

The Gospel According to John

10-14-2020

1. Last week I taught in part Joh 14:7-12 where we took note of how Jesus' disciples/apostles had fulfilled Joh 14:12. When the clock struck 7:45 we were about to look at the question, "what about miracles today"?
2. Before returning where we left off last week, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
3. I believe a review of the NIV of Joh 14:12 is in order.

Joh 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

What About Miracles Today?

1. The question is often raised as to whether the modern church may enjoy the same power of performing miracles as the early New Testament church did.
2. It must be granted that God is omnipotent and could enable His own to perform miracles today.
3. While it is clear from Scripture and history that God generally and gradually ceased to work through "signs" and "wonders" as the Canon was being completed and distributed, I think we all can agree miracles do occur today.
4. Well authenticated occurrences of the miraculous are seen today.
5. Among tribal peoples miracles seem to abound, perhaps to attest to the message and messenger or perhaps under the auspices of Satan to confound and obfuscate the saving grace of Christ. Many missionaries attest to being challenged by local magic men who can perform miracles.
6. Wycliffe in his Bible Encyclopedia has written:
 - 6.1 "In ... primitive tribes, miracles apparently did not occur after a church had been established. This is not to imply that miracles have not occurred or will not occur ..."

7. In the third world or tribal lands Satan and his demon hordes seem to work overtly. As a result, it does seem that God often answers Satan with overt miracles of His own.

What About the Gift of Miracles? Is There Evidence of Its Gradual Decline

1. There is, first of all, a prophecy “when the perfect comes, then the imperfect shall pass away.”

1Co 13:8 Agape (*the right mental attitude that comes from metabolized doctrine in the soul*) never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

1Co 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1Co 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

2. Also a categorical study of the early temporary gifts give further documentation that a gradual decline did in fact occur. For example:

2.1 Paul, early in his ministry could heal and often did so; the same is true of the other Apostles.

Acts 19:11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

Acts 19:12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

2.2 Later the gift had vanished as prophesied by Paul in 1st Corinthian Chapter thirteen.

Phi 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

Phi 2:26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

Phi 2:27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

2Ti 4:20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

2.3 Unger in his book on Tongues speaks of the temporary gifts as having been hissed off the stage when the Canon of Scripture is completed, i.e., “when that which is perfect comes.”

2.3.1 Additionally both Unger and Thieme conclude that Scripture itself seems to indicate a gradual reduction in the use of temporary or whip gifts as the Bible unfolded.

2.4 I early alluded to the fact that after A.D. 58 there was no evidence of whip gifts being extant. By whip gifts I refer to such gifts as tongues, interpretation of tongues, discerning of spirits, healing, the gift of teaching, the gift of wisdom, the gift of prophecy, signs and wonders etc.

2.5 After the writing of 1st and 2nd Corinthians in c. 56 and 57 A.D. respectively, there is no mention of the whip gifts; a significant number of books of the Bible were in fact written and distributed after 1st and 2nd Corinthians. For example, we had: Colossians, Galatians, Philemon, 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, 1st and 2nd Timothy, Titus, 1st and 2nd Peter, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John, Hebrews, Jude and Revelation.

Caveats Concerning Certain Miracles

1. In the Olivet Discourse Christ prophesied that false Christs and false prophets would perform miracles.

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

2. We must be very careful with reference to analyzing what appears to be a miracle, especially when performed by a “godly man.”

2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

3. The AntiChrist of the Tribulation will be a man of miracles.

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2Th 2:9 Even him, who's coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Rev 13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Rev 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

Rev 13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Non-Christian Sources of Miraculous Power

1. It was earlier noted that in the end times miracles will be performed by demonic power.

2. Presumably the work of the Egyptian and Babylonian magicians, Simon Magus, and Elymas the sorcerer should be placed in the same category.

Exo 7:11 Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the **Egyptian magicians** also did the same things by their secret arts:

Exo 7:12 Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

Dan 1:20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the **magicians and enchanters** in his whole kingdom.

Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man, called **Simon**, which before time in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

Acts 8:10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

Acts 8:11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Acts 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

Acts 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Acts 8:17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Acts 8:19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Acts 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Acts 8:23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Acts 8:24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

Acts 13:6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus:

Acts 13:7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

Acts 13:8 But **Elymas** the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him.

Acts 13:10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

Acts 13:11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Acts 13:12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Summary

1. The miracles performed by Moses and Joshua may easily be found and studied in the Pentateuch and book of Joshua.
2. The works of Elijah are described in 1Ki 17:17-24 and 1Ki 18:17-46
3. The miracles of Daniel are recorded in the book of Daniel.

4. The miracles of our Lord are scattered throughout the gospels.
5. Miracles performed by leaders in the early church may be found in the book of Acts, beginning in chapter three and the early epistles to the church. The gospels record 35 separate miracles performed by Christ.
6. Of these Matthew mentions 20; Mark 18, Luke 20 and John 7. It should not be concluded however these are all the miracles of our Lord.
7. Obviously the gospel writers under the leadership of God the Holy Spirit only selected a few.
8. There are many ways of arranging the individual miracles noted in the gospels depending on the purpose of the commentator.
9. In closing let me repeat, since we have no idea of the source of miracles, we must not place ourselves in a position of dogmatically asserting a miracle's source as Satanic or Divine but rather our job is to know what the Bible teaches about miracles.
10. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 14:13-21

KJV

Joh 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Joh 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Joh 14:15 If (3rd class) ye love (agapao 2pl, pres. act. indict.) me, keep (tereo, 2nd pl. fut. act. indict.) my commandments.

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Joh 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

NIV

Joh 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

Joh 14:14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

Joh 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever –

Joh 14:17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Joh 14:19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

Joh 14:20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Joh 14:21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

11. I think the best way to teach these verses is to review *the Doctrine of the Kingdom*. This we shall do next week.

We do not authorize any third party to solicit donations on behalf of the Westbank Bible Church.