

Miracles, Healings, and Tongues

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I. Introduction.

- A. Texts: I Corinthians 12, Romans 12.
- B. Some gifts were designed for building up the body of Christ.
- C. Other gifts were to confirm the Word of God to unbelievers.
- D. Miracles were always confirmations of the claims of Jesus and the Apostles for unbelievers.

II. If one sign accompanied someone, all the signs should have accompanied him. These were signs of an Apostle. (Mark 16:14, II Corinthians 12:12, Hebrews 2, Ephesians 2:20)

- A. The church today needs this kind of confirmation. (I Corinthians 14)
- B. The Word of God is the verifying entity today, not miraculous signs.
- C. The Scripture has the final authority today. (Luke 16:11)
- D. If these signs existed today, they would be in operation where the Word of God was not.

III. The signs. (I Corinthians 10)

A. God still does miracles today even if the sign gifts are not in operation. Miracles are different today and the gift of miracles have ceased.

B. Healing. (I Corinthians 12:9)

1. No one walks around and heals by volition.
2. Even in the book of James, healing was brought about by prayer.
3. If the gift of healing existed today it would belong to Bible teachers and not healers.
4. The gift never seems to be exercised for the believer. (II Timothy 4)

C. Tongues.

1. This simply refers to languages.
2. It confirmed to unbelievers that Peter's message was from God. (Acts 2)
3. Tongues were assigned to Jews who did not believe. (I Corinthians 14:21, Isaiah 20:11)

4. The signs of Israel are over because the times of the Jews have been suspended. (Acts 18)

5. It was always a known language.

6. All prophesy and knowledge would give way to full knowledge and tongues would cease by themselves. (I Corinthians 13:8)

IV. The sign gifts today are not valid.

A. The miraculous gifts cannot be found in the early church.

B. Demons can impersonate the signs. (Isaiah 8:19)

C. Just because it happens does not mean it is true.

D. People practice this because they do not follow systematic Bible teaching, they are starved for the Word of God and supernatural experience, they want emotional experience because of a lack of faith, and it has been offered as a quick way to spirituality.

E. The universality of the practice of tongues may be the catalyst for the one world church. (Revelation 17)

F. We have all we need spiritually. (II Peter 1:3)

Application questions:

1. Can miracles still exist today according to the speaker?

2. What is the difference between miracles in general and the supernatural sign gifts?

3. What reasons does the speaker give for the cessation of the sign gifts? Explain.
