

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART VIII
THE WORKING OF MIRACLES - PART 1

Text: I Corinthians 12:10a

Key Word: Miracles

Key Thought: The Bible Has Many Examples of the Working of Miracles

The spiritual gift of "the working of miracles" is one that works in a wide operation. There are times when it merges with the "**Gifts of Healings**" while other times it is evident along with the "**Gift of Faith.**"

There are many evidences that this gift is continuing at work. At times we have witnessed the raising of the dead; miracles of supply; miraculous deliverance; special judgements against wicked persons or nations.

This gift is not to be used for public display. Jesus answered the irreverent demand of the Pharisees by saying,

*"A wicked and adulterous generation looks
for a miraculous sign, but none will
be given it except the sign of Jonah."*

*Matthew 16:4
cf. 12:38-42*

The sign they were given was when Jesus was placed into the tomb for three days and later resurrected. They wouldn't believe the sign He gave them.

The devil tempted Jesus to make bread out of a stone (Luke 4:3). Jesus refused to demonstrate His power before the devil in the power struggle. Instead Jesus said,

"Man does not live by bread alone."

*Luke 4:4
cf. Deuteronomy 8:3*

Yet when there were 5,000 and 4,000 men following Him to hear His words, Jesus miraculously fed them from a few loaves and fishes (Mark 6:30-44; 8:1-9).

The devil also tempted Jesus to defy the law of gravity and cast himself down from the pinnacle of the temple (Luke 4:9-13). Jesus would not fall for the devil's cunning temptation.

Yet we know that Jesus did defy the law of gravity by walking on the water to come to

the aid of His disciples who were being buffeted by the waves (Matthew 14:22-33).

Miracles are described by many people in many different ways. Sometimes we use the word quite loosely. I've heard people describe the beauty of a sunset, calling it a miracle. The miracles that I am referring to are different from that.

"A miracle, therefore, is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature; a temporary suspension of the accustomed order; and interruption of the system of nature as we know it . . .

A miracle is a sovereign act of the Spirit of God irrespective of laws or systems. A miracle does not, as some cynical unbelievers say, demand the existence of an undiscovered law to explain it."

Harold Horton
"Gifts of the Spirit"
p 109

The working of miracles serves two purposes. *First*, it is used to provide for special needs. ***Secondly***, it is to confirm the gospel witness to those who will believe. These miracles are dramatic, outward visible signs. The word used for "***miracles***" is translated from the Greek work "***dunamis***" (cf. dynamite). It is used to describe the powerful workings of God.

There seems to be a number of distinct classifications that miracles fall into.

I. MIRACLES OF SUPPLY

II. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD

III. MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT

IV. MIRACLES OF DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONS

V. MIRACLES OF OVERRULING NATURE

Just when we think we have all that God can do in tidy little pockets, He tends to do something which is very unique which can include several spiritual gifts combined at once. Such is the case of Ronnie Coyne.

*** In May 1950, the Coyne family moved to Sapulpa, Oklahoma. In August of that year the mother was aroused from her nap by her crying son, Ronnie.

He had stuck a wire into his eye accidentally. He was taken to the best eye specialist in Tulsa called Dr. Otis Lee at the Springer Clinic. Once the seriousness of the accident was diagnosed, they rushed Ronnie to St. John's Hospital. ***

(Contd.)

*** Surgery was performed in an attempt to save the eye. During the operation it was discovered that an abscess had formed and there was no way to drain it. The infected eyeball had to be removed.

A plastic eyeball was later fitted into the eye socket. He lived with his disability for 10 months. Through that time Ronnie was saved. A travelling evangelist named Sister Gillock visited Sapulpa.

Ronnie went forward for prayer because of an infection in his tonsils. Sister Gillock noticed that something was wrong with his eye and asked if he believed the Lord could heal him. She didn't realize at the time that he had a plastic eye.

After praying a short prayer Ronnie began to see objects from his right eye. He saw the steps, the microphone and was able to count fingers.

They tested him for several days. The local newspapers (Tulsa World; Tulsa Tribune) wrote articles about the miracle. They began travelling around speaking in vast audiences demonstrating the miraculous power of God.

In December 1952, they attended the Voice of Healing Convention in Dallas showing that he could see equally well at of both eyes.

Ten years later he spoke at the same convention which was held at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He spoke though as a fiery young evangelist that God used to proclaim the message of salvation. He was experiencing a continuous miracle from God. ***

Gordon Lindsay
"Gifts of the Spirit"
pp. 9-11

I. MIRACLES OF SUPPLY

A. Manna - One of the most unique miracles recorded in the Scriptures that took place while the children of Israel travelled for 40 years in the wilderness. God supplied them with manna every day except the Sabbath.

"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them to see if they will follow my instructions. (Contd.)"

