

A Book Study

Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?

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This study looks at how people perceive the Holy Spirit is moving in Churches today

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Agenda

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What is the #1 Question To Ask a Continuationist or a Cessationist?
“Do we still have Apostles today?”

Purpose of This Study

- ❑ We will use Grudem & Gundry's book "*Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?*" to explore the 4 major viewpoints on how people see the Holy Spirit working in Churches today. These views are:
 1. **The Cessationist View** (God has stopped working supernatural miracles, and now works providentially)
 2. **An Open But Cautious View** (Common view among most evangelicals that supernatural miracles exist, but are rare)
 3. **A Third Wave View** (Common view among Vineyard-type Churches, which believe in a single filling of the Holy Spirit)
 4. **A Pentecostal/Charismatic View** (Common view among Full Gospel-type churches, which believe in subsequent fillings)
- ❑ *The ultimate goal is to discern God's will for effective praying*
- ❑ *We also will be equipped to better articulate our position and better able to witness to those of a differing view point*

By nature, God is outside of nature so working supernatural and providential miracles is natural for Him – but He always restricts Himself to His Word. Otherwise we would not be able to “discern the spirits” and “prove all things”.

Opening Statements and Questions

- ❑ Many of our doctrines are built on logical assumptions and not on explicit Biblical data
- ❑ Examples:
 - We logically assume demons are fallen angels
 - Do babies automatically go to Heaven if they die?
 - What is the proper mode of Baptism?
 - Even the doctrine of the Trinity is based on logical assumptions instead of explicit teachings from Scripture
- ❑ Therefore, we need to identify our assumptions to define some doctrines
- ❑ When defining the miraculous we need to identify our assumptions and terminology, and then determine if what occurred during the Apostolic age continues today and even to what degree

But First Things First – What Authoritative Source(s) Gives us Sound Doctrine and Enables Us to Determine Truth?

Yes
No
Maybe
Don't Know

- | Yes | No | Maybe | Don't Know | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Is it the Word of God? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Is it our own experiences? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Is it someone else's experiences? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Is it church tradition? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Is it a combination of some or all of the above? |

Answer to our Sole Authoritative Source

- ❑ If the Bible and the Bible alone is not our sole authoritative source for spiritual truth then there is no way we can prove what is true
- ❑ If we rely on “church tradition” – which church?
- ❑ If we rely on someone’s experiences, who’s experiences are truly reliable and authoritative, & how can we tell?
- ❑ If we rely on our own experiences, then what makes our experiences authoritative on the same level or even exceeding the authority of God’s word?

When someone says “God gave me a ‘word’ or a ‘dream’ or a ‘revelation’ – How do you prove it to be of God? YOU CAN’T – AND THEY CAN’T.
You have to go on blind faith and take their word for it – Which is unbiblical

Quick Test

Yes No Maybe Don't Know

- | Yes | No | Maybe | Don't Know | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Do supernatural miracles occur today? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Do providential miracles occur today? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Do Biblical Tongues exist today? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Are, or Were, Tongues an angelic language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Are, or Were, Tongues known human languages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Are, or Were, Tongues unintelligible gibberish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Do all gifts of the Holy Spirit exist today? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Do some gifts of the Holy Spirit exist today? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Have all gifts of the Holy Spirit passed away? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Do we have Apostles, like Paul, around today? |

Retake the test at the end of the course and see if any positions changed

Definitions

- ❑ **Gifts**: Something received at a specific moment in time (e.g., moment of salvation, anointing or re-filling) which is fully developed and ready for immediate use at the discretion of the recipient (e.g. tongues, prophecies, etc.)
- ❑ **Miracles**
 - **Supernatural**: A spontaneous event that breaks known natural laws (e.g., walking on water, creating and restoring a missing body part, raising the dead after burial or embalming)
 - **Providential/Subjective**: God works within His created natural laws to maneuver people, events, and circumstances to answer prayers and accomplish His will while maintaining an orderly world and not forcing skeptics to believe (e.g., finding a job or a spouse; healing through time and medicine, or changing the weather for D-Day)
 - **Demonic/Satanic Miracles**: Deceptive wonders God allows Satan & his minions to perform
- ❑ **Powers**: Source of event or authority (e.g., God or Satan)
- ❑ **Prophecy**: The foretelling of events or forth telling of the Gospel, depending on context
- ❑ **Psychosomatic Healing**: A person's own mental state affects their health (e.g., someone in a wheel-chair walks when a 'mental block' is removed through trickery or persuasion; or a cancer patient is healed when their disposition changes to a cheery one)
- ❑ **Signs**: A term which groups miracles, healings, tongues, prophecies, & other phenomena to point to a specific purpose, person, or prophetic event
- ❑ **Talents**: A skill or capability which is developed over time
- ❑ **Tongues**: Ability to speak or hear in a language unlearned by the speaker/hearer. Whether biblical tongues are known human languages, angelic languages, or unintelligible gibberish is still debatable
- ❑ **Wonders**: Attention grabbers, often used with Signs (e.g., feeding 5000+)
- ❑ **Word of Knowledge/Wisdom**: [Definition and distinction is uncertain and still debatable]

Supernatural vs. Natural

- When studying the supernatural in the Bible, we see three possibilities:
 1. Perhaps God used a known natural law, principle, or material to accomplish an unusual result. For example, God used wind to drive back the water of the Red Sea
 2. Perhaps God used a law of nature that has not yet been discovered or is simply beyond human understanding. For example, man living nearly 1000 years
 3. Perhaps what happened cannot be described by any natural law because God chose to act in an unusual and non-repeatable way. For example, walking on water

We Know What the Bible Says...

□ ...But What Does it Mean

- Mark 16:16 *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved..."* [Does this mean one needs to be baptized to be saved?]
- Luke 10:19 *"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."*
- John 10:10 *"...I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*
- John 14:12 *"...he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; & greater works than these he will do..."*
- 1Corinthians 15:29 *Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead?* [over 60 interpretations]
- 1Timothy 2:15 *"But women will be saved through childbearing..."*

#1 Rule of Hermeneutics: "A text without a context is a pretext for a proof text." IOW, the Bible can be used to develop any conceivable doctrine imaginable from Limbo to space aliens. Therefore, we must consider the context, the culture, the grammatical structure, and the whole counsel of God to determine the author's intended meaning and possible applications.

Misuse of Scripture within Scripture

- ❑ Any time Satan or an opponent of Jesus quoted Scripture it was never misquoted – it was either misapplied or they failed to consider proper hermeneutics
 - **Genesis 3:1** [Satan] said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"
 - **Mark 4:6-7** [Satan] said to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" And Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" "
 - **Mark 12:26-27** "But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you [Sadducees] not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, and the God of Jacob'? "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken."

How Should We Respond?

- ❑ So how should we biblically respond to someone who works a miracle, which seems to prove their doctrine?
 - Catholics, P/C's, Muslims, Mormons, Buddhists, Hindus, Spiritists, Christian Scientists, Atheists, Satanists, witch doctors, and hypnotists all proclaim to work miracles
 - Remember, even non-believers doomed for Hell can work miracles (Matthew 7:22-23 & Judas)
 - Satan can quote Scripture correctly, and he can appear as an “angel of light” to deceive (2Cor 11:14)
 - ...and even demons can tell the truth and render praise to God (Luke 4:41)
- ❑ We are still obligated to prove all things (1Thes 5:21)
- ❑ ...and we must prove all things in light of Scripture, not after someone's experiences or prophecies

“Miracles should not carry the doctrine, but the doctrine the miracles” – B. B. Warfield

Can We Know Sound Doctrine?

- Can we know sound doctrine? Yes | No | DK
- Can we know ALL doctrine? Yes | No | DK
- What is the source of Sound Doctrine?
 - a) God's Word?
 - b) Experiences?
 - c) Both?
- How do we discern Sound Doctrine?
 - a) God's Word?
 - b) Emotions?
 - c) Experiences?
 - d) All the above?



The Secret Things Belong Unto God....Deuteronomy 29:29

Who are the Most Vulnerable to False Teachings on Healings and Miracles?

- A. The youth (or the unlearned)?
- B. The emotionally crippled?
- C. The physically handicapped?
- D. All the above?

Who said this:

“He who owns the youth, gains the future!”

- Winston Churchill
- Abraham Lincoln
- Barak Obama
- Adolf Hitler

The Purpose of Knowing and Teaching Sound Doctrine

1. Reach our maximum potential for God (2Tim 3:16-17)
2. The truth makes us free to accomplish God's will (John 8:32)
3. Save ourselves and others from deception (1Tim 4:16, Titus 1:9)
4. Discern what is true in order to be pure and blameless (Phil 1:10)

Why Stir the Mud?

1. If supernatural Healings, Miracles , Prophecies, and Gifts of the Holy Spirit are still possible today then non-Charismatic churches need to teach and exercise them to reap the full benefits of God's grace
2. If supernatural Healings, Miracles, Prophecies and Gifts of the Holy Spirit have passed away, then Charismatic-type churches need to cease and desist teaching and working false miracles so they can reap the full benefits of God's grace
3. If we do not resolve this issue, then confusion reigns within and without the Church; though salvation is not impacted, and we can still fellowship with "most" churches which differ from us on these issues

"...give attention to Scripture reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (1Timothy 4:13)

Main Arguments Today

Some Believe...

1. Miracles are the same today as those in the Gospels & Acts
2. Only providential miracles occur today – no supernatural miracles
3. There are no miracles (supernatural or providential) today
4. All Gifts of the Holy Spirit are available today
5. Only the sign and word gifts (i.e., Prophecies, Healings, Miracles, Tongues, Word of Knowledge) have passed away
6. All gifts are obsolete today

Now, which arguments are correct, and how can we tell?

The Roles of Emotions and Experiences in Discerning Truth

❑ Emotions

- Our emotions are God-given, but like our intellect, they are sin-tainted
- Emotions are indicators like an oil light on the car dash – do we have a problem or not?
- “Be angry and sin not” – Emotions should not lead or confirm our decision process
 - ❑ Example – We may not feel like loving someone, but we are biblically commanded to love them

❑ Experiences

- With 7B people in the world, whose experiences would you trust for eternal truth?
- Jesus said:
 - ❑ Do not deceive yourself
 - ❑ Be not deceived by Satan
 - ❑ Be not deceived by anyone
- Peter said: “...*no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation*” – IOW, not based on subjective personal experiences, but on objective and substantiated facts

Our emotions and experiences are indicators, but they could be false indicators. Our decision process should be led by our intellect, which should be Bible-based.

More on Emotions

- ❑ “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would **ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true**; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, **he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost**. Moroni 10:4, Book of Mormon
- ❑ Mormons, like Pentecostals and Charismatics also believe in receiving “feelings” from the Spirit of God to confirm their beliefs
- ❑ Mormons also speak in tongues and can testify to healings and miracles just like Pentecostals/Charismatics
- ❑ **Worshiping God in Spirit and Truth**
 - Some believe worshiping God in the Spirit involves the emotions and/or speaking in tongues
 - A better interpretation of worshiping God in Spirit involves being holy as He is holy, and being righteous & just, which are the foundation of His throne (Psalms 89:14)
 - Couple His imputed holiness along with the truth of sound doctrine, then we are able to worship God as He desires

John 4:23-24 “...But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth..”

More on Experiences

- ❑ Ps 34:8 O *taste and see* that the LORD is good;
- ❑ Heb 6:4-6 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have *tasted of the heavenly gift* and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have *tasted the good word of God* and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, ...
- ❑ 1Pe 2:3 ...if you *have tasted the kindness of the Lord* (aka salvation)
- ❑ Experiences are a major element of our faith
- ❑ Every answered prayer is an experience from God
- ❑ To be disciplined by God is also an experience
- ❑ These experiences help us stay true and grow
- ❑ BUT good experiences can also be from Satan since he appears as an angel of light to deceive
- ❑ ...discern all things...

