

**The Design
and
End of Miracles**

**by
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TLC

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THE DESIGN AND END OF MIRACLES

The false teacher must get people away from the word of God to believe him. In this effort to corrupt the hearer he leads him to believe that the word of God is **NOT CONFIRMED**. He knows that which is confirmed needs no further confirmation. Pat Boone in his book entitled "A New Song" denies the Bible. The writer of the Hebrew letter says the word was confirmed (Heb. 2:3-4). Pat Boone says, "The Divine Word needs confirming — right now — just as much as it did 2,000 years ago." (A New Song, pp. 107, 108) Boone knows that if he does not deny the confirmation of the word of God he cannot deceive the world. His new song could not be an inspired song because it denies the inspired word of God. (Heb. 2:3-4)

The Design of Signs

The purpose of "signs, wonders, and manifold powers" was to confirm the word and were never intended to be permanent. A miracle was a seal of God's revelation and a sign of his representative. The signs of

Mk. 16:17 certified that the apostles were special representatives of Christ. (II Cor. 12:12) They were signs of an apostle. Some of the apostles "believed not." (Mk. 16:12-14). To those who did **BELIEVE** (all later did) they were certified by special miracles. "They," Mark says, "went forth, and preached everywhere the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed." (Mk. 16:20) It is true that the apostles selected lieutenants — those who exercise power for a higher official — to assist them in establishing the early church (Act 8:17, 19:6). They taught that their special power was temporary (I Cor. 8:8-13; Eph. 4:1-11).

THE SIGNS OF MOSES

The miracles of Moses were to prove that God sent him. He knew the children of Israel would not believe that God sent him to deliver them from bondage. (Ex. 4:1-2) Jehovah changed the rod into a serpent and back into a rod. God then caused leprosy to fasten itself on Moses and then healed him. Jehovah said, "If they will not

believe the first sign they will harken to the second. (Ex. 4:8). The signs of Moses in Egypt, including the many plagues convinced Israel that God sent him. If you could do the signs of Moses I would not believe God sent him to deliver Israel. One may preach Moses and not perform the signs of Moses (Act 15:22). The signs of Moses can not be duplicated today.

THE SIGNS OF CHRIST

The signs of Christ were to prove that God sent him. (Jno. 3:2). Jesus performed miracles to prove that he had the power to forgive sins. (Matt. 9:6). His signs had no other design even though at times he was moved with compassion to demonstrate his divine mission. A survey of the signs of Christ will clearly indicate their purpose and the fact they cannot be duplicated today.

The miracles of Christ may be classified in the following categories:

1. He demonstrated his power over disease. (Matt. 8:2,6)

2. He showed his power over nature. Christ stilled the storm. (Matt. 8:23-27). Who among the so called miracle workers attempts to stop storms? If there are none — why not? Jesus did, did he

not? He has the power, does he not? (Heb. 13:8). You believe in prayer do you not? Why not stop the storm?

3. Too, he demonstrated his power over the spirit world as well as our world. (Matt. 8:28-34)

4. Christ showed his power over material things. He fed the multitude with five loaves and two fishes. (Matt. 14:17)

5. He proved he had the power over death. (Jno. 11) Do present day miracle workers raise the dead? If not, why not?

The signs of Christ cannot be duplicated today. If they could I would not believe in Jesus. There would be no way to certify that he was the Son of God with power to forgive sins. (Matt. 9:6) Christ even laid down his own life and took it up again. (Jno. 10:17)

THE SIGNS OF AN APOSTLE

The apostles were given special signs to prove that Christ sent them. (II Cor. 12:12) The signs of Mk 16:17 were signs of an apostle and their lieutenants. (Acts 8:17) Tongues were among these signs. Snakes were among these signs. No man can take the tongues and skip the snakes. Pat Boone and others are forced to accept the snakes and poison if they claim the signs of Mk. 16:17.

Snakes and tongues go together and you cannot have one without the other.

The signs of the apostles are many and varied:

1. Peter healed a man at the temple (Acts 3:1-9)

2. Peter struck a man dead. (Acts 5:1-6)

3. Peter raised Dorcas from the dead. (Acts 10:36-42)

4. Paul struck a man blind. (Acts 13:9-12)

5. Paul raised a man from the dead. (Acts 20:7-12)

6. Paul picked up a poisonous snake. (Acts 28:5)

If you could duplicate the signs of an apostle I would not believe that Christ sent them. Their signs were to prove their right to give us the Bible. The signs of their lieutenants were to prove they were especially appointed to thus serve. Among these inspired lieutenants were such servants as Luke, Timothy, and certain evangelists, elders, (Jas. 5:13) and teachers. (Eph. 4:8-13). These lieutenants were told that their powers were temporary and would cease. (1 Cor. 13:8-13) They were told that their powers were limited "Till the unity of the faith." (Eph. 4:13) Not the unity of the believers but the unity of **THE FAITH**. If we have all of the "faith" — God's complete

revelation — all supernatural powers have ceased. The so called miracle workers today believe in continuous revelations. He believes the Holy Spirit leads him outside of the Word of God. Our troubles in the Church today are a result of the teaching being done about the direct operation of the Holy Spirit. When such teaching is stopped and corrected we will have solved our problems.

The signs of Moses may be preached by reading them in the synagogue. (Acts 15:2) The signs of Christ are recorded in the gospels (Jno. 20:30-31) He who has the New Testament has every sign of Christ that he wants him to possess. The signs of Moses are in the Old Testament. The signs of Christ are in the New Testament and no man can duplicate them. Not only can they not be duplicated no man will even try to do so.

The signs of the apostles and their helpers cannot be duplicated. It is a known fact that men like Pat Boone do not even try to go to the grave yard to raise someone from the dead. (Matt. 10:8) Do they believe? I trow not.

It can be easily seen that Boone's book is not of the Holy Spirit because it contradicts what the Spirit of Christ

taught. The **SPIRIT** that leads him is not holy.

CROSS AND SWITCHBLADE

It does not take a seer to know that such a story as the **Cross and the Switchblade** is false and that such a movie is a **fake**. If this story could happen it would not have to be **STAGED**. The fact that the **Cross and the Switchblade** was made in a studio shows it is false. If Boone and David Wilkerson could do as they claim, they would ask the NBC, ABC, and CBS television networks to get their cameras and go with them to Harlem and **show** the world what could be done. Are the pictures of the Viet Nam war staged? Why not? All healing services, Roberts et. al. are staged. Their television programs are **self oriented and controlled**.

