Do such miracles still occur today? If not, why not? And if so, why are they so rare and subjective as compared to the numerous & provable 100% healings of the 1st century apostolic era?

### Ananias Gives Paul The Holy Spirit, Sight, and Food
- Ananias also receives a unique vision from God. Was this disciple special to receive this vision and direction? How so?
- Saul, the persecutor, would soon become Paul, the persecutor, as he would spend the rest of his adult life either in jail, in chains, in beatings, or escaping crowds.

### Saul “Straightway” Proclaims the Gospel Boldly
- With Saul changing his beliefs so suddenly, this would possibly be on par with Pres. Obama becoming a Republican.
- v22. Saul increased in strength and confounded the Jews.
- v27. Barnabas – a man like few others. His faith was bold (recall Acts 4 where he sold & gave his possessions away), and he took chances with people. How can we do the same? v31. The church can experience growth even when they have peace from persecution – assuming we remain diligent.

### Peter Heals Aeneas, Who was Paralyzed for 8 Years
- This was another supernatural healing of the unhealable since the healing was spontaneous and instantaneous.
- v35. And ALL who saw this healed man "turned to the Lord." So, why doesn’t God heal the unhealable today – the amputees, the mentally handicapped – so that more would turn? Consider this. Healings are temporary. Even raising someone from the dead doesn’t convert the eyewitnesses. It is sound doctrine (God’s word) that saves ….. 1Tim 4:16

### Key Continuationist’ Viewpoints
- YES, God still works supernatural healings and miracles today since Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and we are healed by His stripes.
- But, they acknowledge, healings are not of the same frequency or magnitude; & they are performed more in 3rd world countries where the Gospel is not prevalent (No scripture evidence to support this)
- If God only works small miracles and partial healings (less than 100% healed), then we have contradictions in Scripture, for there are things too hard for God to do, and God fails to give to everyone who asks in faith and for their joy to be made full.
- How do Continuationists respond to less than 100% healings and God only working small wonders?
- It is no longer God’s will to heal all, and God does what He pleases, when He pleases.

### Key Cessationist’ Viewpoints
- NO, God has ceased working supernaturally until the two witnesses in Revelation 11 arrive.
- Else, God is a respecter of persons as He willy-nilly heals only a few but not ALL; and, God only works small miracles, since He doesn’t restore amputated limbs or heals Downs Syndrome kids, or other organic ailments.
- We must be like the Israelites once they marched across the Jordan and God’s supernatural wonders ceased (e.g. daily meals & their clothes not wearing out); yet, they were to convey to the next generation that God was still the same God as He met their daily needs providentially.

### Does God Still Perform Supernatural Healings & Miracles Today

### Purpose of Shock and Awe Miracles
- To validate the message and the messenger – for a season
- To grab the attention of the onlookers
- Miraculous or seemingly miraculous wonders make people form a decision and act accordingly (e.g., It’s either of God, of man, of the Devil, or of natural causes?)
- Miracles do not convince anyone to believe. In fact, they may enrage some against the miracle worker.

### Conclusion / Applications
- We need not fret if we do not see the assumed signs, healings, and miracles experienced by some. God is still the same God, and more blessed are those who have not seen, yet still believe…………… John 20:29

### NEXT WEEK: Acts 10
- An angel of God told Cornelius his prayers & money would be used in days before embalming & v31
- An angel of God told Cornelius his prayers & money were used in days before embalming & v31
- Rest of story: 100% male & female disciples, the mentally handicapped, the amputees, & female disciples are used in Scripture, & they were to convey to the next generation that God was still the same God as He met their daily needs providentially.

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Posted to: http://rodoneil/ss-lessons/
**HOW PAUL, SILAS, AND BARNABAS SPOKE IN ACTS**

**ACTS 9:20** Paul IMMEDIATELY PROCLAIMED Jesus

9:22 He continually increased in strength and CONFOUNDED the Jews

9:27-28 He SPOKE OUT BOLDLY in the name of Jesus.

9:29 He TALKED AND ARGUED with the Hellenistic Jews;

11:26 Paul & Barnabas met with the church & TAUGHT large numbers;

13:5, 15 They PROCLAIMED God’s word in the synagogues of the Jews;

13:43 He SPOKE & URGED believers

13:46 Paul & Barnabas SPOKE OUT BOLDLY

14:1 Paul & Barnabas SPOKE IN SUCH A MANNER that a great multitude believed

14:3 Paul & Barnabas SPOKE BOLDLY w/ RELIANCE on the Lord

14:21 They PREACHED the Gospel and made many disciples

14:22 They STRENGTHENED the Disciples & ENCOURAGED them to continue in the faith because tribulation was coming

15:2 Paul & Barnabas DEBATED with believers

15:3 Paul & Barnabas DESCRIBED IN DETAIL Gentile conversions & which brought great joy to believers