John 20:29 Jesus said to Thomas [who sought for an experience with Jesus before he would believe], "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

The Baptist Faith & Message & The Function of the Holy Spirit

I. THE SCRIPTURES

II. GOD

A. God the Father

B. God the Son

C. God the Holy Spirit

- ❑ **The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine.** He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. **He exalts Christ.** He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. **At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ.** He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, **and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through his church.** He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. **He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.**

NOTE: God the Father, The Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ all have unique roles with the Church's Gifts

- ❑ **The Holy Spirit chooses who gets what gifts when (1Corinthians 12:1-11)**
 - Diversities of gifts -What and which gifts
 - Differences of administration -Who, when & where
 - Diversities of operations -How the gifts are used
 - Selective Distribution - According to His will
- ❑ **Jesus Christ baptizes us with the Holy Spirit into His body, the Church (1Corinthians 12:13)**
- ❑ **God chooses the talents/skills/gifts each church has (1Corinthians 12:18)**

The Southern Baptist stance on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is open for interpretation since the gifts are left undefined in their Faith and Message statement

Should We Mirror the Church of Acts?

- ❑ One of the key arguments from Pentecostals/Charismatics and 3rd Wavers is that the New Testament Church should mirror the early Church as found in Acts in all aspects, to include:
 - Working of Supernatural Miracles
 - Continuance of Visions and Dreams
 - ...and the Continuance of all Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- ❑ BUT, do Apostles still exist today?
 - Do we still have Apostles, men like Peter and Paul, today?
 - If true Apostles still exist, then the Bible should still be growing, since they could easily pen and confirm Scripture
 - If Apostles have truly ceased, we have to acknowledge certain other events in Acts will be unrepeatable in subsequent generations
- ❑ Note: Most Pentecostals/Charismatics/3rd Wavers acknowledge that true Apostles have ceased and the miracles of today are not the same as they were back then, though they still believe all gifts of the Holy Spirit are available for the Church today

No where does Scripture explicitly say that Apostles have ceased or will cease – But most churches agree based on the whole counsel of God that Apostles have indeed ceased

Prove All Things...

- ❑ To discern whether or not certain “miraculous” events are of God or of Satan or of Self or of Nature we must do some due diligence
- ❑ We must be like the Bereans who searched the Scriptures daily
- ❑ If an event lacks credibility we are not obligated to believe that it came from God
- ❑ Recall that most miracles of Jesus and His Apostles and Disciples were available for all to examine closely – they were not subjective
 - *John 9:18-19 The Jews did not believe the blind man, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?"*
 - *Acts 4:16 ...a noteworthy miracle [of a lame man] has taken place through these men is apparent to ALL who live in Jerusalem, and we [the skeptical Pharisees & Sadducees] cannot deny it*

“Prove all things, hold fast to that which is true” 1Thessalonians 5:21

Why Doesn't God Give People More Compelling Evidence?

- ❑ God only wants people in Heaven who want to be there, and He gives people convincing evidence, but not always compelling evidence – less they be forced to believe
- ❑ Jesus' supernatural miracles and those of His Apostles and early disciples were a temporal sign to Jesus' divinity and the Gospel's authenticity
- ❑ Jesus spoke in parables “lest at any time they should see, hear, understand and should be converted” – IOW, be forced to believe
- ❑ Jesus only appeared to believers following His resurrection and not to Pilate, Herod, or to the Pharisees, Sadducees, or soldiers
- ❑ While Providential/Subjective miracles still happen today, and since they do not break any known laws of nature, skeptics are free to claim coincidence or circumstantial
- ❑ But when the 2 witnesses of Revelations 11 come on the world's stage, supernatural miracles will once more be used as a compelling sign to the soon return of the Messiah and pending judgment

For a natural perspective on miracles which occurred during the Exodus see History Channel's “The Exodus Decoded”

Lesson 2: Overview of Healings and Miracles – Supernatural vs. Providential

- ❖ New Testament Miracles/Healings
- ❖ Jesus Heals the Crowds
- ❖ A Note on Resurrections
- ❖ Miracles & Healings in Acts
- ❖ Healings within the Epistles
- ❖ New Testament Change Up
- ❖ What Changed After Acts?
- ❖ Miracles in the Epistles
- ❖ Healings and Miracles in Revelation
- ❖ Do We Have Contradictions?

New Testament Healings & Miracles

Jesus' Healings

1. Nobleman's son (Jn 4:46)
2. Peter's mother-in-law healed (Matt 8:14; Mk 1:31, Luke 4:38)
3. Paralytic (Matt 9:2; Mk 2:3; Lk 5:18)
4. Impotent man healed (Jn 5:5)
5. Withered hand (Mt 12:10; Mk 3:1; Lk 6:6)
6. Centurions' servant (Mt 8:5; Lk 7:2)
7. A lunatic child (Mt 17:14; Mk 9:26; Lk 9:37)
8. Issue of Blood (Matt 9:20; Mk 5:25; Lk 8:43)
9. The daughter of Syro-Phoenician (Mt 15:22; Mk 7:25)
10. Deaf and dumb healed (Mk 7:33)
11. Cleansing the leper (Mt 8:3; Mk 1:41; Lk 5:13)
12. Ten lepers (Lk 17:12)
13. Heals the woman with the spirit of infirmity(Lk 13:11)
14. Man with dropsy (Lk 14:2)
15. Malchus healed (Lk 22:51)
16. Blind men (Mt 9:27)
17. Blind men (Mt 20:30; Mk 10:46)
18. Blind man (Mk 8:23)
19. Blind man (Jn 9:1)
20. Demoniac in the synagogue (Mk, 1:26; Lk 4:35)
21. Demoniac (Mt 12:22; Lk 7:11)
22. Demoniac (Mt 9:32)
23. Raising of Jarius' daughter (Mt 9:18; Mk 5: 42; Lk 8:41)
24. Raising the widow's son (Lk 7:11)
25. Lazarus raised (Jn 11)
26. His resurrection (Lk 24:6; Jn 10:18)
27. Resurrections of countless saints (Mt 27:52)

Jesus' Other Wonders & Miracles

28. Water changed to wine (Jn 2:9)
29. Drought of fishes (Lk 5:6)
30. Feeding five thousand, 9Mt 14:15; Mk 9:41; Lk 9:12; Jn 6:5)
31. Feeding the four thousand (Mt 15:32; Mk 8:8)
32. Tempests stilled (Mt 8:26; Mk 4:39; Lk 8:24)
33. Walking on the sea (Mt 14:25; Mk 6:26; Lk 9:37)
34. Tribute money (Mt 17:24)
35. Cursing the fig-tree (Mt 21:19)
36. Second drought of fishes (Jn 21:6)
37. Appearing to his disciples (Mt 14:14; 15:29-31)
38. Ascension to heaven (Mk 16:19)

Peter Healings and Miraculous Wonders

1. Lame man cured (Act 3:7)
2. Peter's Shadow healed people (Acts 5:15,16)
3. Aeneas (Acts 9:34)
4. Dorcas raised from the dead (Acts 9:40)
5. Ananias and Sapphira (Act 5:5; 5:10)

Paul Healings and Miraculous Wonders

6. Lame man cured (Acts 14:10)
7. Damsel with the spirit of divination (Acts 16:18; 19:11)
8. Eutychus restored to life (Acts 20:10)
9. Father of Publius healed (Acts 28:8)
10. Everyone on the Island of Malta healed (Acts 28:9)
11. Elymas blinded (Acts 13:11)
12. Viper's bite (Acts 28:5)
13. Paul & Barnabas worked signs & wonders (Acts 14:3)
14. Paul's handkerchief worked miracles (Acts 19:11-12)
15. Paul heals a lame man in Lystra (Acts 14:8-10)

Miracles Performed by Other Apostles & Disciples

16. By the seventy (Lk 10-17)
17. By Stephen (Acts 6:8)
18. By Philip (Acts 8:6-13)
19. Ananias heals Paul of his blindness (Acts 9:17)
20. Apostles worked signs & wonders (Acts 5:12)

New Testament Healings and Miracles

- ❑ The wonders of Christ are often categorized into four groups as 1) healings, 2) exorcisms, 3) resurrections, and 4) miraculous control over nature
- ❑ Jesus is recorded to have performed about 11 miracles and 27 individual healings (which include exorcisms and resurrections)
- ❑ Scripture records Apostles and Disciples performing ~20 healings and miracles (about ½ of what is recorded for Jesus)
 - Peter 5
 - Paul 10
 - Ananias 1
 - Stephen 1
 - Philip 1
 - Barnabas 1
 - Unnamed Apostles & Disciples 2
- ❑ However, Jesus also worked countless other wonders as stated by John 21:25
- ❑ Particular interesting is His dealing with crowds and multitudes
- ❑ The Gospels and Acts record over 140 incidences of crowds and multitudes being impacted by the Gospel
- ❑ The Epistles do not address crowds
- ❑ What Jesus accomplished with the crowds is phenomenal – Thousands came to listen to Him (Luke 12:1) and be healed – and they ALL walked away healed of whatever ailments they had, with no exceptions, no failures, and no partial healings

B.B. Warfield in his book *COUNTERFEIT MIRACLES* (pg 3) said “*The number of the miracles which He wrought may easily be underrated. It has been said that in effect He banished disease and death from Palestine for the three years of His ministry*”

Let's Consider the Healings of the Crowds

	Passage	Matthew	Mark	Luke
1.	Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him ALL who were ill , those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them [ALL]	4:23-24		
2.	When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed ALL who were ill [Mark says “He healed many”]	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40
3	This news spread throughout all that land...and Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness	9:26,35		5:15
4	Jesus gave His disciples (including Judas) the ability to cast out demons, to raise the dead, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness [Mark adds “they were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.”; and Luke adds “ they were healing everywhere ”]	10:1-9	6:7	9:1-2

Together Matthew, Mark, and Luke record 13 unique incidences of large multitudes being healed – With 10 of them being recorded in Matthew

Healings of the Crowds (continued)

	Passage	Matthew	Mark	Luke
5.	Many followed Jesus, and He healed them ALL , and warned them not to tell who He was. [Mark adds “And Jesus charged [the demons] that they should not make him known”]	12:15-16	3:7-12	
6	Jesus saw a large crowd, and having compassion on them, He healed [ALL] there sick [Feeding of 5000+]	14:14-21	6:35-44	9:12-17 [Jn 6]
7	Wherever Jesus entered villages, or cities, or countryside, they were laying the sick in the market places, and imploring Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and [ALL] those who touched it were healed. [Luke adds “...for power was coming from Him and healing [them] all.”]	14:35-36	6:56	6:18-19
8	And large crowds came to Jesus, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled , blind, mute, and many others; and He healed them [ALL] . So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified God ...[Feeding of 4000 men, not counting women and children]	15:30-38	8:1-9	

What is the difference between “lame” and “crippled”?