The only proof offered by so called healers today is their own **tongues**. They simply **testify**. These testimonials are just the **tongues of men** — **human evidence and not divine**. The same testimonials are given by **Mormons, Catholics, Witch-doctors and sellers of patent medicines**.

The effort to perpetuate the **direct operation of the Holy Spirit** apart from the word and to maintain miracles is an **outright attack on the Bible**. The word was confirmed and

needs no further confirmation.

CHART

DIVINE HEALING

1. Not what did
2. Not Power of God
3. Not Prayer
4. Not Healing
5. Not Nature of God

DURATION OF MIRACLES

1. Till Word was confirmed
Mk. 16:17; Heb. 2:3-4
2. Till Word complete 1 Cor. 12. 13. 14; Jas. 5:13-14; Jas. 1:25.
3. Till unity of the faith Eph. 4:8-14

CONCLUSION

1. Paul said miracles would cease.
2. No scripture states miracles will be permanent. . .
3. Miracles of the Bible cannot be duplicated today
4. Only evidence is human testimony

Mormons

Catholics

Christian Science

Did Jehovah intend that miraculous healing be continued by His disciples for all time? Are miracles of healing wrought today?

In order to understand whether God intended for such to be a part of His program for all times we need to get a clear understanding of the issue before us.

THE ISSUE

Do the scriptures teach that

divine healing is for us today? Let us analyze this proposition.

1. Not yesterday, but today. All believe that miracles of healing were performed yesterday — that is, in the days of the apostles and our Lord. "For the man was more than forty years old on whom the miracle of healing was wrought." (Acts 4:22) That Christ and the apostles wrought miracles of healing no one can deny. The issue is not what they did. It is not were such miracles wrought, but where is the passage that says they are for us today? Where is the scripture for continuing them beyond that period?

2. It is not a question of power. Certainly God is powerful enough to heal a man by a miracle. It is not what God can do but what does God do? To say that God can do a thing does not prove that He does or will do it. In the creation God could have made pecans grow on a watermelon vine. It is not where can God make pecans grow, but where does He make them grow? God's law is that pecans grow on a pecan tree. This is His law. In the healing of the sick it is not what God can do, but what is the law concerning the sick? The question before us is

not one of power but of law and fact. What is God's law today? Where is the passage that says that God will miraculously heal the sick today?

3. It is not even a question of prayer for the sick. We all believe that it is right to pray for the sick. We should pray for all men everywhere. We must even pray for our daily bread. That, however, does not mean that Jehovah will hand us a loaf of bread directly from heaven. Bread must be gotten according to God's natural law. Yet we must pray for it. To ignore the natural law concerning bread is to starve. God has certain laws in regard to the sick. To ignore them is to fail in God's plan for the sick today.

4. It is not a question of healing. Certainly God heals today. But how? And such healing is divine but not miraculous. There is a vast difference between being healed miraculously and being healed by using God's natural laws. These laws, of course, are divine. All healing is divine but not all healing is miraculous. All bread is divine. It is provided by God's natural law. Yet in the wilderness God gave the children of Israel bread from heaven. It was miraculously provided. They did not have to

plant, harvest, and then make bread. This was a special providence of God. Miracles have always been special and provisional and never permanent. Should one become ill with appendicitis and an appendectomy is performed and then he is alright that is divine healing, but not miraculous healing. It is God's law that if the affected appendix is removed properly the patient will be well again. The doctors are simply using one of God's laws. Such a law existed long before the doctors discovered it. If a man had his leg cut off it would be right to pray for him, but would be sinful to do nothing more. God expects us to use all natural laws we know. To ask God to set aside those natural laws and perform a miracle of healing is asking Him to do that which He has not promised. Where is the passage that says God will miraculously heal today?

5. It is not a question of what history teaches about the matter but what does the Bible teach about it? History is useless if it does not harmonize with the Bible. If the history books say one thing and the Bible says another then history is wrong. What does the Bible teach?

6. Testimonials of so-called

healing cannot be introduced. They have no weight and do not touch the issue. The issue is what does the Bible teach? It is not what about this thing I saw and heard? To appeal to the so-called miracles today is begging the question and an imprudent assumption of the issue before us. The issue can only be settled by what the scriptures teach and not by the so-called healings wrought by professional miracle workers today.

The issue is, where is the scripture for continuing healing miracles beyond the apostolic age? This issue must not be camouflaged or evaded. It is not yesterday, but today. It is not what can God do, but what is His law today? It is not a matter of praying for the sick, but does God heal miraculously in answer to prayer? It is not even a question of healing, but one of miraculous or supernatural healing. To cite so-called miracles is to miss the point. The point is this: Where is the passage of scripture that such can be done today?

PROOF TEXTS EXAMINED

The advocates of miraculous healing today attempt to prove their doctrine in the following manner:

1. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Heb. 13:8)

This is indeed a fine passage. Yet it does not prove that Christ performs miracles of healing today. He is the same in character but not in method. His character does not change but He did change His method. "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." (Heb. 7:12) Christ changed the law, but He did not change in character. He simply changed his method. That which proves too much proves nothing. If this passage proves that since Christ worked miracles of healing yesterday that He will do so today, it also proves that he will be working miracles of healing forever in heaven. He is the same "yesterday, today, and forever." Will there be sickness in heaven?

2. The use of Matthew 29:19-20 and Mark 16:15-20 are the only other passages that seem to give weight to the doctrine that miraculous healing obtains today. Their argument runs like this: Christ was with the disciples and performed miracles of healing. He promised to be with them even to the end of the world. "And lo, I am with you always even unto the end

of the world."

Does this passage prove that miracles of healing will be performed even to the end of the world? It does not say so. Then what does it say? It says, "I am with you." Certainly Christ is with His children, but that does not say He performs miracles of healing. Is it not possible for Christ to be with one and that one not be able to perform miracles? For the sake of clarity let us study these questions based on this fine passage:

(1) Is Christ only with the so-called healing groups? Now, Mr. Healer, be careful how you answer. You, Mr. Healer, believe and affirm that Methodists and Baptists are the children of God. Yet they deny that healing can be done today. They cannot and do not heal. Do you believe that Christ is with them? Too, I believe that Christ is with me and yet I deny that He heals miraculously today. Are you ready to say that Christ is with only the so-called healers today?

