

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

September 4, 2020

Miracles

Almost forty years ago, a group from our church attended a revival meeting to hear a famous singing husband and wife team, who also preached. The woman minister approached a young man from our church who was totally paralyzed from the waist down, and commanded him to “rise up and walk in the name of Jesus.” She seemed agitated that nothing happened so she said to him before the entire congregation, “*God just told me you can get up and walk anytime you want to.*” It was both amazing and sickening how this minister saved face by placing the blame for the lack of a miracle on the young man who was totally paralyzed.

Our pastor, Leroy Surface, was very upset, and told the young man, “If a minister ever does that to you again, take all the strength you can muster and throw yourself out of that wheel chair.” If he miraculously walked, the minister would be confirmed as being of God, if not, the minister would be exposed as a pretender. Bro. Surface later told me, “All my life I have seen ministers attempt to raise people out of wheel chairs who have never seen God heal even a headache through their ministry.”

God is a miracle worker! For me to deny this would be an outright lie because I have seen God do so many miracles over the past fifty plus years. There is one basic truth about miracles that

everyone needs to understand, however; **“there are no methods that can produce a miracle.”** Miracles do not issue out of “faith,” or “principles,” or “knowhow.” True miracles come only out of the Spirit of God.

The word of God is clear that the “gifts,” or “manifestations of the Spirit” are given selectively as the Spirit of God chooses. The Apostle Paul spoke of nine of these manifestations and said, *“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit...”* I Corinthians 12:11. In other words, a person cannot choose how and what God will do through them; they can only yield themselves to that which God has chosen to do through them. No one can choose the gifts of healing or miracles. We are to *“covet earnestly the best gifts”* I Corinthians 12:31, but God chooses whom He will to operate such gifts through.

A “Private” in the military may perfectly learn the way a general commands an army, but he will never lead the army unless he is promoted. Where spiritual things are concerned, promotion comes only from God. A person God has anointed with a certain spiritual gift will learn many things about how God works through them, but no one can be educated into operating a spiritual gift which God has not chosen to work in them. If they can, then their “gift” is not from God.

Not everyone is, or can be, a worker of miracles. Some manifestations of the Spirit go with the ministry God has called a person to. Paul confirms this, saying, *“Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.”* II Corinthians 12:12. Other manifestations of the Spirit may be given to one person, but not to another.

Paul asked, *“Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?”* I Corinthians 12:29-30.

There is one prerequisite to any person receiving a manifestation of the Spirit of God. They must first be filled with the Spirit of God (the Holy Ghost). This is not “having a prayer language,” nor is it having a doctrine about the Spirit of God. Many people believe they received the baptism of God’s Spirit when they received Christ, but that is neither scriptural nor true. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is a real and sovereign happening, and it is received subsequent to salvation. I have seen too many people who seem to believe that being filled with the Spirit is something you just accept to be so by faith. That is also a fallacy.

Every believer should be presently seeking God, either to receive the baptism in the Holy Ghost, or thereafter to be continually filled with the Spirit. The Apostle Paul said, *“...though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day”* II Corinthians 4:16. This cannot be just assumed, or “taken by faith,” but is accomplished only as we “drink at the fountain” and “eat at the table” of our Lord every day that we live. Being “daily renewed,” we will be daily filled with God’s Spirit. Paul said to *“...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...”* Romans 12:1. Do this in prayer, worship, and service, and the Spirit of God (the Holy Ghost) will begin to work in you to manifest the works of God which he has chosen for you to walk in. Ephesians 2:10.