How large were “large crowds”? ~4000 families in Mat 15; ~5000 families in Mat 14; and in Luke 12:1 possibly 10,000+, where the term myriads of myriads is used, as in Rev 5:11

Healings of the Crowds (continued)

	Passage	Matthew	Mark	Luke
9	Large crowds followed Him, and He healed them [ALL]	19:2		
10	And the blind and the lame came to Jesus in the temple, and He healed them [ALL].	21:14		
11	“And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief” [It’s not that Jesus lost His healing powers, but few came out to be healed by Him]		6:5-6	
12	“But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; and welcoming them, He [began] speaking to them about the kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing.”			9:11
13	“...the Lord appointed seventy (70) also...[to] heal the sick in every city... And the seventy returned again with joy...even the devils are subject unto us through thy name”			10:1-17
	TOTALS	10	5	6

These healings of EVERYONE are a stark contrast to what we see happening today where only “easy” cases are healed, and many leave without being healed or only partially healed

Answers to Homework Questions

Cnt	Passage Reference – Description	How Many in the Crowd	Where was the crowd?	How Many Healed?	How Many NOT Healed?	What illnesses were cured?	What illnesses were not cured?
1	Matthew 4:23-24. Large crowds from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, beyond Jordan	Unknown “large crowds”	Synagogues at least	ALL	None	Every kind of disease & sickness and pains [ALL]	None
2	Matthew 8:16-17 they brought to Him many	“many”	Peter’s house	ALL	None	ALL	None
3	Matthew 9:26,35 Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness	Unknown	Unknown	ALL	None	ALL	None
4	Matthew 10:1-9 heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness	Unknown	healing everywhere (Luke)	ALL	None	ALL	None
5	Matthew 12:15-16 He healed them ALL	“Many”	Unknown	ALL	None	ALL	None
6	Matthew 14:14 He healed [ALL] there sick [Feeding of 5000+]	“Large Crowd” 5000+	Deserted Place	ALL	None	ALL	None
7	Matthew 14:35-36 and [ALL] those who touched His robe were healed	unknown	villages, or cities, or countryside	ALL	None	ALL	None
8	Matthew 15:30-38 large crowds came to Jesus; and He healed them [ALL].	“large crowds” 4000+	unknown	ALL	None	ALL	None
9	Matthew 19:2 Large crowds followed Him, and He healed them [ALL]	Large Crowds	unknown	ALL	None	ALL	None
10	Matthew 21:14 He healed them [ALL].	The blind and the lame	unknown	ALL	None	ALL	None

A Side Note on the Healings and Miracles of Jesus

- ❑ Did Jesus only restore a person's health to their original condition before an illness set in? In all recorded cases, yes
 - It is never explicitly recorded that Jesus ever restored a missing limb, created and inserted an eyeball, increased the IQ of a mentally handicapped person, or fixed the chromosomes of a Down Syndrome person, though the Apostle John stated that Jesus performed countless other wonders too numerous to mention (John 21:25)
 - Though Jesus did restore a man's ear after Peter cut it off (Luke 22:50)
- ❑ BUT, Jesus said in Matthew 18:8 "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life **crippled** <2948. **κυλλος kullos**>; or **Lame** <5560. **χωλος cholos**>, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. [Jesus seems to be invoking a play on words for emphasis 'kullos' & 'cholos']
- ❑ Matthew 15:30 and 21:14 record that the blind, the **CRIPPLED** and the **LAME** (same **Greek words as in 18:8**) came to Jesus, and He healed them. [both Lame & Crippled are synonymous, and seem to be used interchangeably]
- ❑ Another term used for "crippled" is "**anaperos**", which also conveys "injured or bereft of some body member" – see Luke 14:13 "But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled <376 **αναπηρος anaperos**>, the lame <5560. **χωλος cholos**>, the blind,
- ❑ Mt 4:23-24 records that Jesus healed "**every kind of disease and every kind of sickness**"
- ❑ Mt 8, 10, and 11 record incidences of lepers being "cleansed." If the leprosy was a form of Hansen's disease, then restoration of any missing digits (fingers and toes) was probable
- ❑ SO, it is conceivable Jesus did heal people instantaneously of broken or even missing limbs and healing of any mental handicaps, to possibly include Down Syndrome if that ailment was prevalent at that time in history

Jesus Healed by Various Means

- ❑ He healed with a touch
- ❑ He healed with a word
- ❑ He healed large groups
- ❑ He healed selectively
 - 1 Man at Pool of Bethesda
- ❑ He healed remotely
 - Roman centurion's servant
 - Syro-Phoenician's daughter
- ❑ He healed the ungrateful
 - 9 out of 10 lepers
- ❑ He healed when faith was present
 - All those who touched Him
 - “Your faith has made you well”
- ❑ He healed when faith was not present
 - The Widow's son at Nain (no one asked for a resurrection)
- ❑ He healed when faith was weak
 - Lunatic boy
- ❑ He healed for convenience sake
 - Peter's mother-in-law so she could get up and feed them
- ❑ He healed the easy ones
 - Peter's mother-in-law's fever
- ❑ He healed the hard ones
 - Lazarus after 4 days in grave
- ❑ He healed within the synagogue
- ❑ He healed outside of the synagogue
- ❑ He healed out of compassion
- ❑ He healed sinners
- ❑ He healed believers
- ❑ He healed unbelievers
 - Blind man in John 9, and demoniacs
- ❑ He healed foreigners
 - Syro-Phoenician's daughter
- ❑ In essence, He healed ALL who came to Him for a healing, and then some...

The only ones Jesus could not and did not heal were those who refused to come out to him because of their willful unbelief (Matthew 11:20; 13:58; Luke 10:13)

Jesus worked Miracles to Show He had Dominion Over ALL Aspects of Life

- ❑ He controlled the weather
 - Calming of the Sea
- ❑ He ruled over Physics
 - Walked on water
 - Turned water into wine
 - Fed 5000+ and 4000+
- ❑ He ruled over the Animal kingdom
 - 2 large catches of fish
- ❑ He ruled over the Plant kingdom
 - Fig tree withered
- ❑ He worked miracles for convenience sake
 - Turned water into high quality wine at a wedding
 - Peter caught a fish with money in it so their taxes could be paid
- ❑ He ruled over Death
 - Jairus' daughter
 - Widow's son of Nain
 - Lazarus
 - He gave up His life and He raised Himself (John 2:19)

Though, Jesus did not heal many in His hometown for their unbelief (Mat 13:58; Mr 6:5), yet most of his miracles were done in unrepentant towns (Mat 11:20; Luke 10:13)

A Note on Resurrections

- ❑ The passage of the Rich Man in torment (Luke 6:19-31) clarifies no one from Hell makes it back out for a second chance since he asked Abraham to send someone from paradise side
- ❑ Which means the **10 resurrections** recorded in the Bible were presumably all redeemed individuals (and half of them were children, one was a Canaanite boy)
- ❑ The only confirmed non-believer seemingly raised from the dead will be the Antichrist
 - Rev 13:3 I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and **his fatal wound was healed**. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast

1. Elijah – son of a Sidonian (non-Jew) 1Kings 17:17-24
2. Elisha – son of a Shunammite 2Kings 4:32-37
3. Elisha – a dead man touched his bones....2Kings 13:20, 21
4. Jesus raised Jairus' daughter Luke 8:51-55
5. Jesus raised the son of a widow Luke 7:11-15
6. Jesus raised Lazarus after 4 days John 11:41, 42
7. Jesus, God and HS raised Jesus.....Jn 2:19; Gal 1:1; Rom 8:11
8. God raised up numerous saints Mat 27:52
9. Peter resurrected Tabitha/Dorcas Acts 9:39-42
10. Paul resurrected young Eutychus Acts 20:9,10

Why didn't Jesus raise His earthly dad (Joseph) from the grave?

Healings and Miracles in Acts

1. Acts 5:12 At the hands of the **apostles** [presumably, Matthias as well] **many signs and wonders** were taking place among the people
2. Acts 5:15 ...To such an extent they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when **Peter** came by at least **his shadow might fall on them**.
3. Acts 5:16 Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and **they were ALL being healed** [by the Apostles]
4. Acts 6:8 And **Stephen**, full of grace and power, was **performing great wonders and signs** among the people
5. Acts 8:5-7 **Philip** went down to the city of Samaria and ...the crowds **...heard and saw the signs he was performing**. For in the case of those who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and those who had been paralyzed and lame were healed.

Healings & Miracles in Acts (continued)

6. Acts 9:10-17 **Ananias**, a disciple, **gave Paul his sight** and the Holy Spirit
7. Acts 9:34-35 **Peter healed Aeneas, who was paralyzed**, and all who lived at Lydda saw him, and they turned to the Lord
8. Acts 9:36-42 **Peter raised Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead**, ...and many believed
9. Ac 14:3 **Paul & Barnabas** spent a long time in Iconium speaking boldly, and the Lord granted that **signs and wonders be done by their hands**
10. Acts 19:11-12 God performed extraordinary miracles by the hands of **Paul**, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the **diseases left them and the evil spirits went out**.
11. Acts 20:9-10 **Paul went down and fell upon the lad [Eutychus]** who fell out of a window, and was picked up dead, and after embracing him, he said, 'Do not be troubled, for his life is in him.'
12. Acts 28:8-9 **Paul healed ALL the sick** on the island of Malta

Healings within the Epistles (Something Changed)

1. 2Corinthians 12:7-9 – Paul could not heal himself from his thorn in the flesh
2. Philippians 2:25 – Paul could not heal Epaphroditus spontaneously and instantaneously, and Ep. nearly died
3. 1Timothy 5:23 – Paul could not heal Timothy, but told him to take some medicine (wine) for his “frequent” ills
4. 2Timothy 4:20 – Paul could not heal Trophimus, but left him sick in Miletus
5. James 5:16 – The sick should confess their sins to one another, and pray for one another so they may be healed

Did Paul lose his faith? Was Paul in sin? Why didn't the prayers of others work? Where was Paul's apron/handkerchief? Why couldn't Paul do a remote healing? Where were the ones with the gifts of healings and the gift of miracles?
ASSUMPTION – The problem wasn't with man, but with God invoking a change

Question – Is God an Unpredictable Deity or has Something Changed?

- ❑ Consider the credentials of the Apostle Paul (2Cor 11:23-25):
 - He was hand-picked by Jesus to suffer in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death; 5x he received 39 lashes; 3x he was beaten with rods; once he was stoned, 3x he was shipwrecked – all for the Kingdom of God
- ❑ Consider Timothy's credentials:
 - He was a faithful believer and trusted friend who could troubleshoot and resolve church problems, and who was the type of guy who would do anything to save anyone from Hell, including being circumcised
- ❑ If God would not answer Paul's prayers, Timothy's prayers, or the prayers of others to supernaturally heal Timothy's simple stomach problem and other frequent ailments, what have we done for the Kingdom of God to warrant being instantaneously healed of our ailments?
- ❑ Where were the ones with the Gifts of Healings and the Gift of Miracles in the churches which Paul and Timothy established and often visited?
- ❑ Where was Paul's handkerchief?
- ❑ Do we have contradictions in Scripture ("Ask and you shall receive")

Paul once healed everyone on Malta, including those with dysentery (*Acts 28:8-9*), so we have to acknowledge God is now working differently, else we have a nonsensical God

New Testament Change Ups

☐ Gospels

50's-60's AD

☐ Acts

~60's AD

☐ Pauline Epistles

50's-60's AD

(exceptions 1Cor & Gal) ~51-55 AD

☐ Hebrews

before 70 AD

☐ James

~60's AD

☐ 1 & 2 Peter

~60's AD

☐ 1,2,3 John

80's-90's AD

☐ Jude

~60's AD

☐ Revelations

~90's AD

Supernatural Miracles Only,
Present tense & Future tense
(Miracles were spontaneous, and
healings were 100%)

- Providential/Subjective Miracles dominate
- Supernatural Miracles are depicted in past tense or as worked by the Apostles and early Disciples (except for 1Corinthians & Galatians)
- e.g., "...the signs of an Apostle were wrought among you" 2Cor 12:12 (see Rom 15:19 perfect tense)

Supernatural Miracles only,
beginning in chapter 11 with the
2 witnesses

What Changed after Acts?

- ❑ Romans 15:19 “...in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I [Paul] **have fully preached** the gospel of Christ.” [Perfect Tense = action was completed and need not be repeated]
- ❑ 1Corinthians 2:4 “...and my [Paul] message and my preaching **were** not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power..”
- ❑ 1Corinthians 13:10 “But when that which is perfect [complete] is come, then that which is in part [the gifts] shall be done away.
- ❑ 2Corinthians 12:12 “Truly the signs of an apostle **were worked** among you in all patience, in signs, & wonders, & mighty deeds.”
- ❑ Hebrews 2:3-4 “...and [the Gospel] was **confirmed unto us by THEM** that heard Him [Apostles and early disciples such as Stephen, Ananias, Philip, and Barnabas]; God also testifying both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will”

Epistles: Miracles are in the Past Tense or they were notably performed by the Apostles and Early Disciples – except as noted in 1Corinthians and Galatians

The Miraculous in the Epistles (1Corinthians, Galatians, 1Thessalonians)

- ❑ 1Corinthians 14:39 *Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and **do not forbid to speak in tongues.***
 - The gifts were still active at this time (~55 AD)
- ❑ Galatians 3:5 *So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles [‘dunamis’/dynamite] among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?*
 - *Galatians was written early (possibly between 51-53 AD) so supernatural miracles and wonders were probably still active at this time – and the text does not preclude miracles being worked only by “those who heard Him”*
 - *See “Are Miraculous Gifts for Today” pp110-111 for a detailed exegesis of this passage by R.L. Saucy*
- ❑ 1Thessalonians 5:20-21 ***Do not despise prophecies,** but prove everything...(assuming “prophecies” were of the gift of prophecy)*
 - *This letter was also written very early (~51 AD), so gifts were active*
 - *Paul’s prophecies (or forth telling of the Gospel) were also despised (2Cor 10:10)*

Miracles in the Epistles

(more on 1Corinthians and Galatians)

- ❑ **Note:** Though the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the working of supernatural miracles were possibly still prevalent at the time of these 2 letters, both the Corinthians and the Galatians were the most immature group of believers Paul had to contend with
- ❑ So, being able to work miracles and having all the gifts of the Holy Spirit (the Corinthians came behind no gift (1 Cor 1:7)), does not provide or promote spiritual maturity or guarantee doctrinal purity or even guarantee one's salvation
 - *1Corinthians 3:1 -3 And I could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you*
 - *Galatians 3:1-3 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you...Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

Matthew 7:22-23 "Many will say to Me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.'