(2) If Christ is with only the so-called healers, just which one of them is He with? There is Mr. Mormon who claims to heal and says that all the rest are cheats and frauds. There are a dozen different warring sects who claim to heal. Too,

there are the Christian Scientists who claim to heal and yet say that there is no such thing as sickness. Which of the healers, if Christ is only with the healers, is He with? You, Mr. Mormon or Mr. Christian Scientist? The truth of the matter is, He is with neither of you. He promised to be with His children. He has no children outside of His spiritual body. That lets out so-called healers today for not one of them teaches and obeys the commission given by our Lord. Christ is with His children and dwells in their hearts by faith — not by miracle. (Eph. 3:17)

Their next effort is on Mark 16. "These signs shall accompany them that believe."

The purpose of these signs can be seen by looking at the twentieth verse. "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed." The signs confirmed the word. That which is confirmed needs no further confirmation. Paul says the word "was confirmed." (Heb. 2:3) Some one asks: "Do I have these signs to confirm the word today? Surely you do. Here is what John says, "Many other

signs therefore 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 in his name." (John 20:30-31) Signs were wrought to make believers. Now we have the signs written that we might believe. To ask for a sign to be wrought today is to doubt the ones that were written. Those who accept the Bible are the only ones that do have these signs. "These are written." They are all I need. You ask for a sign today, and I will read one to you from the Bible and not try to perform one. +

Let us consider here additional arguments on the design of miracles:

1. Miracles in God's plan were provisional. This has been true in all ages. In the beginning God used miracles to create the world and all things therein. He created the first tree but trees today come by natural law. God created the first man and woman, but men and women come today by the law of procreation. Miraculous power in creation was no part of the things created, but the means by which they were created. Thus we see that God created

animals and plants by miracles before natural law prevailed. That does not prove that He does so now. These miraculous powers used in creation were provisional and temporary and ceased when God's creative work was done.

This same principle is seen in God's revelation to man. Until the Bible was completed the Word dwelt in the inspired man. Now it dwells in the inspired Book. When the inspired Book was made there was no longer any need for inspiration. The miraculous powers manifested by these inspired men were to confirm the word they spoke. Miraculous power was to give inspired teaching and rule provisionally the churches. It was the power to make our constitution — the New Testament.

There was a time when our nation was governed under the Articles of Confederation. Under this form of government our fathers selected a constitution making body. This body, in convention, gave us the constitution of the United States. The people ratified the constitution and organized a government under it. When our fathers had made the constitution, their power in this matter ceased

Miraculous power was constitution-making power. Our constitution, the New Testament, has been made, and therefore the constitution-making power ceased by divine limitation. Thus when miraculous power had given us the Book (the Bible, the constitution) miraculous power ceased.

But, says one, "There were miracles then, there are surely miracles now." This argument would continue creation of plants and animals. That God created animals is no proof that He does now. Once not now.

2. **Miracles were confirmatory.** Our Lord states that signs confirmed the word. (Mark 16:20) "These signs," not one performed by so-called healers today, "Shall follow them that believe." The signs for us today are written. "These are written that you may believe." (John 20:30-31) To ask for other signs than "these signs" that are written is to reject the word of God.

Surely our Lord knew the purpose of miracles. Why, Lord, did you perform miracles? Read his answer in the following:

1. To bear witness of me.
"The works that I do
THESE bear witness of

me." (John 10:25)

2. That we might believe. "Believe me for my works sake." (John 14:11)
 3. To prove the Father had sent Him. "The very works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." (John 5:36)
 4. To prove that He had power on earth to forgive sins. "That ye may know that the Son of man hath authority on earth to forgive sins (he saith to the sick of the palsy), I say unto thee Arise, take up thy bed, and go into thy house." (Mark 2:10-11)
- Lord, why did you heal this man? To prove I have power to forgive sins.

**PAUL SAYS THE WORD
WAS CONFIRMED.**

(Heb. 2:3)

The fact that miracles were confirmatory shows beyond a peradventure that they were temporary.

3. They were not accommodative, but provisional and special. Special miracles of healing were wrought by the apostles. (Acts 19:11) Healings were special and provisional and never to accommodate the sick man. The following tests show plainly what is meant!

(1) Paul left Trophimus at Miletus sick. (II Tim. 4:20)

Did not Paul have the power to heal him? Then why was he not healed?

(2) Paul advised Timothy to take wine for his stomach. (I Tim. 5:23) Why did not Paul heal Timothy's stomach? Surely Paul had the power, and will anyone doubt that Timothy had the faith? This is proof that the purpose of healing was not just to accommodate the sick person.

(3) Peter struck a man dead. (Acts 5:1-10) Striking a man dead produced the same result in the mind of those around about as did the healing of the man. When the people knew what was done, "Great fear came upon the whole church and ALL that heard these things." This miracle proved that Peter was inspired and was speaking the word of the Lord. It confirmed his word. That was the purpose of all miracles. There is just as much authority today for a "killing Church" as there is for a "Healing Church." Peter healed and Peter killed. Like effect was produced by both. Men were made to believe.

(4) Paul struck a man blind. (Acts 13:9-12) Why strike a man blind? This proved that Paul spoke by the power of the Lord. It confirmed his word.

The proconsul when he saw

what was done, BELIEVED." Why does not someone start a church to strike people blind? Paul struck a man blind. There was as much authority for a church to strike people blind as there is to open their blind eyes.

Let those who believe that there is a miraculous healing church today weigh these words:

a. Why not start a bread-making church? The Lord fed five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. He is the same Yesterday, today, and forever. Why not start a bread-making church and put the Welfare Department out of business?

b. Why not start a wine-making church? The Lord made wine out of water. There is as much authority for a bread or wine-making church as there is a healing church. Why did the Lord make wine out of water? "This beginning of His signs did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory: and His disciples believed on Him." (John 2:11) Thus His glory was manifested and His disciples believed.

c. Why not start a dead-raising church? Did you know, dear friend, that in the same text where our Lord said heal the sick, he said raise the

dead? Read it. "Heal the sick **RAISE THE DEAD."** (Matt. 10:8)

4. **Miracles are not essential to anything God wants His children to do in the world today.**

Miracles were essential in creation. They are not an essential in procreation. Man was placed on this earth by supernatural power. Man stays here and multiplies by natural power. There was supernatural law in creation. There is only natural law in procreation.

