

**RETURN TO THE BIBLE - THE TERMINATION OF MIRACLES**  
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**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The question at hand is not did the miracles as recorded in the Bible actually happen.  
A. We all believe and teach they did exist.
2. The real question is, were they given to serve a general or special purpose?  
A. And, were they temporary or perpetual?
3. That these measures were to cease is evident from the following facts.

**BODY:**

**1. THEY WERE OF PROMISE, AND WERE NEVER GIVEN ON THE GROUNDS OF PRAYER OR WORKS:**

- A. See Joel 2:28-32; Mt. 3:11, 12; Jhn. 14:16, 26; 16:7-15; Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:5.
1. Note that prayer and works as a means of receiving the Holy Spirit are not once mentioned in these passages.

**2. WHO WAS/IS INCLUDED IN THE PROMISES?:**

- A. See Joel 2:28-32 - note, "all flesh."
1. But this does not include all flesh of all ages - 1 Cor. 15:39; Jhn. 14:17.
  2. Not all Christians even in the apostolic age received the miraculous measures of the Holy Spirit. - Acts 8:14-17; Rom. 1:11.
- B. See Mt. 3:11, 12.
1. Note that this does not include all Christians.
  2. The same thing is true also of John 14:16, 26; 16:7-15; Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:5.  
A. Only the Apostles were promised such.
- C. See Mk. 16:17, 18.
1. Note verse 14 and see who Jesus "upbraided for their unbelief and hardness of heart."
  2. The promise of miraculous powers in verses 17 and 18 cannot be extended beyond, nor made to include more than those addressed, and to whom Jesus gave the commission in verses 15, 16.  
A. Verses 19, 20 and Heb. 2:3, 4 also show the fulfillment of this promise.
- D. See Acts 2:38, 39.
1. There is nothing in this text that would indicate that miraculous powers were under consideration.
  2. But even if it did, then it would not include all Christians of all ages.  
A. This is so due to the fact that it did not even include all Christians of that Age - Acts 8:14-17; Rom. 1:11.

**3. NOTE THAT JOEL STATED AND SPECIFIED A TIME FOR THE FULFILMENT:**

- A. "Last Days" - Note two other places where the same phrase occurs - Isa. 2:1-4; Micah 3:9-12; 4:1, 2.
1. From these passages we see that it is evident that the phrase "Last Days" refers to the last days of Israel and included:

- A. The destruction of Jerusalem – A.D. 70.
    - B. The end of the Jewish religion.
    - C. The end of the Jewish nation.
      - 1. All of which ended within 40 years of Pentecost in Acts 2.
  - 2. The promise was to be fulfilled within that time frame, and it was.
  - 3. Actually, the Bible contains no promise of the Holy Spirit, in these special measures, being given to all Christians.
    - A. The promises were special, not general.
    - B. They were temporary, not permanent.
- 4. CONSIDER TWO OTHER PASSAGES BEARING UPON THE SUBJECT:**
- A. Eph. 4:5 - "one baptism."
    - 1. The baptism common to every conversion recorded in the Book of Acts is not the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
      - A. Instead, it is the baptism of the Great Commission, which is baptism in water into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit for the remission of sins - Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38.
    - 2. There are possibly two, and only two, cases of Holy Spirit Baptism on record.
      - A. However, there are many cases where people were baptized in water.
    - 3. No one can consistently hold to both - the N. T. says there is "one baptism."
  - B. 1 Cor. 13:8-12.
    - 1. Note what is said of "tongues," "knowledge," and "prophecy."
    - 2. Also note the use of the words, "part," which means "partial," "incomplete," etc.; and "perfect," meaning "complete," or "whole."
- 5. NOTE WHAT THEIR PURPOSE WAS AND HOW IT WAS FULFILLED:**
- A. The baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles was for a three-fold purpose:
    - 1. To reveal the gospel.
    - 2. That spiritual gifts might be imparted to others.
    - 3. To confirm the message.
      - A. The same can be said of the nine special gifts - 1 Cor. 12:4-11.
  - B. These things were all fulfilled in the days of the Apostles - at least by the close of the first century with the death of John.
    - 1. Therefore, there is no need for these special powers today.
  - C. The possible baptismal measure upon the Gentiles was for a different purpose as set forth in Acts 10:47; 11:1-18.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. With this evidence before us we must conclude that there is no such things as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the nine special gifts in effect today.
  - A. It is not blasphemy, nor disrespect, to teach and contend for the truth.