Healings and Miracles in Revelations (Another Change Up)

- Revelations Chapter 11 – The 2 witnesses perform miraculous wonders
 - Rev 11:5-6 *And if anyone wants to harm [My 2 witnesses], fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.*
 - Rev 13:3 *I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;*
 - Rev 13:13 *The False Prophet performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth*
 - Rev 13:14 *And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who *had the wound of the sword and has come to life.*
 - Rev 16:14 *for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.*

Do We Have Contradictions?

John's Promises Have a Heavenly Focus

- ❑ John 14:13 **Whatever you ask in My name**, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- ❑ John 14:14 **If you ask Me anything in My name**, I will do it.
- ❑ John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, **ask whatever you wish**, and it will be done for you.
- ❑ John 15:16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that **whatever you ask of the Father in My name** He may give to you.
- ❑ John 16:23 In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you **ask the Father for anything in My name**, He will give it to you.
- ❑ John 16:24 Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; **ask and you will receive**, so that your joy may be made full.

- ❑ **John 16:25** These things I have spoken to you in figurative language...

NOTES:

1. John chapters 13-17 are a discourse at the Last Supper from Jesus to His 11 Apostles – Therefore these passages are in a cohesive unit with a single purpose to further the kingdom and not to seek individual comfort
2. John 16:25 clarifies that all these precious promises should be viewed with a heavenly or kingdom focus and not an earthly focus
3. Other passages in John with a Heavenly focus:
 1. John 2:19 Destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it again
 2. John 3:3-12 You must be born again
 3. John 6:27 Do not work for the food which perishes but for the food which endures to eternal life
 4. John 6:51-52 You must eat my flesh and drink my blood to live

An earthly focus on these verses would lead to an unbiblical stance of “Name it & Claim it”

More on John

- ❑ John 6 records Jesus healing and feeding of 5000+ families, walking on water, and arguing with the Jews over His deity claims
- ❑ Between the time Jesus and His Apostles landed on shore and the interchange we see with the Jews in John 6:22-59, Matthew and Mark recorded that Jesus healed ALL the sick which were brought to Him from around the countryside (Mat 14:35-35; Mark 6:55-56)
- ❑ **John**, HOWEVER, considered the dialogue between Jesus and the Jews to be more crucial to demonstrate the deity of Christ than mentioning the massive amount of healings Christ performed
- ❑ **Consider This:** Healings may have been a sign of God's work & they may've brought temporary relief, but only acceptance and obedience of sound doctrine/teachings bring eternal salvation and true freedom (1Tim 4:16)

Other Passages often used for Name-it-Claim-it Theology

- ❑ Matthew 7:7-11 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!
- ❑ Matthew 18:19 Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.
- ❑ Matthew 21:22 And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive
- ❑ Mark 11:24 Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you

We must always acknowledged the original intent of each passage and the higher spiritual meaning Jesus often gave to His teachings – For Kingdom progress & not personal comfort

Cessationist Response (John 6) to Name-It-Claim-It Theology (Matthew 7)

- ❑ On the surface the Matthew 7:7-11 passage on the previous passage seems like an iron-clad argument for Name-It and Claim It. After all *“...what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?”*
- ❑ This passage is often quoted by Name-It-Claim-It adherents to substantiate their theology for why it is appropriate to ask God for Holy Spirit experiences and supernatural healings and miracles
- ❑ HOWEVER, looking at this passage from an earthly perspective for personal profit and comfort is outside of the intended meaning
- ❑ Consider the Lord’s response to those looking for more free food after Jesus fed 5000+ families (John 6)
- ❑ They were not asking for a snake, but for another loaf of bread, and Jesus told them He was not going to feed them again
- ❑ Jesus attempted to get them to focus on the food which endures to eternal life and not on food that perishes
- ❑ So the experiences Name-It-Claim-It adherents seem to be receiving are quite questionable as to their source

Do We Have Contradictions?

(continued)

- ❑ Whenever Jesus spoke figuratively it was always to convey a spiritual or heavenly meaning which leads to the “true riches” (Luke 16:11). Examples:
 - Mr 9:45 *"If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than having your two feet, to be cast into hell"*
 - John 6:51 *"...eat my flesh and drink my blood" and you shall live (basically means to hunger and thirst for His righteousness)*
 - John 6:63 *"...The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."*
- ❑ Luke 10:19 *"Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you"*
 - **BUT didn't the Apostles get beaten and most died a martyr's death? Paul, himself, received 39 lashes 5 times (2Cor 11:24)**
 - **Context refers to spiritual entities ("serpents and scorpions" = demonic entities), so no permanent spiritual injury is the intent**

Conclusion – No contradictions exist since these promises had conditions – They were spiritual analogies or applicable for a specific group of believers, and/or for a limited time

Do We Have Contradictions?

(continued)

- ❑ Mark 16:17,18,20 *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover... And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with THEM, and confirming the word with signs** following. [Note: Verbs are in Present Tense]*
- ❑ Hebrews 2:3-4 *...and [the Gospel] was **confirmed unto us by THEM** that heard Him; God also testifying both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.*

Who is "THEM? It can only be the Apostles and early disciples such as Stephen, Ananias, Philip and Barnabas ("...them that heard Him")

Do We Have Contradictions?

(continued)

- ❑ 1Peter 2:24 & Isaiah 53:5 *Who bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: **by whose stripes we were healed.***
 - Context is not of physically healing but spiritual healing from our sins, which would condemn us to Hell if we were not healed
- ❑ Matthew 21:21-22 *And Jesus answered and said to [His disciples], "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. **And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.**"*
 - Are there any conditions? Does someone need to be righteous? Does the request need to be in line with God's will?
 - Why didn't Paul get his thorn in the flesh removed then?
 - Why couldn't Paul get Epaphroditus immediately healed?
 - Why did Timothy had to take wine/medicine for his "often infirmities"?
 - Why did Paul leave Trophimus sick in Miletus?
 - Since there are no contradictions in Scripture we have to acknowledge there are conditions to meet (e.g., every request must be in God's will). Therefore, we also have to acknowledge the Holy Spirit is operating differently than what He did in Acts (He is no longer healing ALL, even by the hands of the Apostles)

Lesson 3: Church History on Miracles

- ❖ Precedence of God Changing His Ways
- ❖ Precedence for Supernatural Miracles Ending and Providential Miracles Beginning
- ❖ Eras of Supernatural Miracles
- ❖ Miracles Between Then and Now
- ❖ Testimony from Early Church Fathers
- ❖ More from Church History
- ❖ Healings and Miracles are Temporary
- ❖ The Holy Spirit Works at His Will
- ❖ The True Purpose of Healings and Miracles
- ❖ Key Question – Do we have Apostles Today?
- ❖ More Evidence to Consider
- ❖ Can Satan Perform Healings & Miracles?
- ❖ Benefits of Providential Healings and Miracles

Precedence of God Changing His Ways

- ❑ God may be the same Yesterday, Today, and Forever from a character perspective, but God does alter His plans for succeeding generations (e.g. Dispensational or Covenant Theologies)
 - Daily miracles ended for the Israelites once they entered the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 4:9)
 - God no longer requires animal sacrifices after the Cross
 - The Holy Spirit now indwells within His people
 - And with the cessation of the Apostles, by implication, so has the “signs of an Apostle” such as spontaneous healings and miracles, prophetic revelations, the penning and confirming of Scripture, and the various gifts of the Holy Spirit

Precedence for Supernatural Miracles Ending and Providential Miracles Beginning

- ❑ Deut 4:9. The Israelites, after witnessing God's supernatural wonders for 40 years, were told miracles would soon cease
 - Once in the Promised Land they would now live by faith, not by sight – and they had to convey to the younger generation God is still the same, but He will operate differently → via providence
 1. Their daily free meals of manna would end
 2. Their clothes and sandals will now wear out
 3. God's explicit leading by fire & smoke would stop
 4. ...and the presence of His guiding Angel would be no more
- ❑ The Ark of the Covenant stored a jar of Manna, Aaron's budding staff, and the 10 Commandments carved in stone by the finger of God Himself as a REMINDER of God's past supernatural works
- ❑ In the book of Joshua, God intervenes and destroys the Canaanites and establishes Israel in the Promised Land through more natural means such as timely and providential battles, earthquakes, weather phenomena of hailstones, and hardening of enemy hearts

*I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old (Ps 77:11)
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; (Ps 143:5).*

Eras of Supernatural Miracles

- God is a miracle-working God, yet He only punctuates history with a few specific periods of supernatural miracles
 - 1) Creation ~4000 B.C. (6 days)
 - 2) Moses, Joshua & the Exodus ~1340-1300 B.C. (~40 years)
 - 3) Elijah & Elisha ~880-840 B.C. (~40 years)
 - 4) Jesus & Apostles ~30-70 A.D. (~40 years)
 - 5) Revelations (2 witnesses) After 2000 A.D. (~260 days)

- Other supernatural miracles (such as the Sun going back 10 degrees during Isaiah's prophetic time period, the fiery ordeal in Daniel, and the wonders from the time of Gideon and Samson), with often 100's of years of separation, are so few and sporadic they should not be construed as something God normally does

Can't God Do Anything He Wants?

Do We Box God in by Limiting Him?

- ❑ God limits Himself to His word – Else we could not know His will, discern the spirits, or prove all things
- ❑ If God still works supernatural miracles of organic disorders, such as instantaneously mending a broken bone, restoring a missing finger, or a resurrection of a corpse we have no verifiable evidence of such healings and wonders outside of Scripture, even after 2000+ years
- ❑ There are countless other ecclesiastical miracles of lesser quality, but their sources of healing are dubious
- ❑ Consider this – If God wouldn't answer Paul's prayers to heal Timothy and Trophimus of simple illnesses, after Paul was once able to heal all those sick on the island of Malta, then we have to acknowledge God has stopped working supernatural healings and miracles

Miracles between Then and Now

- ❑ Historical miracles after the 1st Century include stories of healings, prophecies, visions, speaking in tongues, walking on water, and even resurrections, but they are very subjective with little to no collaborating evidence
- ❑ Even modern missionary stories are very subjective based on questionable 2nd and 3rd hand information
 - In this day of YouTube and social networking, any “notable” miracles should easily be captured, widely disseminated, and verified – and, those which have been recorded have been very subjective – no definitive proof of a supernatural miracle occurring

Testimony from Early Church Fathers

- ❑ Tongues are not mentioned at all by the Post-Apostolic Fathers (e.g., Polycarp of Smyrna [69-155 AD], Ignatius of Antioch [35-110AD] and Clement of Rome [died 99AD])
- ❑ Other writers such as Justin Martyr [100-165], Origen [185-254], Chrysostom [347-407], and Augustine [354-430] considered tongues something that happened only in the earliest days of the Church
- ❑ Chrysostom's position best sums up the considerable evidence from the early church fathers that the age of miracles was over
- ❑ Irenaeus [~140-200 AD], a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of the Apostle John, refers to prophecies and healings as present in his time, but resurrections from the dead are placed in past tense

The Post-Apostolic Fathers were so prolific in their writings we can re-construct all of the New Testament except for 11 verses. *Systematic Theology*, Vol 1, N. Geisler, p535

