

## Do You Believe in and experience Miracles and the Gifts of the Spirit?

Yes, absolutely. Many of our members as well as many outside of the Church of Christ have experiences and witnessed the same miracles of God as was described in the Scriptures. These are often the result of repentance, putting God first in our lives, and reaching out to God doubting nothing. If God is an unchanging God then He surely would respond to faith the same as He did in AD 33 or AD 1830 or at anytime. The scriptures have numerous passages that address this topic:

**1 Corinthians 14:39** *Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.*

**2 Nephi 11:145** - *For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will shew unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men, save it be according to their faith.*

**Mosiah 5:81** - *Thus God hath provided a means that man, through faith, might work mighty miracles; therefore, he becometh a great benefit to his fellow beings.*

**Mormon 4:81** *And if there were miracles wrought, then why has God ceased to be a God of miracles, and yet be an unchangeable being. 82 And behold I say unto you, He changeth not; if so, he would cease to be God; and he ceaseth not to be God, and is a God of miracles. 83 And the reason why he ceaseth to do miracles among the children of men, is because that they dwindle in unbelief, and depart from the right way, and know not the God in whom they should trust. 84 Behold I say unto you, that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ, it shall be granted him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth.*

**Moroni 7:37** *And now my beloved brethren, if this be the case that these things are true which I have spoken unto you, and God will shew unto you with power and great glory at the last day, that they are true; and if they are true, hath the day of miracles ceased? 38 Or hath angels ceased to appear unto the children of men? 39 Or hath he withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? 40 Or will he, so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved?*

**Moroni 7:41** *Behold I say unto you, Nay, for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; 42 Wherefore if these things have ceased, wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain; for no man can be saved, according to the words of Christ, save they shall have faith in his name; 43 Wherefore, if these things have ceased, then has faith ceased also; and awful is the state of man; for they are as though there had been no redemption made. 44 But behold, my beloved brethren, I judge better things of you, for I judge that ye have faith in Christ because of your meekness; for if ye have not faith in him, then ye are not fit to be numbered among the people of his church.*

**Mormon 4:68** - *For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and for ever; and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing.*

**James 1:17** - *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

As we can see above, the Scriptures strongly teach an unchanging God and that miracles can be experienced today as was done in days of old. Some special miracles must depend on God's will such as the appointed time for the Book of Mormon to come forth. Other times we may seek miracles and it seems our prayers go unanswered, this may lead to the mistaken idea that there is nothing else we can do... however there are examples of God's will being influenced by our decisions. God had proclaimed the destruction of Nineveh but due to their sincere repentance God's will was to spare them. Sometimes a trial of faith is required and sometimes we meet the trial and other times not. This does not change the multitudes of scriptures like the ones above that teach an unchanging God. So why would anyone wish to deny the miracles of God?

**2Nephi 11:91** *Nevertheless they put down the power and miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves, their own wisdom, and their own learning, that they may get gain, and grind upon the face of the poor;*

That term "Grind upon the face of the poor" is a Hebraism denoting placing that person in bondage or slavery, these false leaders do this to gain power and glory, which offends God resulting in no miracles, so they must deny the existence of miracles to continue their craft.