

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 4
Miracles Have Ceased

The Holy Spirit

1. He Is God
2. Inspiration, Revelation and Confirmation of The Word
3. Convicting and Converting Sinners
4. Miracles Have Ceased
5. Tongues and Miracle Workers Today
6. He Dwells In Christians Today

2

Convicting and Converting Sinners

1. How does the Holy Spirit convict the sinner?
2. How does the Holy Spirit convert the sinner?
3. Common false teachings

3

Introduction

- Today many claim the power to perform miracles
- Also, many claim to have experienced miracles
- Lesson focuses on purpose and duration of New Testament miracles
- Need to compare modern claims with what the Spirit's written Word says so we may not be deceived but follow the Truth

4

Miracles Have Ceased

1. What is a miracle?
2. Why were miracles performed?
3. Who performed miracles?
4. When did miracles end?
5. God still heals today

5

What Is A Miracle?

- Word miracle used loosely today to describe almost any unexplainable event
- When we refer to New Testament miracles, we mean a supernatural event that God performs to confirm His Word
- These miracles go beyond the normal natural laws and can only be explained by God directly intervening
- Sometimes God uses human agents to perform these miracles

6

Three Words Describing Miracles

- Miracles – the supernatural event itself
- Signs – God's purpose behind the event
- Wonders – the people's reaction to the event

7

Three Words Describing Miracles

Act 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--

8

Some Examples of Miracles

Mat 11:2 Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples

Mat 11:3 and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?"

Mat 11:4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see:

9

Some Examples of Miracles

Mat 11:5 *the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.*

Mat 11:6 "And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

10

Miracles Evident Even To Enemies of Jesus and Apostles

Joh 11:43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

Joh 11:44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

11

Miracles Evident Even To Enemies of Jesus and Apostles

Joh 11:47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs.

Joh 11:48 "If we let Him *go on* like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

Joh 11:53 So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.

12

Miracles Evident Even To Enemies of Jesus and Apostles

Joh 12:9 The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead.

Joh 12:10 But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also;

Joh 12:11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus. 13

Miracles Evident Even To Enemies of Jesus and Apostles

Mat 12:22 Then a demon-possessed man *who was* blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw.

Mat 12:23 All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?"

Mat 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."¹⁴

Miracles Evident Even To Enemies of Jesus and Apostles

Act 3:1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth *hour*, the hour of prayer.

Act 3:2 And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. 15

Miracles Evident Even To Enemies of Jesus and Apostles

Act 3:6 But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene--walk!"

Act 3:7 And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

Act 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God; 16

Miracles Evident Even To Enemies of Jesus and Apostles

Act 4:14 And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply.

Act 4:15 But when they had ordered them to leave the Council, they *began* to confer with one another, 17

Miracles Evident Even To Enemies of Jesus and Apostles

Act 4:16 saying, "What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 18

Why Were Miracles Performed?

- Confirmed Jesus was the Son of God
- Confirmed the apostles were sent by God
- Confirmed the Word preached was the Word of God
- Produced faith in those who saw the miracles

19

Confirmed Jesus Was The Son of God

Joh 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

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

20

Confirmed Jesus Was The Son of God

Joh 20:30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

Joh 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

21

Confirmed Apostles Sent By God

2Co 12:12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

22

Confirmed Apostles Sent By God

Heb 2:1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*.

Heb 2:2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,

23

Confirmed Apostles Sent By God

Heb 2:3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

Heb 2:4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

24

Confirmed Word Preached Was The Word of God

Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Mar 16:17 "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;

25

Confirmed Word Preached Was The Word of God

Mar 16:18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Mar 16:19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

26

Confirmed Word Preached Was The Word of God

Mar 16:20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.]

27

Produced Faith In Those Who Saw The Miracles

Joh 11:39 Jesus *said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, *said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been *dead* four days."

Joh 11:40 Jesus *said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

Joh 11:41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

28

Produced Faith In Those Who Saw The Miracles

Joh 11:42 "I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me."

