

Miracles Have Ceased!!!

by Danny Brown

Holy Spirit Baptism

Some facts about Holy Spirit Baptism:

1. Holy Spirit baptism is mentioned on only three occasions in the Bible. (Matt 3:11 and parallel accounts; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16)
2. Administered by Christ not man. (Matt 3:11)
3. It was a promise not a command. (Acts 1:8) No one was ever commanded to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.
4. Not into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
5. Was not for remission of Sins. (Acts 11:14)
6. Only a select few were baptized with the Holy Spirit. First, the apostles to fulfill the promises made to them, to endue them with power (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8) and to guide them into all truth (John 16:13). It also revealed that the Jews were to receive the gospel. Secondly, to the house of Cornelius to prove that the Gentiles were also to receive the gospel by which they could, as well as the Jews, be saved. (Acts 11:14-18; 15:7-8).
7. The terms: "gift of the Spirit" (Acts 2:38) and filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18); do not always refer to baptism with the Spirit.
8. Ended before A.D. 62, Only one baptism now (Eph 4:5) There was Holy Spirit baptism and water baptism – two baptisms on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2) There was Holy Spirit baptism and water baptism at the house of Cornelius – two baptisms (Acts 10, 11). Holy Spirit baptism ceased by the time Paul wrote that there was only "one baptism." (Eph 4:5)

No New Revelation

1. The New Testament is God's Word for today. God gave His word to Christ and sent Him into the world. Christ gave it to the apostles. (John 17:8, 18)

The Apostles SPOKE by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – 1 Cor 2:12-13.

The Apostles WROTE by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – 2 Tim 3:16-17.

The only way we can hear the apostles today is to read what they wrote.

Jesus said to His apostles, "He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth Him that sent me." (Matt 10:40) "He that heareth you heareth me, and he that despiseth (or disregards DB) you despiseth me, and he that despiseth me despiseth Him that sent me." (Llu,e 10:16)

Hence, to hear the New Testament is to hear the apostles, to hear the apostles is to hear Christ and to hear Christ is to hear God. Hence, the only way to hear God today is to hear the Word of God, the New Testament.

2. The Scriptures are all sufficient. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for DOCTRINE, for REPROOF, for CORRECTION, for INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS: That the man of God may be PERFECT, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim 3:16-17) "According as his divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS, . . ." (2 Pet 1:3)

3. No new revelation being given. "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation. I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for THE FAITH which was ONCE FOR ALL delivered to the saints." (Jude 3 NASV) The faith, the gospel, the Word of God was one time delivered (in the first century) for all times.

4. God's word was complete by the time the last Apostle died. Jesus said to His apostles, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into ALL TRUTH. . . ." (John 16:13). Thus when the last apostle died, all truth had been delivered.

Miracles Prophesied to Cease

"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; 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." (1 Cor 13:8-10)

1. Nine gifts of the Spirit were given. ". . . to one is given, . . . to another . . . to another, etc. (1 Cor 12:8-11) One had one part, and another had another part, etc. Each had a part and when all the parts were delivered, the whole existed. If one part (slice) of a pie is lemon then the whole is a lemon pie. Likewise, the parts were bits and pieces of divine revelation so then the whole (that which is perfect) is completed revelation.

2. All believe that these gifts of the Spirit will be done away. No one, as far as I know, believes they will exist in heaven. It is not a question of will they cease. It is only a question of when.

3. The gifts of the Spirit cease "when that which is perfect is come." That which is perfect is the counterpart of that which is in part. There is a contrast presented. Something is incomplete or "in part" which will be complete or

“perfect.” The gifts of the Spirit were the “in part” things employed in revealing and confirming the bits and pieces of divine revelation. The word perfect describes the completion of inspired revelation and points to the consequent cessation of spiritual gifts that enabled and confirmed that revelation

.Some Characteristics of Bible Miracles

1. All kinds of diseases were healed: Matt 4:23; 9:35; etc.
2. All who came were healed: Matt 4:24; Acts 5:16.
3. Obvious afflictions: Mark 5:1-5; John 9; Acts 3: 1-8.
4. Immediate results: Matt 8:2-3; Acts 3:7.
5. Healing was complete not partial: John 9:6-7; Acts 3:8.
6. Indisputable results: Even the enemies admitted that mighty works were done, Matt 14:1-2; Acts 4:13-16.
7. No failures after Pentecost: Acts 5:16; 8:6-8.
8. The dead were raised: Acts 9:36-41; 20:9-10.
9. Bible miracles not always conditioned on faith: How much faith did Dorcas, who was dead have? (Acts 9:36-41) or the lame man who was not expecting to be healed (Acts 3:1-8) or Elymas who was struck blind (Acts 13:6-11).
10. No self-produced publicity and high-pressure propaganda campaigns
11. No collections and fund-raising activities.
12. Miracles were signs which certified the word of the speaker as the word of God: (Heb 2:1-4)

Contrast these truths with the claims of those who purport to work miracles today. They claim to heal only some diseases, of those only some are “healed,” gradual results, imperceptible afflictions, partial results, conditioned on the faith of the one being healed, big publicity campaigns with many collections and fund raising activities. Since the first century, not one truly dead person has ever been raised.

Not Necessary to Repeat Bible Miracles

“Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. 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.” (John 20:29-31).

1. Of all the signs that Jesus did, certain ones were selected to be WRITTEN THAT (to the end – so that – so as to cause) ye may BELIEVE – have faith -- and live.

2. The disciples SAW and believed. OTHERS were to READ and BELIEVE.
3. The ones who read and believed were to be blessed as well as those who saw and believed.