Miracles were essential in revelation. Miracles are not essential in proclamation. God used miraculous powers to reveal and confirm His Word. Supernatural powers are not essential to reading and proclaiming this Word. We do not need revelation today. We need to preach that which has been revealed. We do not need signs to confirm our message. It has already been confirmed. (Heb. 2:3) Let us proclaim that which was revealed and confirmed.

DURATION OF MIRACLES

To appreciate the Word of God there are certain things that are needful to know. The following will help form a basis for understanding and intelligent discussion.

1. Right division of the Word.

(II Tim. 2:15)

2. Proper classification of passages. It is a mistake to take passages that apply only to the apostles and apply them to everyone.

With this in mind let us for a little while study about the measures of the Spirit.

The baptismal measure of the Spirit was special and provisional and not permanent and general. This was an influence exercised on two occasions never exercised on mankind in general. There are only two cases of Holy Spirit baptism on record. The apostles received it on Pentecost to qualify them to make the Bible. (Acts 2) Paul received it to make him an apostle. (Gal. 1:11; I Cor. 9:1-6; II Cor. 11:5)

The Holy Spirit is not a puff of wind. He is a person. God is a person. Christ is a person. The Holy Spirit is a person. Christ dwells in the hearts of Christians and no one thereby acts abnormal. (Eph. 3:17) Yet let man get what he calls the Holy Spirit and he goes into religious convulsions.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a promise and not a command. A promise may be received but not obeyed. There is only one baptism in the world today. (Eph. 4:5) The one baptism is a

command. (Acts 10:48) It is water baptism. (Jno. 3:5; Acts 8:36)

Holy Spirit baptism was a promised miracle. It was received. Miracles have ceased, therefore Holy Spirit baptism has ceased.

Persons who claim to be baptized in the Holy Spirit all teach things that flatly contradict the Bible. Show me a man who claims the baptism of the Holy Spirit and I will show you a man who teaches things that contradict the Bible. Not only do they contradict the Bible, they contradict each other. Those who claim to have the baptismal measure of the Spirit are a living demonstration that they do not have it. The baptismal measure of the Spirit was to cause them to remember everything Christ said. (John 14:26) Where is the mother's son among them that knows all that Jesus said?

There is one sure sign that a person does not have the Holy Spirit. "He shall not speak of himself." The Holy Spirit does not talk about Himself. He talks about Christ. "He shall glorify me." (John 16:14) The Holy Spirit talks about Christ and glorifies Him. When you go to a meeting today and they spend all their time talking

about the Spirit you know by that they do not have it. If they had the Spirit, they would talk about Christ, Christ is our Savior.

Those who had the baptismal measure of the Spirit could by the laying on of hands confer spiritual gifts on others. That is, the apostles had this right and power. (Acts 8:14-18)

There were nine of the special gifts. The baptismal measure was called a gift. A gift of the Spirit comes to believers who are baptized in water for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38) These gifts are not the same.

The Samaritans were baptized in water and therefore received the gift of Acts 2:38-39. Yet Peter and John laid their hands on them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

In the first Corinthian letter Paul writes about these special gifts.

1. I Cor. 12 tells us the number of gifts. Nine in all.
2. I Cor. 13 tells us how long they will last.
3. I Cor. 14 tells us (the church) how to use them while they existed.

In the last verse of chapter twelve Paul says, "Desire earnestly the greater gifts. And moreover a more

excellent way show I unto you." The new way Paul points out is better than the old way. The old way was the use of special gifts. These gifts only furnished a partial revelation. "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

" (I Cor. 13:9) When they came together "each one hath a psalm, hath a teaching, hath a revelation, hath a tongue, hath an interpretation." (I Cor. 14:26) The revelation was partial and fragmentary. God was revealing his message to man. The congregation at Corinth did not have the letter from which we now study when said condition existed. Paul wrote this letter to correct certain matters. In the period when they did not have the fully written word, they depended on special gifts to protect them against every wind of doctrine. This state of the church was called "childhood." "But when that which is perfect is come that which is in part shall be done away." (I Cor. 13:10) That which is perfect is the perfect written revelation, when these special gifts would cease. When the Bible, the perfect law of liberty, was completed these special gifts ceased by divine limitation.

The word of God is called a "mirror." In A.D. 57, the time

he wrote the Corinthian letter, Paul says, "Now we see in the mirror darkly." Take a broken mirror and see if you can get a clear vision of yourself. The mirror was then partial and fragmentary. The "then," that is when the "perfect law of liberty" is completed we will have a whole mirror that we may see ourselves even as God sees us now. James tells us that the word of God is a mirror. (James 1:23) Too, he calls this mirror the "perfect law of liberty." Today we have the perfect law. The scriptures now are perfect for teaching, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. (II Tim. 3:17) Since Paul says that the scriptures are perfect for everything that God wants done today these "special gifts" have no purpose for us. In fact Paul says they will cease.

- A. Prophecies shall be done away. (I Cor. 13:8)
- B. Tongues shall cease. (I Cor. 13:8)
- C. Knowledge shall be done away. (I Cor. 13:8)

It is evident that the "knowledge" that is done away is the "gift of knowledge" spoken of in chapter twelve, verse eight.

The taking away of the gift of "prophecies" shows that

"inspiration" has ceased.

Men no longer speak in tongues. They have ceased. Someone says, "I heard a woman speak in tongues." I deny the statement. Perhaps you heard some woman speak a lot of nonsense and call it speaking in tongues. God never did give a woman a tongue. If she had one she could not use it. In I Cor. 14 where Paul discusses the matter of tongues he says, "Let your women keep silent in the church." And he is discussing the use of tongues. Ninety per cent of so-called talking in tongues in meetings round about is done by women. Again even if she had a tongue she could not use it as God told her to be silent. The use of tongues is the matter he is discussing.

All these gifts were "in part." They were to cease when the "perfect" had come. When the Bible was completed that which was in part (special gifts) ceased. We have the "perfect law of liberty" and the "more excellent way."

