

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

September 23rd, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power

Part 18

The Gift of Miracles is another one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in **I Corinthians 12:10** where it says; “...to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”

The word miracles, means this in ChristianAnswers.net; “*also known as: signs and wonders. A true miracle is an event in the external world brought about by the immediate agency or the simple volition of God, operating without the use of means capable of being discerned by the senses, and designed to authenticate the divine commission of a religious teacher and the truth of his message (John 2:18; Matthew 12:38).*”

We know that Jesus was – and still is – a miracle worker, but the religious leaders of the time tried to test Jesus and his ability to work miracles. Let’s read in **Matthew 16:1-4**; “*Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.*”

Jesus was saying that the sign for these people would only be that of Jonah, which as we know, was in the belly of the whale for three days and was then spewed out on the dry land to complete the call of God on his life. Likewise, Jesus would be in the grave for three days before rising from the dead. That is the most miraculous of all signs.

We’d like to read what Matthew Henry’s Commentary says about this scripture. He says; “*He refuses to give them any other sign (Matt. 16:4), as he had done before in the same words, Matt. 12:39. Those that persist in the same iniquities, must expect to meet with the same reproofs. Here, as there, (1.) He calls them an adulterous generation; because, while they professed themselves of the true church and spouse of God, they treacherously departed from him, and brake their covenants with him. The Pharisees were a generation pure in their own eyes, having the way of the adulterous woman, that thinks she has done no wickedness, Prov. 30:20. (2.) He refuses to gratify their desire. Christ will not be prescribed to; we ask, and have not, because we ask amiss. (3.) He refers them to the sign of the prophet Jonas, which should yet be given them; his resurrection from the dead, and his preaching by his apostles to the Gentiles; these were reserved for the last and highest evidences of his divine mission. Note, Though the fancies of proud men shall not be humoured, yet the faith of the humble shall be supported, and the unbelief of them that perish left for ever inexcusable, and every mouth shall be stopped. This discourse broke off abruptly; he left them and departed. Christ will not tarry long with those that tempt him, but justly withdraws from those that are disposed to quarrel with him. He left them as irreclaimable; Let them alone. He left them to themselves, left them in the hand of their own counsels; so he gave them up to their own hearts’ lust.*”

There are very solid truths in what we just read and keep them in mind as we continue to expound on the Gift of Miracles. The first temptation that Jesus encountered was none other than from the devil, where he wanted Jesus to perform miracles for him to show his power and prove his claim as the Son of God.

We read in **Matthew 4:1-4**; “*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” But He answered*

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and said, *“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”*

Jesus rejects showing his power to the devil here, but later he feeds the four thousand, and again feeds the five thousand by the miracle of multiplying food. Jesus could have easily turned those rocks into bread but rejected displaying his power to the devil. He rejected also to display his power to the religious leaders of the day, who as he said, were children of the devil. You can read the miracles of Jesus feeding both the four and five thousand here. [Matthew 15:29-39](#) [Luke 9:10-17 NIV](#).

Matthew continues in **4:5-6** saying; *“Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’”*

It’s similar to what Jesus’ brothers said to him in [John 7:3-5](#) by trying to coax him to get out in public in Judea to display his miraculous powers. At that time, they didn’t believe in Jesus any more than the religious leaders and were tempting him to display his powers and prove himself. Jesus did not capitulate to the temptation. Thankfully, according to scripture, his brothers and sisters all came to know him as the Son of God, the Messiah.

Jesus had the ability to display himself in a miraculous way to the devil, but refused the temptation. He did not need to prove to anyone, especially the devil, that he was the Son of God. The devil knew that Jesus was the Son of God. Remember, Jesus knew the devil or Lucifer as he was known in heaven, as Jesus created him as it says in **Colossians 1:16**; *“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”*

Jesus displays his miraculous power, when his disciples were in troubled waters fearing for their lives, he defies the natural by walking on water and transporting them and their boat in the spirit to a safe shoreline. Jesus used the gift when **there was a need** and not to put on a big display of power to prove himself.

We read in [John 6:15-21](#), that Jesus never gave into the temptation to use his miraculous power to prove who he was, but rather operated in the miraculous to serve those in need.

Even when Jesus stood before King Herod, he refused to have any conversation with him or bend to the temptation to display his miraculous powers. He didn’t have to prove himself to King Herod. It says in **Luke 23:8-9**; *“Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing.”*

Jesus knew the heart of Herod was like that of the devil, with no thought to know God but rather satisfy his own superstitions about who Jesus was. Jesus saw right through the scheme. Jesus also knew that at the Judgement Seat at the end of time, that King Herod would have to give an account of his life to King Jesus and the tables would be turned. Just like each of us will have to give an account for our life as a Christian; whether we were obedient to do what he asked us to do, and to be used by the Holy Spirit to operate in the gifts of the miraculous to meet the needs of those around us. Jesus was very clear that signs, wonders and miracles would follow those who BELIEVE. That’s what Jesus expects of you and I as a Christian – nothing less. We don’t want to stand before him with empty hands when he has given us the Holy Spirit and empowered us to operate in signs, wonders and miracles.