15:35 Paul & Barnabas TAUGHT & PREACHED the word of God

16:10 God called Paul & Barnabas to PREACH the Gospel

16:13 Paul & Silas SPOKE TO WOMEN

16:4,21 Paul & Silas DELIVERED DECREES to be observed & PROCLAIMED CUSTOMS

16:25 Paul & Silas PRAYED & SANG hymns of praise

17:2-3 Paul REASONED with them from the Scriptures, … EXPLAINING & GIVING EVIDENCE

17:18 Paul PREACHED Jesus Christ & the resurrection

18:5 Paul DEVOTED HIMSELF COMPLETELY to the word and SOLEMNLY TESTIFIED

18:9 Paul was NOT SILENT

19:8 Paul CONTINUED TO SPEAK OUT BOLDLY, REASONING & PERSUADEING about the Kingdom of God

19:37 Paul was NOT A BLASPHEMER of other religions

20:11 Paul TALKED THROUGH THE NIGHT, if needed

20:18-20.27 Paul SERVED WITH ALL HUMILITY, and DID NOT SHRINK FROM DECLARING WHOLE PURPOSE OF GOD

20:24 Paul was called by God TO TESTIFY SOLEMNLY

20:31 Paul DID NOT CEASE TO ADONISH WITH TEARS

22:2 Paul ADDRESSED THE JEWS in their own Hebrew dialect

24:21 Paul SHOUTED OUT to the Jews “For the resurrection of the dead I am on trial”

24:24-25 Paul SPOKE ABOUT FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, DISCUSSING RIGHTEOUSNESS, SELF-CONTROL, & JUDGMENT TO COME, and Felix became frightened

25:11 Paul APPEALED TO CAESAR

25:19 Paul ASSERTED JESUS CHRIST WAS ALIVE

26:1 Paul DEFENDED HIMSELF

25:16-18 He was appointed to minister & witness TO things seen & to be revealed, He OPENED THEIR EYES, & CONVERTED THEM

26:20 Paul KEPT DECLARING EVERYWHERE, people’s need to repent & turn to God, and for them to perform deeds appropriate to repentance

26:22-23 Paul TESTIFIED STATING NOTHING BUT WHAT THE PROPHETS & MOSES SAID – that Jesus Christ was to suffer, die, & rise to proclaim “Light” to Jews and Gentiles

26:25-26 Paul UTTERED WORDS OF SOBER TRUTH, SPEAKING WITH CONFIDENCE

26:27 Paul ASKED RHETORICAL QUESTIONS – “Do you believe the Prophets?”

28:23 Paul EXPLAINED BY SOLEMNLY TESTIFYING about the Kingdom of God & TRIED TO PERSUADE them concerning Jesus Christ from the Law & Prophets FROM MORN TO EVENING – Some believed, others did not

28:25-26 Paul SPOKE A PARTING WORD to the unbelieving Jews

28:31 Paul PREACHED THE KINGDOM OF GOD & TAUGHT ABOUT JESUS CHRIST UNHINDERED

**RESULTS OF THEIR SPEAKING**

Acts 9:31 The church enjoyed peace, was built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, continued to increase

12:24 The word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied

13:33 The whole city assembled to hear

13:48 Many as had been appointed received eternal life

13:52 Disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit

14:1 A great multitude believed

14:21 Many disciples were made

15:3 They brought great joy to believers

16:5 Churches were strengthened and were increasing in numbers daily

19:10 All who lived in Asia heard the Gospel

19:20 Word of God was growing mightily & prevailing

19:26 Paul was successful in turning many away from false gods

24:24-25 Government official (Felix) became frightened

26:16-18 Paul opened people’s eyes, and converted them (by words)

28:23 Some believed, some did not

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Paul’s ability to speak in such away so as to convince and convert many was not by accident, but was a result of practice and prayers, especially having others praying for him and his entourage to have opportunities to speak and to do so with boldness and clarity.

*Eph 6:19-20* Paul asked for prayer, that utterance (the right message) may be given to him, and that he may speak boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel

*Col 4:3-4* Paul asked for prayers that God may open a door for God’s word to declare the mystery of Christ clearly

*Col 4:6* Let our speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that we will know how we should respond to each person.

*2Tim 4:2* Preach the word: be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and DOCTRINE.

- Paul and his entourage did not ask for prayers to do more miracles, though they performed many themselves. Paul healed everyone on the island of Malta (*Acts 28:9-2*); Paul & Barnabas worked wonders in Iconium (14:3); He healed many with his handkerchief (19:11-12); and He raised the dead (20:9-10); and cast out demons (16:18)
- They were more concerned about what they needed to say and how to say it, where to speak the Gospel, and who to speak it to, and when should they do it (from morning to evening, and even through the night). Shouldn’t we have the same concern about sharing our faith?

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*The Back Pew – Jeff Larson*

*Come to mention it, I guess I was blinded, beaten, ship-wrecked, imprisoned... I guess I was TOO BUSY SERVING to notice.*

*The Apostle Paul, too wrapped up in his love for God to notice his own problems. THAT’S A NICE PROBLEM FOR LIFE.*

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