

**Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 1**  
**“God Is Still Working Miracles Today!”**  
**Lesson 36**

**INTRO:**

- A. More times than not, whenever someone uses the word ‘miracle’ they are merely referring to:
  - 1. an unusual happening.
  - 2. something that was coincidental.
  - 3. something unexplainable.
- B. However, calling something a miracle doesn’t make it a miracle.
- C. Definition: Miracle -
  - 1. “an effect or extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a supernatural cause.” (**Dictionary.com**)
  - 2. “power, inherent ability, is used of works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means.” (**Vine**)
- D. In giving a yes answer to the question of whether God is still working miracles today, some have said, “And Jesus promises we will do even greater things than He did.” and refer to John 14:12-14.”

**I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH?**

- A. First of all, the matter of **John 14:12-14**.
  - 1. It’s remarkable that anyone would even think “we will do even greater things than He (Jesus) did” but they obviously do.
  - 2. John 14:12-14 is in the context of Jesus being with the 12 apostles,
    - a. Chapter 13 - Jesus washes their feet. Peter, Judas Iscariot, and John are mentioned by name or made reference to.
    - b. Chapter 14 - Thomas, Philip, and Judas (not Iscariot) ask Jesus questions and He answers them.
    - c. This same context continues till the beginning of chapter 18 when the mob comes and arrests Christ.
  - 3. Read John 14:12-14
    - a. Again, keeping things in their context, the apostles were sorrowful when they heard Jesus was to depart from them.
    - b. In His effort to console them He gives them this assurance and goes on in verse 16 to say, “*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*”
  - 4. One simple rule of Bible study is to always keep things in their context.
- B. The Scriptures teach what the purpose of miracles was and since the purpose has been served, they are no longer needed.
  - 1. Jesus performed miracles to serve as proof that He was the Son of God. **John 3:1-2**

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- a. Jesus’ miracles/works were to get the people of His day to believe He was the Son of God. **John 10:37**
  - b. **John 20:30-31**
  - c. There is no need for us today to see a miracle to believe that Jesus is the Son of God!
    - 1) We have all the evidence we need of His miracles which have been recorded in the New Testament.
2. The apostles were given the power to perform miracles in order to confirm the words they were speaking to be the word of God. **Mark 16:17-20**
- a. **Hebrews 2:2-4**
  - b. Since God’s word has been confirmed and we have it in the form of the New Testament, no one needs to perform or see a miracle done to know whether something being said is the truth of God’s word.
    - 1) We merely go to the Scriptures and find the book, chapter, and verse for confirmation.
3. **QUESTION:** If God is still working miracles today as He did in Bible days, what is the purpose of those miracles?

## II. A SIMPLE PRINCIPLE TO HELP US UNDERSTAND.

- A. God, in the beginning, miraculously brought everything into existence through His word. (Genesis 1:3,6,9,14,20,24,26,29) “*God said...*”
  1. Plant life continued after the miracles because the “*seed was in itself*”. (Genesis 1:11,12)
  2. All living creatures were created full grown and were to “*Be fruitful, and multiply...*” (Genesis 1:22) through the natural process of reproduction.
  3. Mankind was created miraculously - Man from dust; woman from the man - they, too, were to “*Be fruitful, and multiply...*” (Genesis 1:28) through the natural process of regeneration.
  4. There is nothing in all of God creation, celestial or terrestrial, being created miraculously today but it took the miraculous to get it started.
- B. God established the church/kingdom by means of the miraculous:
  1. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles. (Acts 2:1-4)
  2. The apostles were given the baptism of the Holy Spirit so they could declare “*all truth*”. (John 16:13)
  3. The truth they taught and preached were confirmed by the miracles they performed. (Mark 16:17-20)
  4. The apostles, through the laying on of hands, could impart miraculous spiritual gifts to others. (Acts 6:6; 8:17; 19:6)
    - a. Those miraculous gifts were: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings, the working of miracles,

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prophecy, discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

5. However, these miraculous gifts were to cease. **1 Corinthians 13:8** “*Love never fails. But whether there are **prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.***”
  - a. The three miraculous gifts mentioned in this verse stands to represent all 9 gifts.
  - b. They were to cease when “*that which is perfect is come*”. (**verse 10**) which was shown in **verses 9-12** to contrast the time when God’s revelation was not complete and the time when it was completed.

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. Foy E. Wallace, Jr. once said, “As goes the proposition, so must be the demonstration!”
  1. The proposition which many people set forth is: God is still working miracles today!
  2. We simply and humbly ask: Where is the demonstration of such?
    - a. Have you ever seen water turned into wine? (John 2)
    - b. Have you ever seen the dead raised? (John 11; Acts 9)
- B. The so-called miracles today don’t hold a candle to the miracles of Jesus and the apostles.
  1. Those miracles could not be denied even by the enemies of either Jesus or the apostles. (**Acts 4:16**)
    - a. Bible miracles were performed on people of which there was no question concerning their illness.
    - b. People were blind from birth and lame from birth and they were well known to all.
    - c. Today’s ‘miracles’ are inside their bodies - cancers, tumors, hearts, stomachs, and intestines no one can see.
  2. They were immediate; did not require time or rehabilitation. (Matthew 8:3; 20:34; 21:19; Acts 9:34; 13:11)
  3. Bible miracles did not require faith on the part of the one receiving the miracle. (Acts 3) - 40+ year old lame man.