

The Work of the Holy Spirit

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Lesson 2:

***The Laying on of Hands & The
Baptism with the Holy Spirit
(The End of Miracles)***

Signs, Wonders, and Miracles

It is essential to believe that signs, wonders, and miracles occurred:

- ◆ They proved Jesus came from God.
 - | (John 3:2 NKJV) "... no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."
- ◆ They confirmed the message of the N.T. prophets.
 - | (Heb 2:3-4 KJV) ... God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, ...

Signs, Wonders, and Miracles

It is also essential to believe that signs, wonders, and miracles ended:

- ◆ **If they did not end, then there are additional authorized messengers and authenticated messages today.**
- ◆ **The claim of continuing messages is a source of confusion today.**
- ◆ **We need to put that claim in clear contrast to the Scriptures.**

We need to be able to demonstrate from the Scriptures the end of miracles.

Signs, Wonders, and Miracles

- ◆ There are two approaches for demonstrating that miracles ended:
 - | Approach #1: The Scriptures teach there would be a time when these abilities would end (e.g., I Cor. 13).
 - | Approach #2: The Scriptures show that the ways these abilities were transmitted are no longer available today.

We will look first at Approach #1.

A Passage about Love (I Cor. 13)

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

The importance of love.

A Passage about Miraculous Abilities

... but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail;
whether there be tongues, they shall cease;
whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that
which is in part shall be done away.

...

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

***The end of prophecies and speaking in
tongues.***

Background

- ◆ In chapter 13, Paul makes two very important points:
 - | The importance of love
 - | The miraculous gifts were just temporary

The Corinthians should not be sacrificing the long-term benefits of love for the short-term glory of spiritual gifts.

Two Time Periods

- ◆ To clarify the interim purpose and temporary nature of spiritual gifts, Paul contrasts two time periods:

“NOW”—the time Paul is writing.

“THEN”—a later time.

Two Time Periods

“NOW”—the time Paul is writing.

- | We know/prophecy “in part” (13:9 KJV)
- | We see through a “glass, darkly” (13:12 KJV)

“THEN”—a later time.

- | Prophecies shall “fail” (13:8 KJV)
- | Tongues shall “cease” (13:8 KJV)
- | Knowledge shall “vanish away” (13:8 KJV)
- | The “perfect” shall come (13:10 KJV)
- | The “in part” shall be done away (13:10 KJV)

Two Time Periods

“NOW”—the time Paul is writing.

- | We know/prophesy “in part” (13:9 KJV)
 - è “In part” is used “as opposed to the whole.” [*Word Pictures in the New Testament*]
 - è “In part” [Greek: *ek meros*] is translated “bit-by-bit” [James Moffatt].
- | We see through a “glass, darkly” (13:12 KJV)
 - è “Through a glass” is better translated “in a mirror” (contrasted with “face-to-face”).
 - è “Darkly” [Greek: *ainigma*] means “in a riddle” [ASV footnote], or as a puzzle.

God was revealing His will piece by piece—like puzzle pieces that make a whole picture.

Two Time Periods

“THEN”—a later time.

- | “Perfect” shall come / “in part” done away
 - è “Perfect” [Greek: *telios*] means “complete, entire, as opposed to what is partial and limited” [*Analytical Greek Lexicon*].
 - è (1 Cor 13:9 KJV) For we know in part, and we prophecy in part [or bit-by-bit, sjc]
(1 Cor 13:10 KJV) But when that which is perfect [complete, sjc] is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Two Time Periods

“THEN”—a later time.

è (1 Cor 13:8 KJV) ...prophecies, they shall fail;
whether there be tongues, they shall cease;
whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

| Prophecies “**fail**” / knowledge “**vanish**”
{Greek: *kartargeo* means superseded
(something will replace them)}

| Tongues “**cease**” {Greek: *pauo* means
cease}”

Tongues would end without a replacement.

Piece-by-piece knowledge through prophecies
would be replaced by the completed message.

Signs, Wonders, and Miracles

- ◆ There are two approaches for demonstrating that miracles ended:
 - | Approach #1: The Scriptures teach there would be a time when these abilities would end (Eph. 4, I Cor. 13).
 - | Approach #2: The Scriptures show that the ways that these abilities were transmitted are no longer available today.

We will now look at Approach #2.

Signs, Wonders, and Miracles

- ◆ In the Scriptures, we find only two ways (modes) of imparting miraculous abilities:
 - | First Mode: The laying on of an Apostle's hands

Laying on of an Apostle's Hands

Example #1: The Samaritans

- ◆ Then two Apostles (Peter and John) came to Samaria, they ...
 - | (Acts 8:17 NKJV) ... laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ They received something Simon could see.
 - | (Acts 8:18 NKJV) ... Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given ...

Receiving or giving the Holy Spirit is a phrase used to refer to miraculous abilities.

“Receive the Holy Spirit”

- ◆ What does it mean to “receive the Holy Spirit”?
- ◆ It is a figure of speech called metonymy.
 - | “Sec. 59. Metonymy of the Cause.—By this figure the cause is stated while the effect is intended.”

