

Miracles

Introduction

1. **During the life of Christ, the scribes and pharisees wanted to see a sign from Jesus.**
Matthew 12:38-40
2. **Sometimes things just don't change. We also live in a generation which seeks after a sign.**
 - A. **There is a strong desire for the miraculous today.**
 - 1) **Churches claim to have members who either work miracles or have miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit.**
 - 2) **So-called evangelists travel the country claiming to be great "faith-healers."**
 - 3) **TV programs such as "Beyond Chance" and "It's A Miracle" claim to cover miraculous occurrences.**
 - B. **I admit that there are times when very strange, almost unexplainable things happen. Could these things be "miracles?"**
3. **God left us guidance concerning "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Pet 1:3). "All things" includes the duration of the miraculous age.**
 - A. **Let's find out if miracles and miraculous spiritual gifts still occur today, nearly 2000 years after the death of Christ.**

What Is A Miracle?

1. The word “miracle” is used so much today in describing anything and everything that seems the least bit out of the ordinary that I wonder if we really understand what a miracle is.
 - 1) “an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs.”
 - B. “an act of God superseding or suspending a natural law.”
2. A miracle is something that goes beyond the natural. It is something that cannot be explained by any natural law that exists in our realm of existence.
3. In the Bible, miracles were clearly extraordinary:
 - A. Jesus walking on water
Matthew 14:22-27
 - B. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead
John 11:39-45
 - C. Tongues on the day of Pentecost
Acts 2:4-8
 - 1) These are all types of true miracles because they broke a natural law.
4. Often times, what really happens is that we confuse miracles with “providence.”
 - A. Providence is when God works within the natural laws of the world to bring about a certain action or end.

Matt 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

- 1) The life of Joseph is an example:
Genesis 45:7-8

- B. If an event does not supersede nor suspend a natural law, then it is not a miracle.**

What Was the Purpose of Bible Miracles?

- 1. There was always a purpose for every miracle performed in the Bible.**

- A. Moses: (*unbelief*)**
Exodus 4:1-5

Acts 7:36 He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

- B. Christ: (*prove His deity*)**

John 3:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

John 5:36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do--bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

- C. Apostles: (*prove their preaching was by God's authority*)**
(Cast out demons, healed the sick)

John 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

2 Peter 1:20-21 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- 2. This was the purpose of miracles and miraculous gifts which existed before and in the early church**

- A. Miracles and spiritual gifts served their purpose during a specified time period.**

The End of the Miraculous Age

1. **In 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Paul informs us of nine miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit that were experienced by the early Christians.**
 - A. **Yet he did not teach that these miraculous gifts would continue indefinitely**
 - 1) **In fact he prophesied that they would come to an end.**
1 Corinthians 13:8-10
 - B. **Miracles would cease when that which is “perfect” is come.**
 - 1) **With the completed and written revelation from God, we now have that which is “perfect.”** *(The word of God)*

Conclusion

1. **We do not need miracles today because God has given us His perfect revelation so as to know what we must do in order to be pleasing to Him.**
 - A. **We walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7).**
 - B. **Faith is received only by the word of God (Rom 10:17).**
 - C. **All that has been written was done so we might believe and have life (John 20:30-31).**
2. **The days of sign seeking are over and have been since the latter end of the first century A.D.**
 - A. **We need to realize that true faith, Bible faith, does not come from miracles, but it comes from hearing the word of God.**
3. **Let us now be committed to walking in the natural laws of God.**