I Corinthians 13:10 is the Waterloo of the Pentecostals. They dread to meet it and the Holy Ghost? has given them a direct interpretation of I Cor. 13:10. However, the Holy Ghost? contradicts himself

over and over again. In the little booklet entitled, **The Acts of the Holy Spirit in the Church of Christ Today**, published by the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, 836 South Figueroa St., Los Angeles, California (P.O. Box 17904, Los Angeles, California 90017) there are fourteen articles by apostate members of the church including Pat Boone. These brethren lay claim to inspiration. Ben Franklin says, "I realized we had added to the list to the point of removing all of the supernatural from the scripture, which are supposed to guide us into all truth." In this statement he claims to be divinely guided. (Page 8) Too, he says, "The Scripture began to take on a new light and depth. In passages, I had read all my life I now saw matters I had not seen before." (Ibid p. 9) Now we do not need the Pope? as this brother has a hot line to heaven.

On page sixty-one of this booklet George Welch says, "I asked the Lord the meaning of this, I came to the realization that I was able to have a direct line to God, and we conversed back and forth. . . . I asked Him," Lord, if you are going to use me, what do you want me to do? Should I attend a

seminary, study my Bible, seek out those who could help me? You know how poorly versed I am in the Scriptures." "But He replied that while it would have been better for me to have read and studied more, He understood my heart, and He would teach me by His Holy Spirit." (Ibid p. 61) President Nixon has a hot line to Moscow and these brethren have a hot line to Jehovah God? Who can believe it? The Pope of Rome, Joe Smith nor Mary Baker Eddie never made a more blasphemous claim.

In the same booklet, pages 17 and 18 Pat Boone says, "We do not have to fear that the Holy Spirit will lead us into doctrinal error." Thus he affirms that the Holy Spirit is leading him. Then he says, "How could God's Holy Spirit contradict Himself?" Now we have it. Pat Boone says that the Holy Spirit does not and cannot contradict Himself. Yet in this book produced by former brethren, who have a hot line to heaven, we find these men contradicting each other.

These inspired brethren? who are supernaturally taught by the Holy Spirit gave us an inspired interpretation? of I Cor. 13:10.

1. Ben Franklin says "that

which is perfect" is "the limited part (Corinthians) are allowed to play" in the work of the church. (Ibid p. 8)

2. Fred Dennis, by the Holy Ghost, says "that which is perfect" is the "perfect state" at the coming of Christ. (Ibid p. 14)

3. Lester Nichols says, "that which is perfect" refers to Christ. (Ibid p. 66)

Pat Boone by the Holy Ghost says that the Holy Ghost never contradicts Himself. Ben Franklin contradicts Fred Dennis. Fred Dennis contradicts Ben Franklin who has a hot line to heaven. Lester Nichols contradicts both Franklin and Dennis. Joe Smith, the founder of the Mormon Church contradicts the whole crowd. They are moved by a ghost but this ghost is not holy.

These brethren have set out to destroy the church of Jesus Christ. T. C. Wisenbaker claims he "received a burden for my restoration brethren." (Ibid p. 48) Thus they have a direct leading of the Holy Ghost to render asunder the Church Jesus built.

Some say, "Brother Boone did no wrong. He just had a little personal feeling about a new prayer life." We reply that all Judas did was to "give

the Lord a little kiss." Yet Judas did have enough conscience to get out and let the Lord's work alone. These fellows are set to destroy the house of God.

I Corinthians 13:10 is the death knell to all these so-called Holy Ghost fellows. There are no two of them that agree in spite of the fact they are supernaturally led. "That which is perfect" could not refer to the coming of Jesus as "that" is a neuter pronoun and one cannot refer to a person in such a manner. To make it mean "perfect love" is to defy man, as God is love.

This effort to destroy the church is financed by the Business Men's Fellowship International. This is the outfit that has put the Jesus Freaks on the map. The "Jesus Freaks" is not a spontaneous movement. It is an underground movement pushed by this seemingly innocent breakfast club. They support such houses as the 23d Psalm in Nashville, Tennessee. It was founded by a group of business men in their prayer cell. (The Nashville Tennessean Magazine, April 18, 1971, page 16) These Jesus Freaks are a well heeled and well oiled bunch of Holy Rollers. Their main teaching has been provided by Dr.

Victor Weirwille of New Knoxville, Ohio. It is past time that this Holy Roller movement be brought out from underground and exposed for what it is.

I Cor. 14 tells how to use these gifts while they last. It is well to note that James 5 comes under this same classification. The book of James was written in about 65 A.D. Special gifts existed among those to whom James wrote. He tells them how to use the "gift of healing" while it lasted. No one in the early church thought of these gifts as being permanent. They were all anxious for the "perfect law of liberty" to be completely written so they would not have to depend on that which was "in part."

Should anyone doubt this, let him now read Eph. 4:10-16. In these verses Paul sets the limit of special gifts. Surely all inspired teachers taught the same. God had placed in the early church certain inspired workers. That is, certain ones who had these special gifts. The following is a list of them.

- A. Apostles
 - B. Prophets
 - C. Pastors (elders of the church - James 5:14)
 - D. Evangelists
 - E. Teachers
- These men being guided by

inspiration were thus used "for the perfecting of the saints." (Eph. 4:12) When the saints had received the "perfect law" these "inspired men" were no longer needed. God still has pastors and teachers but they are not inspired. God's word today dwells in the inspired Book and not in the inspired man.

How long, Paul, are these gifts to last? Paul in verse eight calls the power by which these teachers and evangelists are moved, "gifts." These gifts will last, says Paul, "TILL." They will last till. What then is the force of Till? The "Till" of Ephesians 4:13 marks the end of these gifts. The "gifts" of Eph. 4:8 are the same as the "gifts" of I Cor. 12:8-11. Paul taught the brethren at Ephesus, just as he taught them at Corinth that "gifts" were only provisional and temporary and not permanent. They were given to them "till." When did they reach the "TILL?"

The "till" was reached when the "Unity of the faith was reached." "Till we all attain unto the unity of the faith." The unity of the faith was the Bible completed. If these "gifts" still exist then we do not have all the "faith." We do not have all the will of God. If we have a complete

revelation these gifts have ceased. They were to last only "till" the unity of the "faith" was reached. That unity has been reached, therefore these "gifts" have ceased.

To argue that healings were performed before the "TILL" was reached is to miss the point. No one denies that. Certainly Christ and the apostles healed before the TILL. But where is the passage that continues the healing miracles beyond the TILL? We live on this side of the TILL and after "that which is perfect" has come. These miracles were placed in the church TILL. The till is the completed revealed will of God — the unity of the faith. (II Tim. 3:17)

Inspired men have no successors. Christ had no successor. Surely Christ is with us "always even unto the end of the world." Yet He is not here on earth as He was before He went back to glory. The apostles have no successors. They are with us in their revealed word. Miracles have no successors. We have the miracles written. "These are written that you might believe." (John 20:30-31)

When men recognize the purpose of miracles they will no longer be confused. They

were used to confirm the Word. The word has been confirmed. (Heb. 2:3) Let us preach it as it is.

