

RETURN TO THE BIBLE - MIRACLES

Robert Stapleton

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are many who claim to be able to perform miracles, as did Christ and His Apostles.
 - A. Some go so far as to say that any Christian can have such powers if he had faith enough.
2. The purpose of this lesson is not to discuss whether God will hear our prayers on behalf of the sick.
 - A. Instead, we want to see from the Scriptures the real purpose of miracles.
 - B. And to show the difference between miracles recorded in the Bible, and so-called miracles of today.

BODY:

1. **THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES IN ALL DISPENSATIONS WAS TO CONFIRM THE WORD OF GOD:**
 - A. The O.T. days of miracles proved God's message to be true - Ex. 4:1-9, 14-31.
 - B. Jesus declared that His miracles were for that purpose - Mk. 2:10, 11; Jhn. 4:48.
 1. Jesus even used them to prove that he was the Son of God - Lk. 7:10-22.
 - C. John stated that the miracles of Jesus proved His deity - Jhn. 20:30, 31.
 - D. Apostolic practice bears this out - Acts 2:43; 5:12-16; 1 Cor. 14:22; Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:3, 4.
 - E. Examples where miracles give faith to those who beheld them serve to illustrate this truth- Act 8:5-8, 12, 13; 9:32-35, 40-42; 13:11, 12; 14:8-11; 19:11-17; 28:1-6.
2. **THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MIRACLES RECORDED IN THE N. T., THOSE PERFORMED BY SPIRIT EMPOWERED MEN, AND THE SO-CALLED MIRACLES OF TODAY:**
 - A. See the following examples - Mt. 9:18-22; Acts 3:1-10; 9:32-35; 28:1-6.
 - B. Consider these indisputable facts:
 1. These miracles were complete - not partial.
 2. They were so startling that people were "amazed" and marveled."
 3. Those healed were well known, no chance of mistake.
 4. They were instantaneous - not on the installment plan.
 5. Some were healed who did not expect such.
 6. Miracles were performed in spite of "no faith" and "much doubt."
 7. They caused the people to believe in the message and that God was speaking through the messenger.
 8. There were no failures.
 9. The one healed was not always present.
3. **SOME SUGGESTIONS IN REGARDS TO PRESENT DAY CLAIMS:**
 - A. Watch the works of so-called miracle workers and see if their claims are true.
 - B. Examine their claims that the word must be continued by signs - Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:3, 4.

1. But does this mean that "signs" etc., must continue through the centuries in order to confirm the word? - No!
 - A. Proof – Lk. 7:19-22.
2. A thing once confirmed is forever settled - Heb. 6:16, 17; Gal. 3:17.
- C. Time must be considered.
 1. During Apostolic times the word was in the man, and it had to be confirmed by signs.
 2. Now, the word is in the Book, and the signs, which confirmed it, are recorded there.
 - A. All that is needed to prove the message is in the Book.
- D. If these so-called miracle workers had the baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit as they claim, they would not need the Bible.
 1. They could write one.