

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About...

The Age of Miracles

We will first define the scriptural meaning of a "miracle". It is a "supernatural" event that does not act in accord with natural law, but even contradicts the laws of nature. Jesus healed the sick "completely and instantaneously," contrary to laws of medicine and nature. Miraculous powers were also given to the apostles, (Luke 24: 49; Acts 5:12-16). The apostle Paul wrote, "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good," (1 Cor. 12:7). He later explained the nine gifts that were given by the Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophesy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. These were all "gifts" which were not acquired through natural means, but given directly by the Holy Spirit. Today, we acquire wisdom, knowledge, by hearing and studying the word of God, (Romans 10:17).

The apostles, and other inspired people of the early church, did not have the complete New Testament scriptures. The gift of prophesy enabled one at that time to speak "from God" as the apostles did on the day of Pentecost when they "spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance," (Acts 2:4). The apostles "went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by signs that followed," (Mark 16:20). That clearly shows the purpose of those miraculous gifts was to deliver the complete word of God and to confirm it by miracles, (Hebrews 2:4).

God's word clearly tells us that these "miracles" would cease. "if there are gifts of prophesy they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away," (1 Cor. 13:8). Paul also wrote that each "gift" was a "part" and when the perfect was to come, the "parts" were to cease (1 Cor. 13:9-10). The expression "the perfect" is from the Greek "to telion" which means: "complete, full-grown, fully developed." So, when the revelation of God's word was completed, and confirmed, then the "parts" were done away. Some contend that these "gifts of the Spirit" are to continue until Christ comes, believing, in error, that "the perfect" is Christ. The word of God is the "perfect law, the law of liberty", a spiritual mirror into which we look to see our spiritual condition as God reveals it in His word (James 1:22-25). Because we have the complete written word of God today we no longer need those "parts" which confirmed the word of God. So the miraculous gifts have ceased, which include ALL of the miracles which include healing, raising the dead, etc. Because we have the complete written word of God there is no need for these miracles.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:

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