. Jessup's speech also. Mr. Jessup's brother told him and another gentleman standing at the recording machine that if they recorded Mr. Jessup's



speech they would burst up and destroy the recording machine before they could get it out from under the tent. Since they had charge of the premises and Brother Dukes did not want to provoke any violence, he shut off the machine and Mr. Jessup's attempt at reply to the speech above was not taken down. By such an attitude they made it manifest that they have no answer for the arguments made and the truth taught. These men are racketeers and should be exposed as the corrupt men they are everywhere they go. It is estimated that from this one campaign in Bowling Green, Kentucky, they took out of the city perhaps more than \$75,000. The contribution one Sunday afternoon two weeks before Brother Cogdill's speech, according to their own report amounted to \$3,800.