D. R. Dungan, *Hermeneutics*, pages 270-271

① The “Gift of the Holy Spirit” in Acts 2:38

◆ Metonymy—Examples

- | “The pen is mightier than the sword.”
- | “They have Moses and the Prophets.”
- | “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Cause	Result/Effect
pen	writings that influence
Moses and Prophets	Scriptures they wrote
Holy Spirit	Miraculous abilities thru H. S.

Receiving the Holy Spirit refers to receiving miraculous abilities enabled by the Holy Spirit.

Laying on of an Apostle's Hands

Example #1: The Samaritans

◆ When ...

| (Acts 8:18 NKJV) ... Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given ...

... he asked for the Apostles to ...

| (Acts 8:19 NKJV) ... "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Here are clear statements that the Apostles' hands transmitted the miraculous abilities.

Laying on of an Apostle's Hands

Example #2: Twelve "disciples"

- ◆ **As Paul approached Ephesus, ...**
 - | (Acts 19:1-2 KJV) ... finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since (after, sjc) ye believed? ...
- ◆ **Then, after they were baptized, when ...**
 - | (Acts 19:6 KJV) ... Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

The Ephesians received miraculous abilities by the laying on of the Apostle Paul's hands.

Laying on of an Apostle's Hands

Example #3: Timothy

- ◆ But, the gift was imparted "by"/"through" the laying/putting on of Paul's hands.
 - | (2 Tim 1:6 KJV) ... stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
- ◆ The eldership was present.
 - | (1 Tim 4:14 KJV) ... with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Timothy received his miraculous abilities from an Apostle (not other men).

Laying on of an Apostle's Hands

Example #4: Stephen of Jerusalem

- ◆ Seven were chosen to aid the Grecian widows; the people set them ...
 - | (Acts 6:6 NKJV) ... before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.
- ◆ After that, Stephen ...
 - | (Acts 6:8 NKJV) ... did great wonders and signs among the people.

Stephen (and others) received miraculous abilities from the Apostles.

Laying on of an Apostle's Hands

- ◆ There is not a single instance of miraculous abilities being imparted by a man *except by the laying on of the hands of an Apostle*.
- ◆ No one today can meet the qualifications to be an Apostle: one had to be a witness with us of His resurrection." (Acts 1:22 NKJV)
- ◆ No one today can impart miraculous gifts.

Signs, Wonders, and Miracles

- ◆ In the Scriptures, we find only two ways (modes) of imparting miraculous abilities:
 - | First Mode: The laying on of an Apostle's hands
NOT AVAILABLE TODAY
 - | Second Mode: The "baptism with the Holy Spirit"

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- ◆ There are *only two* occasions when the miraculous gifts were imparted without the laying on of anyone's hands.
 - | Ex. #1: To the Apostles on Pentecost (Acts 2).
 - | Ex. #2: To the household of Cornelius (Acts 10).

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Example #1: Apostles on Pentecost

- ◆ On Pentecost (A.D. 30), the Apostles ...
 - | (Acts 2:4 ASV) ...were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- ◆ Just 10 days earlier, Jesus had promised that the Apostles would ...
 - | (Acts 1:5 NKJV) ... be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The Apostles received miraculous abilities through baptism with Holy Spirit.

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Example #2: Cornelius' household

◆ At Cornelius house (A.D. 40):

- | (Acts 10:44-45 NKJV) While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision ... were astonished ... because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.
- | (Acts 10:46-47 NKJV) For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

◆ Peter connected the events with:

[1] Being “baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

| Peter said that he remembered Jesus’ statement that some would ... be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ (Acts 11:16 NKJV)

[2] The Apostles being “baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

| Peter said the Holy Spirit ... fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. (Acts 11:15 NKJV)

Those of Cornelius’ household received miraculous abilities through baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

OBSERVATIONS

- ◆ The only two recorded instances of baptism with the Holy Spirit are in A.D. 30 (the Apostles) and A.D. 40 (those of Cornelius' house).
- ◆ In Eph. 4:5 (written in A.D. 62), Paul says there is "one baptism"; this is a burial in water (Col. 2:12) for salvation (I Pet. 3:21).

“Baptism with the Holy Spirit” was limited to Christians in the first century.

Signs, Wonders, and Miracles— SUMMARY

◆ In the Scriptures, we find only two ways (modes) of imparting miraculous abilities:

| First Mode: The laying on of an
Apostle's hands

NOT AVAILABLE TODAY

| Second Mode: The “baptism with the
Holy Spirit”

NOT AVAILABLE TODAY

The means for imparting miraculous gifts are no longer available, so the gifts are no longer available.

Signs, Wonders, and Miracles

- ◆ There are two approaches for demonstrating that miracles ended:
 - | Approach #1: The Scriptures teach the abilities would end (e.g., I Cor. 13) when God's message was completely revealed.
 - | Approach #2: The Scriptures show that the ways these abilities were transmitted are no longer available today.

Both approaches show that miracles are not available today.