

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## The Miracle Gifts

Text: 1 Cor. 12:4-11 <sup>4</sup> There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: <sup>8</sup> for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

### I. The Gift of Miracles

#### A. The word "miracle"

1. English – a very unusual occurrence
2. Greek – *dunamis* – “dynamite” – a supernatural act
  - a. controlling weather or nature – plagues, Red Sea, calming sea
  - b. creating – fish and loaves
  - c. controlling demons
  - d. healing diseases
  - e. overcoming death
3. Greek – *semeion* – sign
  - a. authenticating a message – Moses and Pharaoh, prophets

Exodus 4:1–5 Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The Lord has not appeared to you.’ ” <sup>2</sup> So the Lord said to him, “What *is* that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.” <sup>3</sup> And He said, “Cast it on the ground.” So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and take *it* by the tail” (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), <sup>5</sup> “that they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

- b. authenticating a messenger - Jesus

John 6:13–14 Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

- c. Peter

Acts 9:40–42 But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup> Then he gave her *his* hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. <sup>42</sup> And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

**B. Definition: The capacity to work a feat in violation of natural laws as a sign of authentication of a follower of Christ.**

**C. The Biblical Pattern of the Performance of Miracles**

1. **Around the Exodus**
2. **During the ministry of the prophets**
3. **During the life of Jesus and the early church**

**Why? – the sign of authentication was needed**

**D. Do we see miracles today? Yes.**

**E. Do we often see individuals performing miracles today? No.**

**Why? Because God’s redemptive work is complete and authenticated by the resurrection of Jesus.**

**Because God’s Word is complete.**

**Signs of authentication are not needed as often today, especially where we live.**

**Signs can even run counter to faith.**

Luke 11:29 And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, “This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. –the sign of the resurrection

**F. Can a person have the gift of miracles today? Yes**

Most likely to be found on the mission field, where the Word of God is not yet known, to authenticate God’s missionary who brings to them the first time, the Gospel and the Word of God.

## **II. The Gift of Healing**

**A. Divine healing is real.**

Exodus 15:26 ...I *am* the LORD who heals you.

Deuteronomy 32:39 Now see that I, *even I, am He*, And *there is no God besides Me*; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor *is there any who can deliver from My hand*.

Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

**B. God does not heal everyone every time.**

1. **Jesus healed many but not all.**
2. **Many were at the pool of Bethesda, but Jesus healed only one.**
3. **A lack of healing is not always the result of a lack of faith.** Even Paul was not healed of his physical infirmity.

**Paul had an eye disease or some continuing effect from an eye injury.**

Galatians 4:13-15 You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. <sup>14</sup> And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, *even as Christ Jesus*. <sup>15</sup> What then was the blessing you *enjoyed*? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

**C. God heals in 3 ways.**

1. **Direct, miraculous healing**
2. **Through medical means**
3. **Through the gift of healing**

Matthew 10:1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

**D. God's purposes in healing**

1. **Mercy, kindness, love**
2. **As a sign of authentication.**
  - a. **Of the Prophets**
  - b. **Of Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God**
  - c. **Of the disciples**

**E. Definition: The capacity to heal a sick or injured person in the name of Jesus as a sign that the person brings God's message.**

**F. Do we see divine healings today? Yes.**

**Do we often see individuals performing healings today? No.**

Because signs are not as often needed in our part of the world today.

**G. Can a person have the gift of healing today? Yes**

Again, most likely to be found on the mission field, where the Word of God is not yet known, to authenticate God's missionary who brings to them the first time, the Gospel and the Word of God.

CONCLUSION: If you want these gifts, I suggest that you head to the mission field, to the end of the earth and beyond.

I remember when God was first stirring my heart for missions, a man who had long been involved in missions saying, "If you want to see the miraculous hand of God like you have never seen it before, go on the mission field."

Now, some years into that journey, I would have to say I agree. The most miraculous works of God that I have witnessed have been while I was at work on the mission field, multiple times while in my Jerusalem field following Hurricane Katrina, and several times on the end of the earth field while preaching the gospel.

Just another reason to be obedient to Acts 1:8!