PROPHECY FULFILLED

Those who claim to perform miracles today are instruments of the evil one. The Lord knew that miracles were only temporary and warned against those who would later claim to perform them. "For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets and shall show signs and wonders, that they may lead astray, if possible, the elect." (Mark 13:22) Those who claim to do signs and wonders today are false prophets and are deceiving all who follow them.

The lawless one shall be revealed, Paul says, "even he whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders." (II Thess. 2:8-10) Paul taught that "signs" or "gifts" would cease and then he warns us that Satan will try to produce such to lead people astray. Every so-called miracle worker today is a servant of the devil. All their healing services are of the devil. The Bible says that such would stop. The devil says they did not stop. They do not heal — they deceive. Their

signs are not true signs. They are lying signs — lying signs to deceive, if possible, the elect.

Many will say, "I saw this healing service, this sign performed, by so and so at such and such a place." No, neighbor, what you saw was a lying sign. It was the work of the devil. True signs have ceased and Paul warns us not to let Satan lead us astray with his lying signs. Better stay with the Bible and forsake the devil.

TESTIMONIALS

Every false doctrine depends upon its testimonials to make converts. If testifying is taken out of denominational meetings they would make few followers. They all testify from the Salvation Army up. "Faith Healers" make their converts by "testimonies." Just listen to them in their meetings telling about what they "experienced" and saw. Aunt Molly "testifies" and Uncle John "testifies." Folks had rather listen to Aunt Molly and Uncle John than to the Apostle Paul and the Lord Jesus. "What does the Bible teach?" "I do not know and do not care but just let me tell you what I saw and how I feel," is the way they talk. You may remind them that the "Bible says so and so."

"Yes," they reply, "I know that the Bible says that, but let me tell you how I feel and what the Lord did for me." Thus the word of God is set aside for the "testimonies" of man. God's word is set aside for the word of man.

Every healer depends on "testimonies." In the book known as **Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures** by Mary Baker Eddy is a chapter entitled "Fruitage." It begins with the language, "Thousands of letters could be presented in testimony of the healing efficacy of Christian Science. . . ." One testimony after another is then presented. "Rheumatism Healed;" "Substances of Lung Restored;" "Fibroid Tumor Healed in a Few Days;" "Valvular Heart Disease Healed;" "Desire for Liquor and Tobacco Disappeared;" etc. One fellow testifies on this wise, "It is nearly five years since I bought my first copy of **Science and Health**, the reading of which cured me of chronic constipation, nervous headache, astigmatism, and hernia in less than four months."

I am unwilling to accept these "testimonies" for the following reasons:

1. Those who testify have not

been shown to be witnesses of the Lord. God clearly identifies the man whom he wants to speak for Him. "If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision and will speak unto him in a dream — with him I will speak mouth to mouth and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold. . . Those who testify have not seen the similitude of the Lord and therefore are not qualified to speak for him. These "testifiers" are not of God. "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran; I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. "The Lord said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name."

2. The "experience" of man is put above the Word of God. As we have seen the Bible teaches that miraculous healing ceased at the close of the apostolic age. Yet testimonies are given that flatly contradict the Bible.

3. In their "testimonials" we have simply the word of their own tongues. Any Bible question must be settled by the Bible and not by the word of man. When Aunt Molly testifies you have simply the word of Aunt Molly. When Uncle John testifies you have simply the word of Uncle

John.

4. The testimonies of men are not credible. By such witness Mormonism, Quakerism, Spiritualism, or any other "ism" may be proved, even heathenism, is upheld by "testimonies." The old Witch Doctor in Africa can present more testimonies than "Holy Rollers" or any other healing group.

5. God's providence is no sign or miracle.

All Christians believe in the providence of God. Brother David Lipscomb well said, describing the age in which we now live, that, "The Bible draws no distinction between special and general providence, as these terms are generally understood." (Questions and Answers by Lipscomb and Swell p. 518) Too, he said, "God is always present in his laws. What is done through these laws, God does." (Ibid) Samuel was a child of prayer but Hannah did not expect a virgin birth. (I Sam. 1, 2) God gave Israel water from a rock (Ex. 20:7-11) but when Elijah prayed for rain God sent the rain by clouds. (Jam. 5:17; I Kings 18:41-46) Just how God works through His natural laws we may not know but it is a fact that he does. (Deut. 29:29)

In the age of miracles there is no doubt about manifestations of special providences. Jesus conferred special blessings on certain individuals and groups. (See Miracles of Christ) The apostles exercised special powers on certain occasions. (Act 19:11) A miracle is above and outside of the laws of nature.

Providence, whether special or general is not the result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord demonstrated special providence to those who were not even children of God. Balaam's ass spoke in a tongue. (Num. 22:28) God's providence is manifested toward the birds. (Matt. 6:26) The Holy Spirit does not dwell in a donkey nor a bird. It is not correct to expect special providence of God if we refuse to work in harmony with God's laws for us. We should pray as if everything depends on God and work as everything depended on us. It is right to watch and pray. It is right to work and pray. There is a blessing in prayer but prayer must be in harmony with God's will. (I Jno. 5:14) Prayer is a privilege of God's children.

That special providence was exercised by miracle as recorded both in the Old

Testament and the New Testament is apparent to the casual reader of the Bible. That God overruled circumstances in the life of Esther, Daniel, Joseph and Paul cannot be denied. However, there was an inspired interpreter to certify the providence of God in these Bible characters. Today we have no divine interpreter and therefore have no right to relate our experience as an act of God. There are and have been, things in my life, as in yours also, that appear providential. However, since I have no divine interpreter, as Luke explained the life of Paul, I shall not and cannot testify. Paul says, "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus sake. (II Cor. 4-5) When you hear a man testifying he is preaching himself. That I cannot and will not do. Let me be a servant of Christ and preach Christ. All the actions of holy men as recorded in the Bible have been certified to us by divine revelation. My message is a certified gospel. I cannot relate my experience as the leadings of the Holy Spirit. Every false teacher makes the same claim and all he has for proof is his tongue. It is high time we quit preaching

ourselves and start preaching Christ. None of us have a divine interpreter as did Daniel and Paul.

