

# THE DESIGN AND END OF MIRACLES

Bill Boyd

Miracles have ceased. No one living today has seen a real one. However, the miracles we read about in the Bible were real. The magicians, sorcerers, and other professional tricksters knew it (Exodus 8:18-19; Acts 8:18-24; Acts 19:11-20). The unbelievers did not deny it (Matt. 12:24; John 9:24-34; Acts 4:16). These miracles were not subtle. Moses lifted his rod and the sea divided. Elijah called down fire from heaven. Jesus raised the dead. No one does anything like that anymore.

Miracles ceased because their purpose was accomplished. The revelations of Moses and the prophets, and of Christ and the apostles, were accompanied by confirming miracles (Exodus 4:8; Psalm 78:10-12; Matt. 11:4-5; Heb. 2:3-4). When the revelation was complete, the miracles ceased. No one is doing miracles today because no one is receiving new revelations. If they were, we would need to write down what they were revealing and add it to our Bible, but we are not doing that, because they are not doing that, and there is no need for that.

Miracles ceased because the Holy Spirit said they would cease. The church at Corinth came behind in no spiritual gift (1 Cor. 1:5-7), but spiritual gifts did not make the Corinthians spiritual; they were still carnal (1 Cor. 3:1). Paul wrote three chapters teaching them how to behave with spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12,13,14). The misbehavior of the carnal Corinthians in the use of their gifts puts Paul's chapter on love in context (1 Cor. 13). Paul told them their gifts would cease (1 Cor. 13:8-10), and that they needed to grow up and be ready to put away childish things (1 Cor. 13:11).

Paul wrote in a similar manner to the Ephesians. He told how Christ gave gifts unto men to edify the church as apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors and teachers (Eph. 4:7-11). He also told them that these extraordinary gifts would only continue, "till we all come to the unity of the faith..." (Eph. 4:12). That does not mean until they all had one faith. They already had one faith (Eph. 4:5). This is talking about the complete revelation of the faith (the Bible), "...and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:12). Just as he wrote to the church at Corinth, so also he told the saints in Ephesus that they would be "no more children... but speaking the truth in love they would grow up into all things... making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:14-16). There again is Paul's expectation of maturity and his emphasis on love.

Miracles ceased because the manner in which these gifts were imparted ceased. The power to perform miracles came directly from God until the day of Pentecost, from that time these gifts were imparted through the laying on of the apostle's hands (Acts 8:14-18; Acts 19:6; Rom. 1:11). Cornelius was an exception, for the Jews were astonished that on the Gentiles was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit as on the apostles at the beginning (Acts 10:44-46; Acts 11:15-17). Paul was another exception (1 Cor. 15:8). The exceptions proved the rule. All others who received miraculous gifts since Pentecost received them through the laying on of the apostle's hands (Acts 8:17-18). All these have long since tasted death. No man living today can impart these gifts, and no one does real miracles anymore.

Believing in miracles will not make them happen. Fasting and prayer will not bring them back. It is not a matter of sincerity of belief or of intensity of desire; real miracles do not happen today. Saying that does not "limit God's power." God still has the power, and he has power over his power. God's power is not limited to miracles. He has the power to intervene in ways beyond our understanding. When we sing about how God moves in a mysterious way, and how his unseen hand is in it all, we are singing the truth. "With God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26), with or without miracles.

Miracles ceased because we do not need them. We need the "word" the miracles confirmed. Some trust in personal experiences, subjective feelings, and imaginary miracles, but "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). The Pharisees saw real miracles, still, they asked Jesus for a sign from heaven. We do not need more miracles or another sign from heaven to "receive with meekness the engrafted word" (James 1:21). The word given by the inspiration of God makes the man of God "perfect, throughly furnished unto every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Hear it again... "His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:3). Miracles have ceased, but "the word of the Lord abideth forever" (1 Peter 1:25). (seektheoldpaths.com)

**Braggs church of Christ Bulletin**  
**May 2, 2021**

**Sick & Shut-in**

Bennett, Norma  
Brashear, Logan  
Bunch, Margaret  
Cunningham, Jerry  
Evans, Carla  
Evans, Steve  
Hall, Donna  
Horn, Bobby  
Isbell, Bill  
Isbell, Thomas  
Moore, Jean  
Moore, Roger  
Mouse, Tyler  
Nunez, Bob  
Prichard, Barbara  
Prichard, Bobby  
Prichard, Paula  
Sturgeon, Wayne  
Sullins, Ray  
West, Dawn

**Evangelism**

Cliff Lyons, Ilya Muzychenko and Markov Roman, Russia  
Ricky Gootam, India  
House to House/Heart to Heart  
Website - Braggschurchofchrist.com  
Facebook.com@braggscc  
In Search of The Lord's Way- Tulsa, OK, on  
KQCW TV 19 - Sun 7:30 am

**Attendance**

April average - 41  
Attendance last Sunday - 41

Scripture Reading – Prov. 3:10-12

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**News & Notes**

Gospel Meeting with Allen Webster - July 25-27, 2021

Meeting advertisement handouts are on the table in the back.

There will be a wiener roast at Randy and Jennifer's on May 8, 2021 - Starts at 5:00 p.m.

Please remember Bobbie Steele and Opal Ward who have ongoing health issues.