More from Church History

- ❑ Augustine, who interpreted Scripture allegorically vs. literally, affirmed the continuation of miracles, BUT few today would acknowledge any of his reports as genuine (“*Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?*” pg 116)
- ❑ “The fact that historical evidence has been used for both positions (cessationism and continuationism) points to the difficulty of its interpretation. Even today, so in the past it is difficult to distinguish a genuine miracle from a spurious or even a demonic one....(so) it seems impossible to deny that miraculous activity of the *quality* and *extent* associated with the era of Christ and the apostles is not found as a continuing phenomenon in the later church.” (“*Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?*” pg 113)

More from Church History (continued)

- “The passing of the apostles and the incidence of heresy and *pseudo-charismatic excesses* compelled the church to tackle this issue (of ecclesiastical order and discipline) by the turn of the (1st) century. In A.D. 96 Clement of Rome wrote a lengthy letter reprimanding the Christians in Corinth who had deposed their elders. Since these leaders had been appointed on apostolic authority as well as by common consent, they were not to be regarded as dispensable.” *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, p589*

More from Church History as recorded by B.B. Warfield in “*Counterfeit Miracles*”

- ❑ “Theologians of the post-Reformation era...taught with great distinctness that the charismata ceased with the Apostolic age” - pg 3
- ❑ Warfield sums up historical findings since the Apostolic era: “When we come to think of it, it is rather surprising that the Christians had no raisings from the dead to point to through all these years. The fact is striking testimony to the marked sobriety of their spirit. The heathen had them in plenty” – pgs 15-16
- ❑ “It was naturally a source of embarrassment to Augustine that heretics had miracles to appeal to just like his own; and that the heathen had had something very like them from time immortal” – pg 43
- ❑ The testimony of the early church fathers convey that miracles ceased with the Apostolic age, and yet miracles of a lesser sort (“Ecclesiastical Miracles”) were still occurring during their lifetimes – but these miracles are ascribed to a saint’s tomb or relics, or even the Eucharist, in other words from worship of relics - pg 46-51
- ❑ Augustine points out that the connection of alleged miracles with erroneous doctrines invalidates their claim to be genuine works of God – pg 53

Healings and Miracles are Temporary

- ❑ There is no such thing as a permanent miracle or healing, other than a spiritual rebirth
- ❑ Even if someone was raised from the dead, they would die of something else
- ❑ All healings and miracles have a short term purpose
 - To point people to God and to provide temporary comfort
 - Luke 4:18-21 Jesus read out of Isaiah the passage which proclaimed His purpose on earth – 1) preach the Gospel to the poor; 2) proclaim release to the captives; 3) give sight to the blind; 4) set free the oppressed; 5) proclaim the year of the Lord. *“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled”*

The Holy Spirit Turns On/Off the Power to Work Supernatural Miracles at His Will

- ❑ The Holy Spirit does not work whimsically, but within specific historical time frames, covenants, or dispensations
- ❑ Luke 5:17 “...and the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal”
- ❑ 1Corinthians 12:11 “But one & the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills”
- ❑ Even Judas was able to work miracles and cast out demons since he was specifically endowed with power from God
- ❑ So, someone doesn't need to be extra holy to work miracles – they just need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit during a period of time that fits within God's will for the ages
 - E.g., The Apostolic era and Revelations 11 (2 witnesses)

The True Purpose of Healings & Miracles

- ❑ When we see healings and miracles, which are temporary by nature, as a means to make our earthly life more comfortable we miss God's true message
 - John 4:48 Jesus scolded one person, "*Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.*"
 - John 6:26 Jesus told those who were looking for another miracle, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate a free meal*"
 - John 12:37 But though Jesus performed many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him
 - John 4:39-42 BUT, the Samaritans believed Jesus based on what they heard, not what they saw or experienced

The True Purpose of Jesus' Mission - to fulfill Scripture

- ❑ Luke 4:44 *"...and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them. But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose." So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.*
- ❑ Mt 8:16-17 *...and Jesus healed ALL who were ill. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES"*

Preaching the Gospel had precedence over Healings & Miracles. Healings & Miracles may point to the Savior, but they do not save. They were only a confirmation sign of who He was – the Messiah

KEY QUESTION

Do We Have Apostles Today?



- ❑ Do We Still Have Apostles Today???
- Catholics say YES – current Pope
- Mormons say YES – they have 12 Apostles
- Apostolic churches say YES – they have Apostles in all their churches

BUT, none of these so called Apostles within these denominations have ever worked the true “signs of an Apostle”

- ❑ If Apostles, men such as Peter and Paul, still exist today, then YES we would have the same miracles, and we would also see Scripture grow beyond 66 books
- ❑ If, however, Apostles have ceased, then, arguably, so has supernatural healings, miracles, prophecies, and gifts

Ramifications of Apostles Existing Today

- ❑ If Apostles do exist today (men such as Peter and Paul), then we should see the “signs of an Apostle” today:
 - Confirmation of being hand picked and taught by Jesus Christ
 - Spontaneous miracles and 100% healings
 - Confirmed resurrections, even after burial or embalming
 - Ability to bestow the Holy Spirit on others
 - Ability to pen and confirm Scripture (even Apostolic emails and tweets would be collected)
- ❑ Instead, what we see today is nothing more than providential or psychosomatic healings of “functional disorders” at best, demonic deception at worst
 - Healings are very subjective with no validation or confirmation
 - The harder cases involving “organic disorders” (e.g., missing limbs, broken bones, genetic abnormalities, etc.) are never healed of their true lameness, blindness, or sickness

More Evidence to Consider

- ❑ Over 35,000 books on Miracles (Amazon.com)
- ❑ If any of those purported miracles recorded in any of those books had any bite of Biblical truth in them, we would have seen the following:
 - People would have flocked to the healer in VERY large numbers – whole towns (like they did to Jesus)
 - ❑ Mark 6:31 ...there were so many people coming and going that they (Jesus and His Apostles and disciples) did not even have time to eat
 - And everyone would have been healed who sought for a healing (like Jesus did)
- ❑ Biblical healers would also have the ability to transfer their powers to followers, like Jesus did to His Apostles and Disciples, and 100% healings and miracles would continue unabated
 - Luke 9:1 *And Jesus called the 12, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases*
 - Luke 10:1, 9, 17 *The Lord appointed 70, and sent them out 2 by 2 ...and commanded them to heal the sick*

Jesus had compassion as He took time to “send the crowds away” personally, and this more than likely involved touching each and everyone who needed a healing. See Mat 14:21-23

Statistical Evidence

- ❑ Since the Lord's Church was to grow like a mustard seed or as leaven, this would be exponential growth
- ❑ ...and if supernatural miracles and gifts were still with the church today, let's do some simple math:
 - The Bible only records about 80 miracles by Jesus and His Disciples over a 40 year period. That's an average of two (2) miracles a year.
 - Let us be ultra-conservative and equate 1 person working 1 miracle during their 40-year adult lifespan
 - Also, since Jesus sent out 70 disciples to work miracles, and there were 500 disciples mentioned, that is a 14% healer to disciple ratio...

Statistical Evidence (continued)

- ❑ Statistics show there are well over 2 billion protestant believers in the world today
- ❑ Therefore, 14% healer ratio would mean over 280M could work super-natural healings and miracles. That means, 280M eye popping miracles should have been performed in the past 40 years alone
- ❑ That's enough miracles not only to empty every hospital throughout the world many times over, but to restore the missing limbs of every soldier over the past 40 years, along with healing every down syndrome child worldwide
- ❑ Yet, there is no record of any soldier from any era since the time of Christ having their limbs restored, or any down syndrome kid being healed, much less the emptying out of even 1 burn ward or 1 cancer ward of any hospital anywhere
- ❑ SO, do we have a problem with a lack of faith, or has God moved away from supernatural healings and miracles?

But, But, But, There Are Claims Galore About Supernatural Workings....

- ❑ Matthew 24:24-26 *“For false christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance. So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them.”*
- ❑ 2Corinthians 11:14-15 *No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*

Satan has no problem using healings and miracles to deceive, if possible, even God’s Elect.
Distorted truth causes divisions and confusion within the Church to sidetrack us.

Can Satan Perform Healings and Miracles, Signs and Wonders?

Purpose of satanic wonders are to deceive and destroy

❑ Old Testament supernatural wonders by Satan

- Gen 3:1 – Satan appeared as a snake to deceive Eve & cause Adam to sin
- Ex 7:10-22 Egyptian sorcerers' rods became snakes & they also turned water into blood
- Ex 8:7 Sorcerers made frogs come upon the land
- Job 1-2 – Satan destroys Job's health, wealth, & family with disease, weather phenomena, war
- Isaiah 47:9 Babylonian sorceries & spells worked "great power" (aka, miracles)
- Dan 2:2 Nebuchadnezzar had "magicians, conjurers, sorcerers" on his staff to work their skills
- The death penalty was for those who performed divination, witchcraft, interprets omens, sorcery, casts spells, a medium, a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead (Deut 18:10-11); use enchantments or observe times (astrology), familiar spirits or wizards (Lev 19:26,31); and false prophets and dreamers who's prophecies and dreams even came true (Deut 13:1-5)

If you google "satanic healings" you will see the same types of healings and miracles as Pentecostals, Charismatics and 3rd Wavers boast today – for people and their pets

Can Satan Perform Healings and Miracles? (continued)

□ New Testament wonders by Satan

- Mat 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”
- Luke 4:6 Satan had power from God and could give it to whomever he wished
- Luke 11:19 *If I (Jesus) cast out demons by Satan, by whom do your sons cast them out?*
- Acts 8:9-19 **Simon the magician**, called the “Great Power of God” astonished the people with his **sorceries [3096 mageuo – magic]**
- Acts 13:6-12 Barjesus or **Elymas, a Jewish sorcerer** and false prophet was blinded by Paul for his subtle deceptions and perverse ways
- Acts 16:16-19 A damsel possessed with a **spirit of divination brought her clients much gain** until Paul commanded the demon to leave her
- 2Cor 11:14 Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all **power [dunamis]**, signs, and lying wonders
- Rev 13:3-14; 19:20 The False Prophet performs great signs, including **healing the ‘dragon’ or the antichrist of a mortal head wound** and bringing fire out of heaven to the earth, & he **deceives by signs- – “which it was given him to perform”**
- Rev 16:14 For they are the **spirits of devils working signs**
- Rev 18:23 *...all the nations were deceived by sorcery [5331 pharmakeia - pharmacy]*

Can Satan break the natural laws God has established and work supernatural wonders? According to Scripture Satan’s powers are limited to sorcery (trickery) and deceptive wonders. They may seem to us as on par with what God can do, but they lack creative quality and are labeled as “lying wonders” (2Thes 2:9)

Benefits of Providential Healings and Miracles

- ❑ Prayers are Enhanced – Alignment with God’s will provides 100% answers
 - Skeptics over the years have voiced that praying is nothing more than a meaningless crap shoot – it’s a roll of the dice to get any prayers answered from God
 - The skeptics have a point since Christians keep praying for instantaneous supernatural healings and miracles, which are no longer part of God’s will for us at this time
 - But, if we pray for God’s providential healings and miracles (“...*all things work together for our good*”), then we have a near 100% success rate with our prayers

One Final Point

- ❑ Jesus commands us to do the following:
 - Luke 14:13-14 *"But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*
- ❑ Jesus did not command us to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind to physically heal them, but to essentially fellowship with them – and to be a source of comfort, a place to feel welcomed and refreshed
- ❑ ...and since they would not be able to repay us for such hospitality, means they would not be on their feet (or healed) any time soon

Lesson 4: Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Dreams and Visions

- ❖ Quick Look at the Gifts
- ❖ Sign Gifts vs. Service Gifts
- ❖ Problems with the Sign Gifts
- ❖ Gifts of Healings
- ❖ Gifts of Tongues
- ❖ Are there Other Gifts?
- ❖ What About Dreams and Visions
- ❖ Warnings on Dreams and Visions
- ❖ Are Dreams Reliable

Quick Look at the Gifts

- ❑ Let's assume ALL the gifts are still available to the church today – What is the impact to us?
 - For example, how do you tell the difference between someone having the gift of Mercy from someone being merciful?
- ❑ Let's assume SOME of the gifts are still active today – What is the impact?
- ❑ Let's assume NO gifts are active today – What is the impact to us?

