

Why I am a member of the church of Christ pt. 9
Because it teaches miraculous gifts have ceased.
1 Cor 13:8-10
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how we know miraculous gifts have ceased today.

Intro:

1. Do men (or women) today have the ability to perform miracles, such as: healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out demons, etc.
2. A study of the subject is needed:
 - A. Because of the claims of various religious groups.
 - B. Because of the confusion caused by these claims.
 - C. To understand what the bible teaches on the subject.
 - D. To better equip us to test the claims in light of scripture.
3. If the Bible teaches that miraculous gifts continue through the present age we must accept it, if not we must reject and oppose the claims.
- 4. Tonight we will consider: (ON PPT)**
 - A. What are miracles.**
 - B. The purpose of miracles.**
 - C. The duration of miracles.**

I. What is a miracle?

- A. What some consider a miracle
 1. Many consider a miracle as anything that cannot be explained.
 2. A surprising turn of events or sudden reversal of a situation or condition.
- B. Miracle defined in Biblical terms.
 1. "A sign consisting of a wonder or miracle, an event that is contrary to the usual course of nature".
 2. " an unusual occurrence transcending the common course of nature". (Thayer)
 3. "Power, inherent ability, is used of works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means." (Vines Vol. 3, page 75)

II. The Purpose of Miracles.

- A. To reveal all truth (**John 14:26**)
 1. The Holy Spirit would continue teaching the commands of God through the Apostles.
 - a. **John 16:12-15**
- B. To bring to remembrance (**John 14:26**)
 1. Naturally God desired for man to be reminded of things that had already been taught.
 2. **2 Timothy 2:14**
- C. To confirm the truth.
 1. "Confirm", "to make firm, establish, make secure", (Vines vol 1, page 226).
 - a. **Mark 16:17-20**
 - b. **Heb 2:3**
- D. Who had the ability to perform miracles?
 1. The Apostles (**Acts 2:1-4**)

2. Those whom the apostles laid their hands on to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
(Acts 8:18)

III. The duration of miracles.

A. Were miracles intended to be permanent or temporary? Were they to endure throughout the Christian era?

1. Gifts to cease. (1 Cor 13:8)

a. "prophecies they shall fail".

(1) "**Fail**" "*to render idle, unemployed, inactive, inoperative, to cause to cease, put to an end, to do away with, annul, abolish*". (Thayer page 336)

(2) it is significant that they would be made to cease.

b. "Tongues, they shall cease.

(1) "**cease**" "*to cease, leave off*".

(2) The idea is that tongues would cease on their own.

c. "Knowledge it shall vanish away".

(1) "**Vanish away**" "*To cease, pass away, be done away*".

(2) The idea is that knowledge will be made to cease as with the prophecies.

2. "**Perfect**" "*brought to its end, finish, wanting nothing necessary to completeness; perfect: full grown, adult; of full age, mature*". (Thayer page 618)

(1) "**Signifies having reached its end, finished, complete, perfect**.

(a) God's perfect revelation has come. 2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3

B. What others have said and implied

1. Some have said that the church of Christ teaches and believes that the Holy Spirit is "dead" that it suddenly stopped working after the time of the apostles.

a. Such a statement implies that the Holy Spirit must be "dead" if its not working in a miraculous sense.

2. Such statements also reveal their teachings and feelings about faith, and how many have their faith based only on the miraculous.

1. Without miraculous acts of the Spirit they cannot believe in God.

2. **Mark 8:11-12**

Concl:

1. The miraculous gifts and miracles have ceased. Why? Because it was God's plan for them to come to an end.

2. Full Invitation