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When the Gift of Miracles are performed, they use the natural substance around it, although it's done in a supernatural demonstration.

For example, in [John 6:1-14](#) we read about the feeding of the five thousand people, we'll highlight verse 9 where it says; *"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"* The natural part is the five barley loaves and two small fish, which Jesus does something supernatural and miraculous with. That's the miracle.

**Verse 12-13** continues saying; *"So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten."*

The surprise of this miracle is how that Jesus not only fed this massive crowd of 5000, but even collected 12 baskets of the left-over bread, probably for his 12 disciples, revealing his love and compassion for them as well that their ministry to others was not in vain, because it's very likely that together with Jesus, the disciples also hadn't eaten. That demonstration of love should encourage you.

**Verse 14** ends this story by saying; *"Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."* This miracle of serving the people established him as a prophet. When you are obedient to operate in the supernatural, it establishes your call and election in Christ.

Here is another story in **1 Kings 17:10-15** which reveals the miracle of provision made for the widow, with the use of what she already had in the natural. We'll read verses 14 & 15; *"For thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'" So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.* Not only did the widow and her household eat, but Elijah also ate with them!

Highlighting **1 Corinthians 12:10** again it says; *"to another the working of miracles."* These are miracles performed with the use of natural means or human agent, they are not the miracles that are found in the Bible that are solely from God alone like the burning bush experience Moses had, or the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, etc., which are miracles of sovereign action from God alone and are not the Gift of Miracles.

So, we have miracles of supply, miracles overruling nature, miracles of judgement, miracles of deliverance, miracles of raising the dead, etc. Again, all of these and probably more, are through the Gift of Miracles which is different than the sovereign miracle action from God alone.

Let's read about the miracle of clothing preservation for the children of Israel from **Deuteronomy 29:5**; *"And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet."* How miraculous is that! 40 years of walking in hot desert sand!

Another miracle of a talking donkey which we read about in **Numbers 22:28-30**; *"Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!" So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."*

Here are some questions for you today. Do you believe in the story about the talking donkey? Do you believe the story of the clothing not wearing out after 40 years of travel? Do you believe the story of Jesus walking on water and transporting his disciples in the Spirit from one location to another? Do you believe the story about Jesus feeding 5000 with 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish? Do you believe the story about the widow's oil and meal not running out providing food for many days? Do you honestly believe these stories in your heart?

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**Hebrews 2:1-4** says this; *“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”*

I believe that the salvation of our souls is the greatest miracle, in that it was provided for us in miraculous ways as the virgin birth of Jesus, and the resurrection of his dead body, and his greatest gift to us being the Holy Spirit which provides us with eternal life. But I also believe that when the Holy Spirit is given to us, so are the Gifts of the Spirit according to 1 Corinthians 12 and the stewardship of how we used or didn't use those gifts will be required of us on the day of judgement. [Matthew 25:14-29](#) (The Parable of the Talents).

We read in **John 14:12** Jesus saying this; *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”* I believe that the ‘greater’ that he is referring to is the fact of having more time in your life to do more, not signifying the magnitude of something greater. After all, Jesus did the most impossible miraculous in giving his life for us to be saved and healed.

**Mark 16:16-18** says this; *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

It's very interesting to see some Christians truly believe in all of the miraculous Bible stories, telling them as bedtime stories even of the Old and New Testament, but lose faith when it comes to the final words of Jesus and the Book of Acts with the demonstration of the ongoing power of the Holy Spirit Gifts to be operating now in the church today. Yet talking donkeys are believable, along with Moses parting the Red Sea, Sarah giving birth at 90 years old, Jonah surviving in the belly of the whale for three days, Jesus turning water into wine, walking on water, multiplying the fishes and loaves of bread to feed 5000, etc.

So the question is today, how can we believe in all of these stories, plus at least 125 more, according to <https://christiananswers.net/dictionary/miracle.html>, and yet not BELIEVE what Jesus said when it comes to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit? How is it possible that these incredible stories of the Bible are preached day in and day out, and yet people can't believe in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised to us? We just read in Mark 16 what Jesus commissioned his disciples – which includes us – to do. Either we believe in our heart or we don't believe what the Apostle Paul taught on in I Corinthians 12. Many, sadly to say, don't believe that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are for today and that all of the miraculous and the gifts ended with the 12 Apostles. But they didn't end with them, they continue on today.

In closing, Jesus said in **Luke 18:8**; *“...nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”* Where is your faith at today? If Jesus would come today, will he find faith in you and find you moving in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit which he commanded you to do?

In the message, Pastor Richard read this story of a man by the name of Ronald Coyne who miraculously received the miracle of sight through his plastic eye when he was prayed for. I'd encourage you to click on this link to view his testimony. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FD9ULJyRBg4>

This also is the testimony of an eye surgeon who was present in one of his meetings and she testifies to his miraculous gift of sight. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Na1hH5\\_5VUQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Na1hH5_5VUQ)

Please click on this link to read a Bob Snook short script entitled ‘[Balaam](#)’ which we read at church.