Passage	Individual Gifts
Ephesians 4:7, 11-13	1. Apostle
	2. Prophet
	3. Evangelist
	4. Pastor/Teacher
	5. Grace to all (vs 7)
Romans 12:4-8	6. Grace
	7. Prophecy
	8. Ministry
	9. Teaching
	10. Exhortation
	11. Giving
	12. Rules
	13. Mercy
1Corinthians 12:8-10, 28	14. Wisdom
	15. Knowledge
	16. Faith
	17. Gifts of Healings
	18. Miracles
	19. Prophecy
	20. Discernment
	21. Tongues
	22. Interpretation of Tongues
	23. Helps
	24. Administration

Sign Gifts vs. Service Gifts

- ❑ The sign gifts with their spontaneous quality were given to believers fully functional and ready for immediate use – and at the full control of the believer
 - No one had to learn how to speak in tongues, or how to heal, or how to work a miracle

Passage	Individual Sign Gifts
1Corinthians 12:8-10	14. Wisdom
	15. Knowledge
	16. Faith
	17. Gifts of Healings
	18. Miracles
	19. Prophecy
	21. Tongues
	22. Interpretation of Tongues

You can buy DVDs on how to speak in Tongues for \$30. Funny, no where in Scripture is there a need for spiritual gifts to be taught to those who had the gift.

Problems with the Sign Gifts

- ❑ If Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Prophecy, Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues still exist, it is conceivable new revelation can be revealed, which means the Word of God can continue to grow
- ❑ HOWEVER, since the Word of God is now static (no longer dynamically growing) as acknowledged by most Christian churches, including charismatic churches, there is no reason for these sign gifts to exist
- ❑ When Charismatics claim that new revelation is no longer a feature of the sign gifts, then they are acknowledging that God has changed His ways since Acts was written

Gifts of Healings

- ❑ This is the only gift which is plural
 - Not Gift of Healings, where 1 person can heal every ailment type
 - But Gifts of Healings, where presumably, multiple people in a church had the ability to heal any and every ailment
 - Or where each gifted person can only heal specific types of ailments.
 - ❑ If this was the case, then for the whole church body to be edified, all the gifts of healings would need to be present within a church
- ❑ It is unknown how the gifts of healings were or would be divided up
 - Was it alphabetical?
 - ❑ Abdominal illnesses to Zieve's syndrome?
 - Was it anatomical?
 - ❑ E.g., head, torso, limbs, blood, bone, skin, muscle, male, female, child, adult?
 - Was it by severity?
 - ❑ Itchy mosquito bites to resurrections?

When Scripture gives limited information on a topic, usually it is only intended for the original audience. Future readers can only derive principles, not specific doctrines.
E.g., What is the Gift of Administration?

Gift of Tongues

- ❑ Christians are not the only ones able to speak in unknown Tongues. Mormons, Muslims, Buddhists, witchdoctors, Satanists, and even some mentally ill patients speak in tongues
- ❑ The one critical factor the early church's tongue speaking had over all others was the **INTELLIGENCE FACTOR**
– True tongues speaking was of known human languages (Acts 2:11)
- ❑ Tongues had a purpose – to convey God's message to unbelievers and to edify others when interpreted
- ❑ Tongues as an individual prayer language was outside the scope of its true purpose
- ❑ According to 1Corinthians 14:19 intelligent speaking has priority and is critical to the life & growth of a church
- ❑ When showmanship gifts have priority over edification gifts, problems loom

The gift of tongues is addressed only in Mark, Acts and 1Cor. All total, 3 books, 7 chapters, 30 verses – of which 17 verses (~60%) are used to correct its misuse

More on the Gift of Tongues

- ❑ 1Cor 14:27. Tongues, like prophecies, were never meant to be chaotic or unintelligible
- ❑ 14:28. Tongues & Interpretation of Tongues were tied together. One should not be without the other to convey God's prophetic truth and edify the body
- ❑ 14:29. Even prophecies had to be tested for validity
- ❑ **14:34. Women Keep Silence in the Church.** The context is speaking in tongues. It was OK for women to, talk, pray and prophesy in church (1Cor 11:5; Acts 2:17, 21:9; Lk 2:36-38 - Anna spoke in the temple)
- ❑ **14:35. Why was it improper or shameful for women to speak in church? We can only speculate.**
- ❑ **14:39. '...forbid not to speak with tongues.'** Tongues were still in existence then, so that was an appropriate command.
- ❑ Today, we need to show from scripture the 'more excellent way' – how to live by faith & love, not by sight and sound

Romans 1:11 depicts that the bestowing of a spiritual gift establishes one in the faith. This 'spiritual gift' is sound doctrine according to Romans 16:25-26 & Colossians 2:7

More on the Gift of Tongues

- ❑ An Apostle of Christ was always present when the Holy Spirit was given to a group of people
 1. Acts 2:3-6. Apostles – Cloven tongues of fire and intelligible tongues given
 2. Acts 9:10-17. Ananias of Damascus and Paul (no evidence of Tongues)
 3. Acts 8:5-17. Philip in Samaria worked “miracles and signs, but the Apostles gave the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands with no evidence of tongues
 4. Acts 10:16. Cornelius and family – Peter preached the Gospel and tongues were evidence that the Gentiles were saved
 5. Acts 19:6. Paul in Ephesus laid his hands on the believers to bestow the Holy Spirit and they spoke with tongues and prophesied

If God is the same today as He was yesterday, then, according to the Charismatic philosophy, Tongues can only be given when an Apostle of Christ was present

Are There Other Gifts?

❑ Peter only refers to two categories of gifts

1. Teaching Gifts
2. Service Gifts

1Peter 4:10-11 *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:*

- *Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God;*
- *Whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies; so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”*

❑ The Gifts of the Holy Spirit for today can also be viewed as “Talents” that people grow into over time and not something received at salvation

- For example, the gifts of nursery worker, or S/S teacher, or even Pastor are not something people are selected for the moment they get saved. Like a Deacon, they should first be proven trustworthy and mature
- God uniquely positions people for ministry in each of His churches throughout the world
- **AND EVERYONE IS REPLACEABLE**

What about Dreams and Visions

- ❑ Does God use dreams today to foretell events and bring new revelations?
Don't Bank On It!
- ❑ God did give men and women dreams whereby they could foretell God's directives, even for some heathens
 - Gen 20:3,6 - But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man..."
 - Judg 7:13 - When Gideon came, behold, a man was relating a dream to his friend...
 - Mat 27:19 - While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man..."
- ❑ BUT revelatory dreams were never common place
- ❑ Num 12:6 "I reveal myself to My prophet in visions, I speak to him in **dreams**"
- ❑ Job 33:14-17 For God does speak ...in a **dream**, in a vision of the night...(that) he may speak in men's ears and terrify them with warnings (NIV)
- ❑ Zech 10:2 "... the diviners see lying visions and tell **false dreams**; they comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep"
- ❑ Jer 29:8 ...and God said to Israel "Do not listen to the dreams which [your prophets] dream"
- ❑ Jer 23:32 "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied **false dreams**," declares the LORD, "and related them and led My people astray"

Warnings on Dreams and Visions

- ❑ BUT – What about Joel 2:28/Acts 2:17? "It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, **Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions**
 - Cessationists see this fulfilled in Agabus, Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, Paul, and the four daughters of Philip (Acts 11:28; 13:1-2; 16:9-10 21:9,10)
 - Continuationists see this as on going
- ❑ **Common Principle on Dreams** – Trust in God's objective word and not in subjective dreams
 - People receive their dreams while not in full control of their faculties and possibly under the influence of spicy chicken wings
 - Col 2:18 We are not to be fooled by those who take a stand on their visions and dreams

Ecclesiastes 5:7 For in many dreams and in many words there is emptiness. Rather, fear God.

Are dreams reliable?

- ❑ Can dreams motivate or confirm for us any decisions we need to make?
 - Dreams may be of God (Joel 2:28)
 - Or may be “lying” dreams (Zech 10:2)
 - Or just from weariness (Ec 5:3)
- ❑ Solomon says fear God & don't trust dreams Ec 5:7
- ❑ God holds His word above man's dreams Jer 23:28
- ❑ Like Gideon, be sure to prove all things 1Thes 5:21
- ❑ **ALSO NOTE**, God-invoked dreams along with accurate dream interpretations are extremely rare, even in the Bible – so don't use dreams to help make decisions, especially after eating pizza and spicy buffalo wings

Lesson 5: Basic Apologetics

- ❖ Bible Apologetics and Hermeneutics
- ❖ Terms for Power, Miracles, Signs and Healings

Bible Apologetics and Hermeneutics

□ Apologetics Basics

- Arguments from History
 - 'But the church fathers say...'
- Arguments from Experience
 - 'God wouldn't give me a rock or a snake if I asked for food would He?' [but God could give "leanness to your soul" Ps 106:15]
 - 'Look at all the healings & tongues speaking going on in Pentecostal churches around the world today'
- Arguments from Silence
 - 'The Bible doesn't say Apostles would cease'

□ Hermeneutics Basics

- The Allegorical Approach
- The Devotional Approach
- The Liberal Approach
- The Literal Approach
 - Context
 - Scripture harmony
 - Grammatical/Linguistical considerations
 - Historical/Cultural/Geographical considerations
 - Eisegesis/Inferences/Speculations/Assumptions

Terms for Power, Miracles, Signs, and Healings

□ “Power” / “Miracle”

- Strong's #1411 δυναμις dunamis (**dynamite**)
128x: **power 77x**, mighty work 11x, strength 7x, **miracle 22x**, might 4x, mighty 2x, virtue 3x, miscellaneous 9x.
(prevalent throughout Matthew-Acts, ex John)
- BUT “miracles” is limited to present tense in 1Cor in the listings of the gifts, and past tense elsewhere in the Epistles – 2Cor 12:12, Gal 3:5, & Heb 2:4

□ “Signs”

- Strong's #4592 σημειον semeion
77x: sign 50x, **miracle 23x**, wonder 3x, token 1x
(62x Mat-Acts; 7x Revelations; 7x Past Tense in Rom, 1Cor, 2Cor, 2Thes, Hebrews;
1x Present Tense 1Cor 14:22 “Tongues are for a sign”)

□ “Heal” / “Healings” = 75x

- Strong's #2323 θεραπευω therapeuo (~therapy)
44x: **heal 38x**, cure 5x, worship 1x;
(41x Mat-Acts; 2x Rev)
- Strong's #2390 ιαομαι iaomai
28x: **heal 26**, make whole 2
(25x Mat-Acts; Heb, James, 1Peter)
- Strong's #4982 σωζω sozo
110x: save 93, make whole 9, **heal 3**, be whole 2, miscellaneous 3;
(Mat – Acts)
- Strong's #2386 ιαμα iama; 3x
(only Paul uses this term, and only in 1Cor)

Book Review

Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?

