

The Wonders of the Holy Spirit

Healings and Tongues

Lecture 11

Why are so many people seeking miracles today?

Revision of Spiritual Gifts

1. Gifts are given to every believer, regardless of maturity or spirituality.
2. Spiritual gifts are first of all functions, not offices.
3. Every spiritual gift is multi-faceted in application.

Miracles and Healings are Apostolic

What is a miracle?

1. The specific record of the exercise of these gifts is always associated with the apostles, and it quickly declined after Pentecost.

Miracles

(Acts 12:5, 7; 28.3)

Healings

Follow the geographical expanse of the gospel (Acts 1.8).

Are the apostles attached to these incidences of healing?

Lame Beggar in Jerusalem

(Acts 3:6-8; 4.14, 22)

Multitudes from Judea

(Acts 5:14-16)

Many in Samaria

(Acts 8:5, 7, 14)

Coastal Judea

(Acts 9:32-35)

Gentiles in Asia Minor

(Acts 14:8-10)

Gentiles in Malta (enroute to Rome)

(Acts 28:8-9)

What is unique about the only place in the Pauline epistles where miracles and healings are mentioned (1 Cor 12.29-30)?

2. One of the earliest epistles speaks of healing – but not at the hands of faith healers.
What is unique about the mention of healing in James 5:14?

What, then, was the purpose of healings and miracles (John 20.30-31)?

Tongues

In how many books of the Bible are tongues mentioned?

Definition

What are “tongues” (Acts 2.4-6)

Are there “tongues of angels” (1 Cor 13.1-3)?

Practice

Is the way tongues are practised today the same as how they were practised in the early church?

1. Tongues were a sign for unbelievers (1 Cor 14.22; cf Gen 11.9; Is 28.11-12; Jer 5.15; Joel 2.28ff; 1 Cor 14.21)
2. Tongues were to be used for edification in the church (1 Cor 14.26)
3. No more than three people were to speak in tongues during a service, and each must speak in turn (1 Cor 14.27)
4. No speaking in tongues unless someone interprets (1 Cor 14.28)
5. Confusion or disorder was an indication that God was not supplying the tongues (1 Cor 14.33)
6. Women were to keep silent (1 Cor 14.34)
7. Prophecy was of greater value to the edification of the church than tongues (1 Cor 14.39)

Conclusion

How can we be sure God is not gifting miracle workers and faith healers today? Because . . .

The Kingdom has not come

What will the kingdom be like? Is it like that now?

Miracles were signs; not the new world order

Bodily health is nowhere promised

(2 Cor 4:16; Rom 8.23; 2 Cor 12.7-10)

The apostolic age ended when the New Testament was completed.

The preponderance of evidence points toward miracles ceasing