

The Terre Haute **Speaker**

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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Characteristics of Bible Miracles

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A good way to see that miracles have ceased is to observe differences in Bible miracles and “miracles” purported today. Those who claim power to perform miracles as the Lord, His apostles, or those endowed with spiritual gifts need to explain these differences.

Immediate. When Peter took the man lame from his mother’s womb by the hand, “...immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple” (Acts 3:7-8). The man did not receive strength progressively, but instantaneously! Why do “miracles” today not have the same immediate results?

Faith Not Required. Today, faith is put as a condition of miraculous healing, and healing is in proportion to one’s faith. If one is not completely healed, then he did not fully believe, or so we are told. Really this is just a dodge! With Bible miracles, no faith is evident in many cases and there are cases where no faith was possible (Luke 7:11-17; Acts 13:11-12). Why do “miracles” today require things not required for Bible miracles?

All Healed. Jesus went about “...healing all manner of disease among the people” (Matthew 4:23-24). Acts 5:16 records, “There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and

them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.” Nobody was culled out or turned away. At the “miracle” crusades and campaigns today, why are they not healed every one?

Expectation Not Required. Some are made to believe that in order to see a miracle they must be expecting a miracle. Bible miracles did not require expectation, but were often unexpected. A good example is when the lame man at the temple gate expected alms, but received a miracle of healing (Acts 3:3-7). Why should we expect today that which was unexpected in Bible days?

Not Advertised by the One Performing Them. Have you observed how modern “miracle workers” advertise and publicize their “great wonders”? Jesus did not heal for notoriety. In fact, on a number of occasions, He commanded that the healed “tell no man” (Mark 3:7-12; 7:31-37; 8:22-26). Why is a modern “miracle crusade” preceded by an advertising campaign?

Not Done for Money. We read where the lame man of Acts 3 was expecting to receive alms of Peter and John, but where do you find Peter and John expecting money from the lame man? Today’s “faith healers” have it backwards! I suggest that when the money stops pouring in the “healing power” will stop

flowing out! Why do “healers” today beg and plead for money, when healing in New Testament days was not done for money?

Presence Unnecessary. The one doing the healing and the one being healed did not have to be together for the miracle of healing to take place. A good example is when “God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: 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” (Acts 19:11-12). Let’s see the “miracle men” and “wonder workers” do this today. We have some with diseases we would like to see depart from them.

Done Despite Protest. Opposition did not hamper or hinder the performance of miracles in Bible days. Luke 4:33-35 records, “And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.” Why do protestors get in the way of modern “miracles,” when they did not inter-

fere with the work of the Lord?

Done Despite the Presence of Unbelievers. This is seen in the record of Acts 13:10-12, when Elymas the sorcerer, who withstood Barnabas and Saul, was struck with divine pepper spray and “the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”

Public. Apostolic miracles were so public that the conferring council could say of the apostles Peter and John, “What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem” (Acts 4:16).

Complete Healing. Folks were given “perfect soundness” (Acts 3:16) and “made whole” (Acts 4:9). The healing was total and absolute. There was no partial healing, nor was there any relapse.

Undeniable. Of the miracle performed by Peter and John it was said, “...indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them...and we cannot deny it” (Acts 4:16).

Don’t be deceived by “deceitful workers” or “lying wonders” (2 Corinthians 11:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:9).

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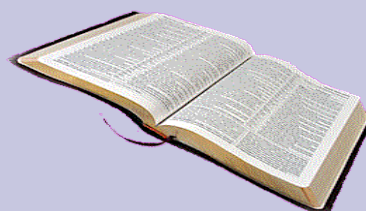
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Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.



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