Lesson 4 - Cessationist View

Lesson 5 - Cautionary But Open View

Lesson 6 - 3rd Wave View

Lesson 7 - Pentecostal/Charismatic View

1st Wave
Pentecostalism
Early 1900's

2nd Wave
Charismatics
1960s-70s

3rd Wave
Vineyard
Movement
1980's

4th Wave
The Toronto
Blessing
2000's

Summary of the 4 Views on Healings

View	Cessationist View*	Open but Cautious View	Pentecostal/Charismatic	3 rd Wave View
Candidate #1: Soldier with a missing limb	No supernatural healings possible in this day and age	Anything is possible, but not frequently (and no evidence)	Healing thru prayer (but no evidence)	Healing thru prayer (but no evidence)
Candidate #2: Child with cancer	Healing thru medicine & time	Anything is possible	Healing through prayer	Healing thru prayer
Candidate #3: Person with Backache	Medicine &/or time, or psychosomatic	Anything is possible	Healing through prayer	Healing thru prayer
Candidate #4: Man with paper cut or broken digit/limb	Medicine &/or time	Anything is possible	Healing through prayer	Healing thru prayer
Candidate #5: A case of poison ivy	Medicine &/or time	Anything is possible	Healing through prayer	Healing thru prayer
Candidate #6: Demonic possession	Healing through prayer & obedience	Healing through prayer	Healing through prayer	Healing thru prayer

In the Cessationist view, where instantaneous healings are suspended, prayers help expedite the healing process, but the healings take time and maybe medical intervention (“...take some wine for your ailments”)

Lesson 6: Cessationist View

- ❖ Brief History of Cessationism
- ❖ Outline
- ❖ Main Tenants
- ❖ Responses from Open But Cautious
- ❖ Responses from 3rd Wave
- ❖ Responses from Pentecostal/Charismatic
- ❖ Dangers of Believing This Way

Brief History of Cessationism

Fundamentalists emerged from post-Civil war days as an anti-modernist group drawn from many mainline Protestant denominations. The name Fundamentalism actually comes from a series of publications titled "The Fundamentals" sent to churches across the country, outlining the group's support of a literal interpretation of the Bible. They organized in support of their shared beliefs and against the prevalence of the Social Gospel and perceived movement away from orthodox belief in the Fundamentalist/ Modernist controversy. Fundamentalism, despite its current use as a synonym for extremism, generally believes that supernatural manifestations ended with the New Testament era Christians (cessationism). After World War II, several young Fundamentalists, including **Billy Graham**, decided to bring Fundamentalism back into mainstream society, and reintroduce their beliefs to a wider audience as the new neo-Evangelical movement.

A Cessationist View (Outline)

- by Richard Gaffin Jr.

Some Preliminary Remarks

A. Second Experiences

1. Why Pentecost is Unique
2. But What About Second Experiences in Acts?
3. Because of Pentecost, we experience the Holy Spirit's Work

B. Cessationism

C. Church Life Today

D. Dangers

These topic and responses will be addressed in more detail in class

Cessationist – Main Tenants

- by Richard Gaffin Jr.

- ❑ P41. The key question is not *whether* spiritual gifts continue today, but which ones?
- ❑ P42, pt. 2. Revelatory gifts (prophecy, knowledge, wisdom, tongues) are gone, else Scripture is not closed, and we are unable to prove all things according to scripture since a prophecy is on par with Scripture
- ❑ P45. Many continuationists are in fact cessationists, since they acknowledge there are no Apostles today and other unrepeatable events in Acts (tongues of fire and signs of an Apostle)
- ❑ P60. It is incongruous for the Spirit of truth and order to provide gifts to the church today to unify and edify with the gifts being so ill-defined

Cessationist – Responses

- by Richard Gaffin Jr.

❑ Open but Cautious

- P67. Without continuance of prophecy we are left with either inscripturated or general revelation today
- P67. Lack of explicit teaching makes it difficult to affirm either cessationism or continuationism
- P69. Scripture does not explicitly teach the cessation of prophecy, though church history plainly demonstrates that prophecy changed radically since the apostolic era

Cessationist – Responses

- by Richard Gaffin Jr.

□ Third Wave

- P74. Though everyone concedes there are unique and unrepeatable elements in Acts, Luke nowhere argues that the charismatic work of the Spirit is among them
- P75. Cessationist must show some evidence where the exclusive purpose of miracles and charismata is attestation of apostolic mission [ANSWER – see Hebrews 2:4]
- P79. Joel 2 prophecy seems ill-fulfilled by a few hundred disciples during the 1st century
- P80. The primary purpose of the prophetic gift is to expose the secret sins of unbelievers
- P84. Scripture does not say that God became mute after establishing the early church
 - Note. Scripture does not say Apostles have ceased, but they have

Cessationist – Responses

- by Richard Gaffin Jr.

□ Pentecostal/Charismatic

- P86. There is a pronounced trend among some in the Pentecostal academy to reject inerrancy and biblical authority
- P89. No Pentecostal would argue that the day of Pentecost is repeatable
- P89. BUT, since the Spirit is now available to all believers in the same experiential manner as it was on the 1st day, that experience is repeatable
- P90. The Bible does not indicate a change in the way the Spirit's power is manifested [ANSWER – Consider the inability to heal Paul, Epaphroditus, Timothy, Trophimus, and the change up in James on how to get people healed]
- P91. The characteristic “last days” life is for everyone
- P92. There is no explicit teaching that says the gifts are restricted to the Apostolic office, therefore the view of absolute cessation is untenable [Again, consider Hebrews 2:4]

Cessationist – Dangers

- by Richard Gaffin Jr.

The Dangers of Believing this way

- ❑ Underestimating the Spirit's abilities
- ❑ Going beyond what is written in Scripture

Lesson 7: Open But Cautious View

- ❖ Outline
- ❖ Main Tenants
- ❖ Responses from Cessationist
- ❖ Responses from 3rd Wave
- ❖ Responses from Pentecostal/Charismatic
- ❖ Dangers of Believing This Way

Open But Cautious View (Outline)

-by Robert Saucy

A. The Experience of God
Subsequent to Salvation

B. Cessationism

1. The Uniqueness of the
Apostolic Era
2. The Unevenness of Miracles
in Biblical History
 - a. The Biblical Evidence of Special
Periods of Miracles
3. The Witness of Church
History Regarding Miracles
4. The Possibility of the
Continuation of Spiritual
Gifts in the Church
5. The Issue of Specific Teaching
on the Cessation of Certain
Spiritual Gifts
6. Conclusion

C. Specific Gifts & Ministries

1. Prophecy
2. Healing
3. Tongues
4. Casting Out Demons
5. The Implementation of Gifts

D. The Gifts and the Life of the
Church

1. Gifts that are Preeminent
2. The Development and Training
of Gifts
3. The Corporate and Personal
Ministry Gifts
4. Personal Guidance from God
5. Relating with Those Who Differ
on Miraculous Gifts

E. Dangers in the Various Positions

Appendix: On Evaluating Prophecy

Open But Cautious View – Main Tenants

-by Robert Saucy

- ❑ P97. Scripture does not provide explicit teaching on the gifts; we must seek answers from a “broad consideration of biblical teachings” and from church experiences
- ❑ P98. Scripture does not command us to seek a new relationship with the Spirit
- ❑ P99. Paul expresses no concern for believers to experience the miraculous
- ❑ P100. Scripture demonstrates that the miraculous phenomena of the early church are not standard for the church throughout all time
- ❑ P102. If apostles have ceased, then we must acknowledge the cessation of certain signs, wonders, and miracles
- ❑ P113. Experience has always played a valid part in interpreting and recognizing God’s work
- ❑ P113. It is difficult to distinguish a genuine divine miracle from a spurious or even a demonic one.
- ❑ P122. We do not see in the Bible any average church member performing miracles of healing. The sick were always brought to the Apostles or Church elders
- ❑ P123. We have no explicit biblical teaching or portrait on what miraculous activity was divinely intended for the church
- ❑ P123. The uniqueness of the Apostolic era , along with the lack of any explicit teaching on the cessation of the gifts, suggests we must be open to their continuance

Open But Cautious View - Responses

□ Cessationist

- P151. Saucy's position seems more "cautious" than "open"
- P151. No explicit teaching on a subject does not mean Scripture is vague about it (i.e., the Trinity)
- P153. The closing of the Canon and the ceasing of inspired, infallible revelation (prophecies, tongues, knowledge, wisdom) stand or fall together

Open But Cautious View - Responses

□ Third Wave

- P157. According to Deere, an apostle is not a spiritual gift, but a person with a divine commission
- P159. Apostolic workings of supernatural wonders were unique and unrepeatable – “For who has measured up to the apostles in any respect?” (Deere)
- P161. “Strangeness is not a criterion for truth”
- P162. Paul’s minimally mentioning prophecy in his letters does not prove its cessation

Note: Jack S. Deere was formerly an associate professor of Old Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary. In 1986 Deere reversed his cessationist position on the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as faith healing and prophecy. He left the seminary faculty at the end of 1987 and joined the staff of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church in Anaheim, California

Open But Cautious View - Responses

□ Pentecostal/Charismatic

- P166. Historical claims by Didache spoke of prophets continuing into the 2nd century; and the Reformers gave serious treatment to the matter of signs, wonders and prophetic claims
- P167. Luther believed the power to do signs was available
- P168. Calvin allowed for extraordinary gifts “as the need of the times demands”
- P171. 1Corinthians 12-14 along with Acts and the rest of the New Testament tell us what is characteristic and normal during the “last days,” not the apostolic era
[But Paul said Tongues would cease upon a certain event]

Open But Cautious View - Dangers

The Dangers of Believing this way

- ❑ Openness to the miraculous closes one's mind to other possibilities of lesser expectations
- ❑ Some seek physical manifestations of the Spirit to support their faith (live by sight not by faith)
- ❑ Believers are categorized according to giftedness instead of fruitfulness, leading to the danger of elitism on one side and inferiority on the other side
- ❑ Can produce havoc by pronouncing false prophecies over others

Lesson 8:

3rd Wave View

- ❖ Brief History on 3rd Wave
- ❖ Outline
- ❖ Main Tenants
- ❖ Responses from Open But Cautious
- ❖ Responses from Pentecostal/Charismatic
- ❖ Dangers of Believing This Way

Popular Third Wave proponents:
John Arnott, William Branham,
Morris Cerullo, Paul Yonggi Cho,
Kenneth Copeland, Paul Crouch,
Kenneth Hagin, Marilyn Hickey,
Benny Hinn, Rodney Howard-Browne,
Rick Joyner, Kathryn Kuhlman,
Aimee Semple McPherson, Fred Price,
Oral Roberts, Pat Robertson, and
Robert Tilton

The 3rd Wave is also known as the hyper-charismatic movement or the New Apostolic Reformation

Brief History on 3rd Wave

The Third Wave is one of the largest movements in Dominionism, a group of theologies that promote taking "dominion" over the social and governmental functions of the U.S. and the world. 3rd Wave manifestations include holy laughter, slaying in the spirit, and episodes of uncontrollable jerking or shaking. Since the 1980s, The movement has overrun many Assemblies of God churches, as well as other Pentecostal churches, and has made incredible inroads into the larger body of Evangelicalism with its Prosperity Gospel and "Name it and Claim it" theology. The movement is organized in the U.S. and around the world by networks of Apostles. The Apostles of the Third Wave believe they hear directly from God.

3rd Wave View (Outline)

- by C. Samuel Storms

- A. Second Experiences
- B. The Ceasing of Cessationism
- C. Specific Gifts and Church Life
 - 1. The Gift of Prophecy
 - 2. Gifts of Healings
 - 3. The Gift of Tongues
 - a. The Purpose of Praying in the Spirit
 - b. The Place of Praying in the Spirit
 - c. Are Tongues a Sign?
 - d. Are Tongues Always a Human Language?
- D. Dangers

3rd Wave View – Main Tenants

- by C. Samuel Storms

- ❑ P176. 3rd Wavers, like most evangelical churches, reject the doctrine of subsequence. In other words, they believe Christians are initially baptized into the Holy Spirit at the moment of conversion, and not some subsequent time after conversion as most Pentecostals/Charismatics do
- ❑ P179. And 3rd Wavers, like Pentecostals/Charismatics believe in subsequent, and often dramatic experiences of the Spirit in the course of the Christian life
- ❑ P180. In short, there is one Spirit-baptism, but multiple fillings
- ❑ P181. And there is the anointing of power for the performance of miracles
- ❑ P188. The fact that miracles do appear throughout history, even sporadically, proves miracles never cease
- ❑ P200. If signs, wonders, and power of the Holy Spirit were essential in bearing witness to the gospel then, why not now?