The testifying among us cannot be justified by appealing to reports in our Gospel papers. A report of what occurred is different from testifying that such was accomplished by a special leading of the Holy Spirit. Since the only evidence one has of special providence is his own experience he has no right to relate it as an act of God without an inspired interpreter. To do so is to preach himself and not Christ.

Pat Boone's book, *A New Song*, is almost a duplication of the book of *Christian Science* by Mary Baker Eddy. The chapter in her book entitled *Science, Theology, Medicine* uses the same passages Boone uses and makes almost the same arguments. Mrs. Eddy says her book is the "final revelation" (Page 107, 1906 Edition) Did Pat borrow from Mrs. Eddy? Mrs. Eddy closes her book by a chapter of testimonials called "fruitage." This chapter is made up of testimonials. Pat Boone's book is a series of tales testimonials mixed with misuse of scripture. However, Boone's book is the

most absurd and vulgar testimonial ever produced in the world. There is nothing in heathenism that even compares with it. He says that Shirley asked God to kill their baby and that God answered her prayer by killing the baby. (*A New Song* — page 68) If you could make me believe that, I would raise the black flag of infidelity and blight the hopes of human beings as long as God spars me on this earth.

A CHALLENGE

Let the believer of "So-called Divine Healing" come forth with their "testimonies" and I pledge myself to show as many bona-fide testimonies for Geritol. Faith healers run their meeting about like a patent medicine show.

It is very common to hear men and women tell about their healing. They will say, "The doctor gave me up for dead and. . ." The long story they tell is about how they were healed and how the "doctors" all failed to cure them. Now let us hear from a famous doctor along this line.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

Dr. C. S. Bluenel, MA, MD, member of the staff, Denver County Hospital, after watching Aimee McPherson's healing service, wrote in the

"Colorado Medicine" the following article. Dr. Bluenel is a noted neurologist. Now read what he had to say:

"Mrs. McPherson claims no miraculous power, and avers she heals only through Divine agency. She also stresses the point that faith is absolutely necessary before healing can occur, that the healing is an expression of conversion, and that the convert when healed, must give his life to Christ. 'How long do the cures last?' she asks in addressing her audience. 'How long do conversions last?' She admits they both may be very brief. The healing power of God, according to the evangelist, is rather limited, and only certain cases are amenable. 'I have not faith enough to believe that God will put in an eye or replace a leg,' the evangelist says. The faith healing, therefore, narrows itself down to limited cures of limited cases.

"The sick applying for healing are carefully sorted over by the evangelist's mother, and if they appear to be good risks they are given cards which entitle them to the evangelist's healing power.

"The preliminary part of the service is of the usual revival type, varying only

from the customary form in that it stresses the subject of healing through faith.

"After much exhortation to faith the healing service commences. A little stringed orchestra near the platform plays over in endless monotony a weird and plaintive melody which seems mesmeric in its effect. At another time the organ peels forth in grand and impressive strains. The sick, with their cards mount the platform lifting their faces and hands to heaven. On the platform behind them is a row of chairs. Behind the chairs there is strung a rope to receive canes and crutches. Beside the evangelist stands an assistant with a silver dish containing the anointing oil. The setting is complete, and nothing is lost from which an impressionable mind could profit.

"The afflicted convert now stands before the evangelist for healing. She takes his card and reads the 'diagnosis.' She dips her finger in the silver dish and anoints the forehead of the applicant with healing oil. She then manipulates the afflicted parts, eyes, ears, arms or legs as the case may be, and prays to God for healing grace. She commands the afflicted to be cured in the Name of Jesus Christ. In some

cases the cure is there-upon put to a test; in others the convert is assisted down the stairway from the platform by the ushers.

"A large proportion of the cases are those of partial deafness in one ear. Stepping back a few paces from the patient the evangelist asks, 'Can you hear me?' As a rule the convert answers in the affirmative as would the people in the back row had the question been addressed to them. The test is repeated at a great distance and if the convert avows that he hears, he is told to raise his hands and cry, 'Praise the Lord.' One man whom I saw was only partially cured of his partial deafness, and cried, 'Glory be to God,' instead of 'Praise the Lord,' and answered 'Hallelujah' when he should have said 'yes.' The crowd, however, is wild in its enthusiasm and applauds loudly and vociferously. By an unfortunate coincidence the enthusiasm of the organist increases when the deaf are being tested and the organ peels forth in a greater volume, perhaps giving them the impression that their power of hearing has increased.

"Then comes a blind man. The oil is placed on his

forehead and the healing hands are laid upon his lids. 'Do you see better now?' the convert is asked. The answer is usually in the affirmative for the poor creature knows that everything depends upon his faith. Another miracle and the crowd roars again in the heat of religious fervor.

"And now the lame and the paralytic come to healing. Mesmeric passes are made on the crippled limbs and prayer is raised to God. In his faith the convert declares that he is healed and walks more or less lamely to show what his faith has accomplished. He surrenders his crutches or cane and descends the steps from the platform where the ushers will support him if his faith does not.

"So goes the endless stream — the lame, the halt and the blind, with a cure that will last only until faith begins to waver.

"But not all the converts descend the platform exalting GOD and calling upon men to witness their deliverance. Occasionally a cripple receives a card which wiser judgment would have withheld, and he obtains no grace from prayer and the healing hands. But the setting is well adapted to meet such a situation. When the cure fails,

the man is placed in a chair behind the approaching line where he is admonished to lift his hands to heaven and pray for greater faith. Shortly he is forgotten by the on-lookers, who are watching those more responsive to prayer. Then, behind the screen of sick bodies and uplifted hands the failure is spirited away where he cannot offend the eyes of faith of the plastic audience.

"And now the thinking mind must ask itself, 'How many of the cures are "Cures?" Can we accept the immediate word of those who come from healing? Scarcely, for the sick man has been told that his cure is proportionate to his faith, and that if the cure does not come now it will surely follow. Hence, to deny the beginning of a cure is to deny even the beginning faith. The sick are thus almost unanimous in proclaiming themselves cured when they leave the platform.

