

## **THE MIRACULOUS GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (2)**

### **Acts 8:14-22**

#### **Introduction:**

- 1. Miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit were given to the early church.**
  - a. They were necessary to reveal God's Word.**
  - b. They were necessary to accredit God's messengers.**
  - c. They were necessary to confirm the Word.**
  - d. Once the New Testament was revealed and confirmed, the need for miraculous gifts ceased.**
  
- 2. In this lesson we shall learn when the miraculous gifts ceased.**
  - a. There are no miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit today.**
  - b. Those who claim to work miracles are deceived or deceivers.**
  
- 3. How can we know miraculous gifts have ceased?**

#### **Discussion:**

- I. MIRACULOUS GIFTS WERE GIVEN BY THE LAYING ON OF THE APOSTLES' HANDS.**
  - A. One had to meet special qualifications to be an apostle (Acts 1:20-26).**
    - 1. A successor was chosen to replace Judas.**
    - 2. He had to be a witness of the resurrection of Christ.**
    - 3. A witness is one who has seen and heard (Acts 2:32).**
    - 4. The Lord appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus to qualify him to be an apostle (Acts 9:1-9; 22:14,15).**
  
  - B. The office of apostles belonged to the miraculous age of the church (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11).**
    - 1. A successor to Judas was chosen, but when James died, no successor was chosen (Acts 12:1,2).**
    - 2. Paul was "born out of due time" (1 Cor. 15:7-10).**
    - 3. The claim of Catholics, Mormons and Pentecostals to have apostles today is without Scriptural foundation (2 Cor. 11:13-15; Rev. 2:2).**
  
  - C. Peter and John came to Samaria to give miraculous gifts to the Christians (Acts 8:14-22).**
    - 1. Philip the evangelist had preached the Gospel there and many had obeyed (Acts 8:12,13).**
    - 2. Philip had had hands laid on him by the apostles in Jerusalem so he could work miracles (Acts 6:5,6; 8:5-7).**
    - 3. He was not an apostle so he could not give the ability to work miracles to others by the laying on of his hands.**

4. Simon saw the Spirit was given through the laying on of hands and wanted to buy this power (Acts 8:18,19).
5. Peter told him he had “neither part nor portion in this matter” (Acts 8:21).

**D. PAUL IMPARTED MIRACULOUS GIFTS BY THE LAYING ON OF HIS HANDS.**

1. He found twelve disciples in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-7).
  - a. He asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”
  - b. They had not even heard of the Holy Spirit.
  - c. They had received John’s baptism when it was no longer in effect.
  - d. Paul baptized them in the name of Jesus Christ.
  - e. He then laid hands on them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.
2. Paul longed to impart some spiritual gift on the saints in Rome (Rom. 1:11).
3. Paul had given Timothy a spiritual gift by the laying on of his hands (2 Tim. 1:6).

**E. There is no record of anyone except an apostle conferring miraculous gifts of the Spirit on others.**

1. There were no successors to the apostles after Mathias was chosen to replace Judas.
2. Miraculous gifts, of necessity, had to cease when the last apostle died and the last person died upon whom an apostle had laid hands.

**II. MIRACULOUS GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPRIT WERE TEMPORARY.**

**A. The largest block of teaching on miraculous gifts in the Bible is in chapters 12 to 14 of First Corinthians.**

1. The church at Corinth was abundantly endowed with such gifts (1 Cor. 1:7).
  - a. All gifts came from the same Spirit (1 Cor. 12:11).
  - b. These gifts were meant to be a sign of unity, but had become a source of disunity (1 Cor. 12:12-30).
2. Paul said there was a “more excellent way” than that of possessing gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:31).

**B. Love is the more excellent way (1 Cor. 13:1-13).**

1. Even if one could speak in the tongues of both men and angels, it would be worthless without love.
2. Even if one could prophesy, understand all mysteries,

possessed miraculous knowledge, and had miraculous faith, it was worth nothing without love.

- C. Love would never fail, but prophecies would fail, tongues would cease, and miraculous knowledge would vanish away.
- D. Miraculous gifts were only partial.
  - 1. No one had all of God's will in his possession such as each of us have in our New Testament.
  - 2. Each one had a different gift, which was to be shared for the good of all the church (1 Cor. 14:26).
- E. When "that which is perfect has come (the complete revelation), that which is in part (miraculous gifts) will be done away."
  - 1. The Greek phrase "that which is perfect" is "to telion."
    - a. It signifies that which is complete; i.e. the complete revelation of God's will (see Vine's Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words).
    - b. Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon says: "Brought to its end; finished; wanting nothing necessary to completeness; perfect."
  - 2. When the complete revelation of God was given in the written New Testament, the partial revelations through the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased.
  - 3. Paul used two illustrations to drive home this point.
    - a. A child (the infant church) puts away childish things (the miraculous gifts) when it becomes full-grown (has the complete revelation of God's will).
    - b. A reflection in a mirror is inferior to seeing face to face so partial gifts were inferior to the completed revelation of God's will (1 Cor. 13:12).

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. When one builds a tall building, a scaffold is necessary.
  - a. When the building is completed, the scaffold is removed.
  - b. When the church was being established, miraculous gifts were necessary.
  - c. When the complete New Testament was revealed, the miraculous gifts were taken away.
- 2. There can be no miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit today.
  - a. There are no living apostles to pass on the gifts by the laying on of their hands.

- b. When the New Testament was completed, the need for miraculous gifts ceased.**
- 3. God's revelation to man is complete.**
  - a. We have the perfect (complete) law of liberty (Jam. 1:25).**
  - b. God has given us "all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by glory and virtue" (2 Pet. 1:3).**
  - c. We must "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the faith" (Jude 3).**
- 4. The Word tells us how to be saved (Acts 8:12).**