3rd Wave View - Responses

- by C. Samuel Storms

□ Open but Cautious

- P225. The 3rd Wave's passion for the Spirit has been a positive influence for the church
- P227. The 3rd Wave's concept that Acts is the model for the normal church is flawed
- P228. Praying for signs as a normal pattern for the church is taken out of context since it was specific to the Apostles
- P228. The argument from silence that the gifts would continue is also flawed
- P230. The concept that modern day prophecies can contain error is flawed

3rd Wave View - Responses

- by C. Samuel Storms

□ Pentecostal/Charismatic

- P235. Main problems between 3rd Wave and Pentecostals/Charismatics are terminology
- P236. Pentecostal/Charismatic have the same position as the 3rd wave against the cessationist view
- Note. Some AIG congregations preach against some phenomena such as those exhibited by the recent “Toronto Blessings” of holy laughter and other wild and uncontrollable behavior. The bizarre behavior as associated with the Toronto Blessing adherents and their loose-defined doctrine has been classified as the beginning of the 4th Wave in the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement

3rd Wave View - Dangers

- by C. Samuel Storms

The Dangers of Believing this way

- ❑ Danger of emotionalism
- ❑ Danger of measuring someone's personal worth by their gifting
- ❑ Danger of prioritizing the seeking of gifts over seeking the Giver of gifts

Lesson 9: Pentecostal/Charismatic View

- ❖ Brief History of Pentecostalism
- ❖ Outline
- ❖ Main Tenants
- ❖ Responses from Cessationist
- ❖ Responses from Open But Cautious
- ❖ Responses from 3rd Wave
- ❖ Dangers of Believing This Way

Brief History of Pentecostalism

Pentecostalism emerged almost exactly a hundred years ago. Furthermore, Pentecostalism began as a racially integrated movement and included women in positions of leadership. Its beginnings were simultaneous with the organization of the Fundamentalist movement, but distinct in many beliefs and practices. Pentecostalism was preceded by the Holiness movement of the 1800s. A series of revival meetings which featured the "outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit" are considered the beginnings of the movement. It was believed that the emergence of these signs indicated a renewal of the supernatural gifts at the biblical Pentecost. The early Pentecostals believed that the bestowal of these gifts, such as speaking in tongues, were mission tools that would allow them to save the world for Christ before the end times. As it grew, the movement splintered into various cooperative fellowships, including Assemblies of God, Church of God in Christ, Church of God (Cleveland), and International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Eventually the movement would result in literally thousands of denominations worldwide. Today the combined number of Pentecostals and related movements is estimated at 500 million people.

Pentecostal/Charismatic View (Outline)

- by Douglas A. Oss

- A. Introduction
- B. On Second Experiences
 - 1. Is Pentecostalism Truly a 2nd-blessing Movement?
 - 2. A Biblical-Theological Survey of the Spirit's Work
 - a. The Spirit's Work Within the Old Testament Period
 - b. The Old Testament Anticipation of the Spirit's Future Work
 - c. New Testament Fulfillment of the Spirit's Work
 - d. Excursions on 1Cor 12:13
 - e. Excursions on Initial Physical Evidence
 - 3. Should Christians Seek the Empowering Work of the Spirit Today?
- C. On the Cessation of Miraculous Gifts
 - 1. Continuity of Miraculous Gifts in Redemptive-Historical Perspective
 - a. The "Last Days"
 - b. The Davidic Kingdom
 - c. The Spirit in Redemptive History
 - 2. Cessation in Light of the New Testament Teaching on Miraculous Gifts
 - a. Passages that instruct concerning the use of Miraculous Gifts
 - b. Passages that Record Miraculous Events
 - 3. On Specific Gifts & Ministries
- D. On Miraculous Gifts in Church Life
- E. On Dangers Related to Miraculous Gifts
- F. Conclusion

Pentecostal/Charismatic – Main Tenants

- by Douglas A. Oss

- ❑ All gifts still exist
- ❑ Multiple fillings of the Holy Spirit are possible
- ❑ P248. The prophecy of Joel 2:28-32 justifies universal charismatic activity
- ❑ P264. The doctrine of cessationism originated with experience, and the naïve reader would never come to cessationist conclusions
- ❑ P279. Miraculous gifts give concrete form to the canon in real-life situations as much as the fruit of the Spirit

Pentecostal/Charismatic - Responses

- by Douglas A. Oss

Responses

❑ Cessationist

- P286. Silence in Scripture about the cessation of particular gifts is flawed
- P292. If apostles still exist, where are they? Who are they?
- P292. Pentecostal/Charismatic and 3rd Wavers are unable to defend their positions that canon is closed

Pentecostal/Charismatic - Responses

- by Douglas A. Oss

Responses

❑ Open but Cautious

- P298, pt. 1. Spirit baptism is rife with controversy
- P303. The ability of prophecies to include errors confirm that the gifts have changed since the 1st century

❑ Third Wave

- P305. Tongues is not the initial physical evidence of Spirit-baptism

Pentecostal/Charismatic - Objections

- by Douglas A. Oss

Other Objections

- ❑ Difficulty defining each of the gifts – how they are suppose to work
- ❑ P60. Tongues: *“There is simply no way to know if tongues-speaking is the same in kind as in Acts”* – (Gordon Fee, Author, Christian theologian, & AIG minister, *Empowering Presence, p.890*)
- ❑ P59. Word of Knowledge & Word of Wisdom: The difference between Knowledge and Wisdom *“is perhaps forever lost to us”* (Fee, *Empowering Presence, p.167-168*)

Pentecostal/Charismatic - Dangers

- by Douglas A. Oss

The Dangers of Believing this way

- ❑ Signs and wonders can be elevated over truth
- ❑ Prophetic gifts can be used to manipulate rather than to encourage
- ❑ Pentecostals are open to any and all expressions of miraculous works, including demonic
- ❑ Pentecostals are prone to liberalism
- ❑ Pentecostals are prone to high tech manipulation

Lesson 10: Conclusion and Wrap Up

- ❖ So, What if...
- ❖ Consider This...
- ❖ Last Rebuttal
- ❖ Final Thoughts

So, What if...

- ❑ If Cessationism is correct, and God is not in the business today of even healing a paper cut miraculously, then what prayers will God answer for us?
 - If we lack wisdom to figure out how to improve one's physical, mental, social, and financial well being, we have the command to ask for such wisdom (James 1:5)
 - If we run into demonic activity, we have God's guidance to combat such evil (Ephesians 6)
 - Like the Israeli's of old, once they crossed into the Promised Land, God stopped the supernatural miracles of daily manna, visible presence through smoke & fire, and clothes and shoes not wearing out – and started to work providentially behind the scenes to destroy their enemies and advance His kingdom – assuming they obeyed His commands
 - We are commanded to pray for all men and for all needs
 - The Holy Spirit “intercedes for us” and takes our humble and inadequate prayers and translates them into “groanings which cannot be uttered” or “groanings too deep for words” NASB (Romans 8:26)

So, What if....

- ❑ If the Pentecostals, Charismatics, and 3rd Wavers are correct and the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit are still functional today, then why don't we see missing limbs restored, Down Syndrome kids healed, burn victims healed, broken bones immediately healed, and even paper cuts healed with ease as Jesus and His Apostles and early disciples did it?

Consider this....

- ❑ Is anything too hard for God?....The Obvious Answer is NO, nothing is too hard!
- ❑ Isn't it just as easy for God to restore a soldier's missing limb or to heal a Down Syndrome child as it is to heal someone with a headache? ABSOLUTELY
- ❑ Could it be it is not God's will to work supernatural miracles these days?
- ❑ Also, consider how many Charismatics have to wear glasses, and how many die without being resurrected. It is the same ratio as all other types of churches

It is not because God lacks compassion for His reason to suspend supernatural miracles these days, but there is a higher purpose of eternal glory more than our temporary comfort

Eternal Blessings Await the Handicapped

God says He is the one who makes the lame and the blind (Exodus 4:11). Therefore, the handicapped need not fret about being short-changed in this life. Better days are coming.

- ❑ Isaiah 42: 16 – The blind will be blessed with sight and not forsaken when the Lord comes (**IOW, the handicapped will be made whole**)
- ❑ Isaiah 56:4,5 – *For this is what the LORD says: "To the eunuchs (i.e., the handicapped) who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant— to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off" – IOW, the handicapped who remain faithful to God will receive higher esteem throughout Eternity than the non-handicapped!!*
- ❑ Micah 4:6-7 – God will assemble the lame (handicapped) and outcasts, those whom He's afflicted, into a strong nation
- ❑ Zephaniah 3:19 – God will greatly honor the lame and outcasts in all the earth

God uniquely chooses individuals to have specific handicaps for reasons only He knows, and He will uniquely bless them in the New Kingdom - A little pain now for an eternity of blessings

The Real Power of God...

- ❑ The real POWER of God is not to provide temporary healings and short-lived miracles – as much as it is to PERMANENTLY CHANGE LIVES FOR ETERNITY
 - ...where unbelievers become believers
 - ...& believers become conformed to the image of Christ
- ❑ Jesus said “...”*Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life*” John 6:27
IOW – don’t chase after temporal stuff, but focus on the eternal
- ❑ ...and God’s POWER (DYNAMITE) to change lives is available to anyone willing to abide in Him (John 15)

The Christian Life is a Life of PRAYER

Final Thoughts

- ❑ SO, what we see in Scripture is Jesus healed anyone and everyone of anything and everything, any time and every time, anywhere and everywhere He went, and worked other wonders at will
- ❑ ...and the Apostles also healed anyone and everyone of anything and everything, any time and every time, anywhere and everywhere they went, and worked wonders at will – BUT only up to the end of Acts
- ❑ ...also the Epistles show the “Signs of an Apostle” in past tense
- ❑ YET, what we see today is few, if any, getting healed – and only of Functional or psychosomatic disorders, AND no substantiated supernatural wonders being worked or organic ailments cured
- ❑ THEREFORE, we have to conclude, based on Scriptural evidence alone, that God has suspended working supernatural miracles from the end of the Apostolic era till the 2 witnesses arrive in Revelations 11

The “Cessationist” view seems to line up best with Scripture and with observational data

Sources (Books)

- ❑ The Bible
- ❑ “*Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?*”
- By Wayne Grudem and Stanley N. Gundry
- ❑ “*Counterfeit Miracles*” (1st published 1918)
- By B.B. Warfield
- ❑ “*Charismatic Chaos*”
-by John MacArthur, Jr.

- ❑ Selected Videos
 - *The Exodus Decoded* – a History Channel documentary

Rev 2:2b ...and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false.

Arguments from Silence

- ❑ The biblical study on Arguments from Silence is an exhaustive study in itself
 - Is the thing which is not forbidden freely permitted?
Or is that which has not been freely allowed forbidden?
 - Example #1. The Law never explicitly forbade the use of a cart to carry the Ark of the Covenant, but King David found out the hard way after the death of Uzzah he better let the Levites alone carry the Ark (2Samuel 6)
 - Example #2. We learn from Hebrews 7 & 8 that the silence of Moses regarding other tribes being able to have priestly authority is a sufficient argument to prove that the legal priesthood did not belong, nor could be transferred, unto the tribe of Judah from whence comes Jesus, our High Priest. Therefore a new order had to be defined – the order of Milchezedek
- ❑ Scripture does not explicitly teach that Apostles will cease, but we can reasonably claim they have ceased from circumstantial evidence within Scripture (the whole counsel of God)
- ❑ Scripture is also silent regarding the closure of the Canon, yet the Church acknowledges the completion of Scripture to be the current 66 Bible books
- ❑ Scripture is silent on the gifts of the Holy Spirit continuing throughout church history; and Scripture is also silent on the cessation of the gifts (some or all or none) and when

More Thoughts

- ❑ We need to be men and women who know how God works in our era (1Chronicles 12:32 *Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do...*)
- ❑ God often used Shock & Awe Tactics to capture the attention of His people or to warn of impending doom – but they were always temporal tactics, never continuous
 - Periods of Miracles (Moses, Elijah/Elisha, Jesus...)
 - Commands to the Prophets: Isaiah naked for 3 years; Hosea married a prostitute; Ezekiel cooked food over dung; JTB 's strange diet & attire
 - Intelligible and defined tongues, prophecies, and other gifts of the Holy Spirit during the 1st generation of the church
- ❑ Remember the true purpose of the Holy Spirit – to testify of Jesus Christ, not of Himself. And Jesus seeks to bring glory to God the Father and not to Himself; though glory does come to Him
- ❑ Remember the goal of Satan – to deceive through lies and trickery, including mimicking miracles and other works of God

In the end, people believe what they want to believe....