"I am fortunate in having personal knowledge of a number of 'cures' wrought by the evangelist. One young man suffering from tuberculosis left his bed at the county hospital on the evening of June 22 and attended the revival services. From the platform he publicly proclaimed himself cured of

his disease. After the service he returned to the hospital and in a few days later developed tubercular meningitis. He died July 5, thirteen days after the miracle of healing.

"A young woman with tuberculosis of the hip joint got up from her bed, removed a loose-fitting body cast and proclaimed that she was cured. Ten minutes later I saw her in an anteroom lying on a couch in complete relapse.

"A retired pastor proclaimed that he was cured of lameness. He is still drawing compensation for his disability. Thus it would seem that he must be lame whether physically or morally.

"An old gentleman with his left side paralyzed went on the platform to be healed. In his zeal he waved his right to the audience, which hailed the miracle with prolonged applause.

"Such are a few of the 'cures' which have come to my attention.

"In addition to these negative cures there are beyond question a few positive ones, for there are many cases of hysterical lameness, deafness, blindness, aphonia, etc. which yield to the stimulus of intense emotion. These various hysterical manifestations are often

ADDENDA:

brought on by shock or emotional stress, and they disappear under like conditions. During the war, hysteria frequently occurred as a result of shell-shock, and they were often 'miraculously' cured by the administration of either to the stage of excitement. Such cures as that an evangelist can achieve. They are not miracles but they are extraordinarily spectacular. The occasional occurrence of such cures is the foundation of faith healing.

"The remaining 'cures' which form almost the total of the faith healer's achievements, are based on the patient's affirmation, and this is an expression of his credulity and enthusiasm rather than his judgment. With sufficient enthusiasm he may certainly convince himself, and under emotional stress and excitement he may see, hear, or do more than he is wont. Similarly, bed-ridden patients may flee from a burning hospital; but they are not cured by the mere fact that they have left their beds. Such 'cures' are merely the effort of the sick to cling to health and life."

(Emphasis given to statements by Dr. Bluemel are mine. GKW)

Acts 2:38

It is assumed that Acts 2:38 promises the Holy Spirit to all believers. This passage assures the baptized believer of the "gift" of the Holy Spirit but not the Holy Spirit himself. Peter said, "Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." The word gift is the direct object of the verb receive. A verb cannot have two direct objects. Hence what the baptized believer receives is what the Holy Spirit gives. It is His gift. The gift of God is eternal life. (Rom. 6:23). The gift of God is not God but what He gives. The gifts of Christ are not Christ but the gifts He gives. (Eph. 4:8). The gift of Acts 2:38 is what Peter called "seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19).

Acts 8:9-20

The people in Samaria heard the gospel and were baptized. (Acts 8:12). When they were baptized, they received the "gift" of Acts 2:38, but they had to send for Peter and John to lay hands on them so they could receive the "Holy Spirit." (Acts 8:15-17). The Samaritans had received the gift of Acts 2:38, but they had not yet received the Holy

Spirit. Even Simon the Sorcerer could see that the Holy Spirit was received by the laying on of the apostles hands. (Acts 8:18).

Acts 19:1-6

These folks at Ephesus were baptized in Jesus' name for the remission of sins. (Acts 19:5). They thus received the "gift" of the Holy Spirit as promised in Acts 2:38. Yet, Paul had to lay his hands on them so that the Holy Spirit could come "on them," and so they could speak with tongues. (Acts 19:6). This proves also, that the gift of Acts 2:38 is not the Holy Spirit himself, but the gift He gives. The gift given by the Holy Spirit as promised in Acts 2:38 is not tongues, nor any miraculous power. It is not the Holy Spirit himself, but the gift He gives.

Acts Chapter 2

This gives us the record of the only Pentecostal Day in the Bible. When the apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit, there came from heaven a sound that was heard all over Jerusalem. In so called Pentecostal meetings today the sound goes up and does not come down. The sound in so called Pentecostal meetings is earthly and not heavenly. It is human sound and shows it is not divine.

On Pentecost when the apostles spoke in tongues every man "heard — in his own language." (Acts 2:6). In modern Pentecostal meetings no one can understand their tongues in any language.

On Pentecost Day Peter, an apostle and one who had just been baptized in the Holy Spirit, told men who asked what to do to be saved: to be "baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins." (Acts 2:38). These modern day Pentecostal preachers do not talk like Peter. They tell men who ask what to do to be saved, to "raise your hand and bow your head and the Lord will speak peace to your soul." How unlike the blessed Peter.

Joel 2:28 ff:

This is a blanket prophecy that includes all flesh — both Jew and Gentile. The apostles were all Jews and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Cornelius was a Gentile and received the gift of tongues. There were nine special gifts. (1 Cor. 12:8-10). These special powers, one or more, were given to both Jews and Gentiles. This passage does not suggest that all flesh will be baptized in the Holy Ghost.

Matt. 3:11

The baptism of the Holy

Spirit and fire does not include every individual. The fire is yet to come — it is eternal fire. Most of us hope to escape this fire. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was not given to every person. It was limited. The limit was to the apostles.

Acts 5:32

This passage does not say that the Holy Spirit is now being given to any one. The apostles were witnesses of the resurrection and so was the Holy Spirit, whom God hath (past tense) given to them that obey him. The Holy Spirit "hath" been given, not is being given. The so called new bible makes the passage present tense and not past tense. They are not Bibles but human bibles. That is true with their changing of Acts 2:38 to read, "God's gift the Holy Spirit." That is not a translation but a rewriting of the Bible to fit Pentecostal doctrine.

Acts 10:44-48

Cornelius received the "gift" of tongues. It was a "like" gift received by the apostles. (Acts 11:17). It was not an identical gift as received by the apostles. If so, Cornelius would have been equal to an apostle and would have had no need of Peter to tell him what to do to be saved. (Acts 11:14). He would have

been inspired. Cornelius did not receive the same measure of power as did the apostles. Too, the gift of tongues was received by Cornelius before he even believed in Christ. Peter told Cornelius what to do to be saved but the Spirit fell on Cornelius just as Peter began to speak. (Acts 11:15). Cornelius was not yet a Christian when he spoke in tongues. This was just a miracle to prove that Gentiles had a right to be baptized in water. (Acts 10:47).

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Gal. 4:6, etc. simply tells how the Spirit of God — the Holy Spirit, dwells in our hearts through the word of God. Christ dwells in our hearts by faith. (Eph. 3:17). God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are one in their word and work. As Christ dwells in us, so does God and the Holy Spirit.