Joh 11:43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

29

Produced Faith In Those Who Saw The Miracles

Joh 11:44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Joh 11:45 Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him.

30

Miracles Have Ceased

1. What is a miracle?
2. Why were miracles performed?
3. Who performed miracles?
4. When did miracles end?
5. God still heals today

31

Jesus Performed Miracles

Act 10:38 "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

32

The Apostles Performed Miracles

Act 2:43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

33

Those On Whom Apostles Laid Hands Performed Miracles

Act 6:5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

Act 6:6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

34

Those On Whom Apostles Laid Hands Performed Miracles

Act 6:8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.

Act 8:6 The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing.

Act 8:17 Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

35

Those On Whom Apostles Laid Hands Performed Miracles

Act 8:18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, Act 8:19 saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

36

When Did Miracles End?

- Today claims abound – people can still do miracles just like in the New Testament times
- New Testament claims miracles would cease – but when?
- Key passage – 1 Cor. Chapters 12-14
- Corinthians confused about the purpose of miraculous gifts as people are today

37

Miraculous Gifts To Be Used For The Common Good

1Co 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1Co 12:8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

38

Miraculous Gifts To Be Used For The Common Good

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

1Co 12:10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

39

Warning Against Unloving Use of Miraculous Gifts

1Co 12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

1Co 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1Co 13:2 If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

40

Warning Against Unloving Use of Miraculous Gifts

1Co 13:3 And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

41

Description of How Love Behaves

1Co 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

1Co 13:5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

1Co 13:6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

1Co 13:7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁴²

42

Paul Declares Miraculous Gifts Would End

1Co 13:8 Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are tongues*, they will cease; if *there is knowledge*, it will be done away.

43

Miracles To Cease When Written Word Was Completed

- Paul contrasts the time of miraculous gifts providing knowledge of God's Word piece by piece with a time when the complete Word of God would be written
- At that time, there was no complete New Testament written
- Now, that it is completely written, we have all that we need to make us complete in Christ

44

Miracles To Cease When Written Word Was Completed

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part;
1Co 13:10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.
1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

45

Miracles To Cease When Written Word Was Completed

1Co 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.
1Co 13:13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

46

Miracles To Cease When Written Word Was Completed

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,
Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

47

Miracles To Cease When Written Word Was Completed

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

48

Miracles To Cease When Written Word Was Completed

Jas 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Jas 1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

Jas 1:24 for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

49

Miracles To Cease When Written Word Was Completed

Jas 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

50

Miracles To Cease When Written Word Was Completed

2Ti 3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

51

Miracles To Cease When Written Word Was Completed

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
2Ti 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

52

God Still Heals Today

- Although miracles have ceased, God still heals today
- Miracles were instantaneous Divine actions that overrode natural laws
- Their purpose was to identify Jesus as the Son of God and the apostles' message as the Word of God
- After the completion of the New Testament, no further purpose for miracles

53

God Still Heals Today

- By His power and mercy, the Lord heals according to His will
- Even in the days of Jesus and the apostles, many were not healed by miracles but were said to be healed by His mercy
- Others were not healed at all but died from their diseases and injuries
- We pray for healing and trust in Him to heal

54

God Still Heals Today By His Mercy and Power

Php 2:25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need;

Php 2:26 because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

55

God Still Heals Today By His Mercy and Power

Php 2:27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.

Php 2:28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned *about you*.

56

God Still Heals Today By His Mercy and Power

Php 2:29 Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard;

Php 2:30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

57

God Still Heals Today By His Mercy and Power

2Ti 4:20 Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.

Php 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

58

God Still Heals Today By His Mercy and Power

1Ti 5:23 No longer drink water *exclusively*, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

59

God Still Heals Today By His Mercy and Power

Jas 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

Jas 5:15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

60

God Still Heals Today By His Mercy and Power

Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Jas 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

Jas 5:18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.⁶¹

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62

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63