The controversies in Acts 11 and 15 about whether the Gentiles should receive the gospel were settled by appealing to PAST confirmation. Peter simply TOLD them about the Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:14-18; 15:7-9). In Acts 15 Paul and Barnabas "DECLARED what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them." (Acts 15:12) The miracles were NOT repeated nor was another miracle performed to re-confirm the word. Being once confirmed was sufficient.

Misused Scriptures

Hebrews 13:8

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" This passage is quoted as if it is teaching, "What Jesus did yesterday he will do today." He gave men the power to perform miracles yesterday therefore he will do it today.

First, the passage is not telling us what Jesus will do but is revealing a characteristic of Jesus. He is the same one who created men from the dust of the earth, but he is not doing so now. He is also the one who was crucified on the cross for our sins, but he is not being crucified in every generation. He is the same one who performed miracles and by the Holy Spirit gave some men the power to perform miracles but He is not doing it today. Because His character is the same does not demand nor imply that he is doing the same things. He is the same one who said, "I am the Lord, I change not;" (Mal 3:6).

Secondly, the passage also says that Jesus is the same forever. If the passage teaches that He gives men the power to perform miracles today, then it also teaches that miracles will continue forever. However all teach that they will cease at some point in time. (1 Cor 13:8-10) What proves too much proves nothing.

Isaiah 53:4-5

Some tell us that these passages teach that the healing of the body here and now, as well as the forgiveness of sins, is included in the atonement. That is, that the remission of sins and the healing of the body go together, being accomplished by the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” (Isa 53:4) This prophecy was fulfilled long before Jesus died on the cross. “When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick; That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.” (Matt 8:16-17). Being fulfilled before the cross indicates that the healing of the body is not a part of the atonement.

“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.” (Isa 53:5) The apostle Peter makes reference to this part of Isaiah’s prophecy and applies it to Jesus bearing our sins so that we might be dead to sin and live unto righteousness. (1 Pet 2:24)

Since both Timothy and Trophimus were saved by the gospel of Christ, (Rom 1:16-17) it should be obvious that healing of the body is not in the atonement for Timothy had “oft infirmities” (1 Tim 5:3) and Trophimus had been left by Paul at Miletum sick. (2 Tim 4:20).

If the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, this one act, covers healing of the body and the forgiveness of sin, then the person who is forgiven is also healed and the person who is not healed is not forgiven. So every person forgiven of sins should be healthy. But every saved person is not healthy (Paul, Timothy & Trophimus for example). So we conclude that the healing of the body is not in the atonement.

If healing of the body is in the atonement why were there gifts of healing in the early church? (1 Cor 12:9, 30)

Luke 11:13

“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

There is nothing in the passage or its context that indicates that baptism with the Holy Spirit is under consideration. In the parallel passage (Matt 7:11), God will give “good things” to them that ask of Him. Children of God have the privilege to ask God for the good things of the Holy Spirit, that is, the spiritual blessings they are privileged to receive.

To ask a thing of God is to do so in prayer. Thus this passage is subject to

all the conditions of prayer. Among which is the fact that we must ask according to His will. (1 John 5:14) As we have already seen there is only one baptism for men today (Eph 4:5) and it is not Holy Spirit baptism. (Matt 28:19-20) Therefore it is not God's will that we ask for such a baptism..

John 14:12

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

The believers were to 1) Do the works that Jesus did; 2) Do greater works. Jesus enabled believers to do miracles such as he had done. (Mark 16:17-20; Acts 3; 8:7; 9:40; etc.) With reference to miracles, they did no greater miracle than Jesus did in raising the dead.

The greater works that the believers would do is connected with Jesus going to the Father. When he ascended into heaven he sent the Holy Spirit (John 14:16) who revealed the gospel to the Apostles, prophets and others, inspired the writing of it and confirmed it with the miracles performed. (John 16:13; 1 Cor 2:4-13) Look at the result:

1. A Greater Work Geographically: The believers preached a world-wide gospel. (Matt 28:19-20)
2. A Greater Work Numerically: On the first day of gospel preaching 3,000 were saved. (Acts 2:41) Since then untold thousands saved.
3. A Greater Work Racially: Souls from every nation, kindred, people and tongue. (Rev 7:9)
4. A Greater Work in Duration: From Pentecost to the end of time. (Matt 28:19-20)

Things in Reverse

In New Testament times the miracles proved that the men who performed them spoke the word of God.

Today the word of God is used to prove (?) that men have the power to perform miracles.

But when did those New Testament miracle workers ever quote Scripture to prove that they could work miracles?

Which ? ? ?

There is a whole host of denominations, televangelists and independent preachers who teach that miracles are for today. Yet there is no unity among them. They hold to, teach and practice different and conflicting doctrines. They all cannot be right for the Bible does not contradict itself. Yet each one claims that they must be right for the Holy Spirit is working miracles among them. And they all offer the same proof for their claim to miracles, mostly personal testimonials. This is confusion. It should be evident to all that the Holy Spirit is NOT working miracles among them for "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." (1 Cor 14:33)

The fact that men claim to work miracles by the power of God does not make it so. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them. I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matt 7:21-23)

Which do you believe: the testimony of men or the word of God? The word of God declares:

1. There is no Holy Spirit baptism today. (Eph 4:5)
2. There are no living apostles today to lay hands on others to impart to them the power to perform miracles (Acts 8:18)
3. There is no one living today on whom the apostles laid their hand and imparted to them the power to perform miracles.
4. Paul prophesied that the gifts of the Spirit would cease when that which is perfect (the completed revelation) is come. (1 Cor 10:8-10)
5. Therefore God is not enabling men today with power to perform miracles.

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