I. MIRACLES OF SUPPLY (Contd.)

5. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

Exodus 16:4,5

God wanted to teach them to depend upon Him for their daily needs. The manna that had come every day (doubled on the Friday so they didn't have to work extra on the Sabbath). Over the years that amount reached an amazing amount 12,000 days before stopping when they entered the promise land.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray in the same way,

"Give us today our daily bread."

Matthew 6:11

B. Clothing - God also performed another 40 year miracle of supply.

"During the 40 years I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet."

Deuteronomy 29:5

C. Meal in the Barrel - The prophet Elijah was sent to the widow at Zarephath after the water dried up at the Brook Cherith. The widow was gathering some sticks to cook her last meal. The prophet had her make a meal of bread for him before supplying for her son and herself. God performed a miracle through Elijah because of their obedience.

"The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the earth."

I Kings 17:14

D. Coin in the Fish - The children of Israel once asked the question , *"Can God set a table in the wilderness."* People have continued to ask whether God could supply for their needs. The answer is an overwhelming **YES!**

I. MIRACLES OF SUPPLY (Contd.)

D. Coin in Fish (Contd.)

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

When Jesus sent forth His disciples He told them not to take gold or silver with them (Matthew 10:9,10) to prove that He could miraculously supply for their needs. Later He did allow them to take their money bags (Luke 22:35,36).

Once while visiting in Capernaum the disciples were approached by the tax collectors for the two drachmas or ½ shekel (two days wage) annual temple tax. In order not to offend the publicans Jesus said,

"go to the lake and throw out your line, Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four drachma coin. Take it and give it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

Matthew 17:27

II. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD

This exercising of the gift of miracles does beyond what the "*Gifts of Healings*" do. For someone to be raised back to life, their departed spirit must return to their body. This is determined by God alone. Only God can restore life. There are various Scriptural accounts of someone being raised back to life.

A. The Widow's Son (I Kings 17:17-24)- This is the first detailed account in Scripture of someone being raised from the dead. The same widow that had supplied for Elijah now witnessed the death of her son. There are times when even great men of faith do not prevent trouble from entering our lives. The woman felt that Elijah was sent to expose some past sin of hers that was still weighing upon her conscience (I Kings 17:18). The prophet did three things to raise the boy back to life.

1. He Secluded Himself (17:18) - He took the boy away from his mother. He went up to his room and laid the child on the bed. It is important to find ourselves in places where our faith is not hindered when invoking God's divine power. Even Jesus could do only a few miracles because of the people's lack of faith.

2. He Reasoned with God (17:20) - Elijah had to understand the cause of the child's death. He believed that God had taken the child's life.

II. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD (Contd.)

A. The Widow's Son (I Kings 17:17-24) (Contd.)

2. He Reasoned with God (17:20) (Contd.)

"O LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?"

I Kings 17:20

Sometimes we need to reason with God to discover the facts of the matter. God is not the only one who kills. The devil also has the power over death.

*"so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil -
15. and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."*

Hebrews 2:14,15

3. He Exercised His Faith (17:21,22) - Elijah recognized that there was an anointing that rested upon him which was released upon the boy as a contact point for his faith.

*"Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, 'O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!
22. The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived."*

I Kings 17:21,22

This miracle proved to the widow without a shadow of doubt that Elijah was a man of God.

Scriptures also record the raising of the Shunammite widow's son by the prophet Elisha in II Kings 4.

II. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD (Contd.)

B. Tom Welch - Some people doubt that God still performs such miracles in our day and age. The story of Tom Welch tells me of the compassion of Jesus is still flowing.

At 18 years of age, Tom Welch went to work at a lumber mill in Bridal Veil, Oregon. One day while working 55 feet above the ground on a steel trestle, he lost his footing and fell, striking several cross- members before hitting the ground.

His battered body, with broken bones and a severe skull fracture lay for a period of 20 minutes in a pool of dirty engine water.

His life was sweeping away and the reality of a hell he had always disbelieved now became very focussed in his mind. He cried out to God for mercy.

The minutes passed. Then, he saw Jesus passing his way. When Tom felt that Jesus would not notice him because he had almost disappeared from view, Jesus turned and looked right at him. Compassion filled the heart and eyes of our Lord.

At that moment Tom's life came back to his body. At the very moment, Mrs. Finn Brocke, whose husband was an engineer, was praying intently. She had taken an interest in this orphan boy.

They took Tom to the hospital. During the next four days Tom did more thinking about God than he had ever done before. God asked him if he would preach the gospel. The answer was clear - YES! At the end of those four days the miracle was complete. It was of such nature and so well documented that it amazed the physicians as well as hundreds who knew what had happened. Every broken bone was healed in the four days. Tom testified of the miracle in a church service shortly after.

He kept his word to preach the gospel. He began ministering with Rev Gordon Lindsay the founder for Christ for the Nations.

Gordon Lindsay
"Gifts of the Spirit" Vol 3
p. 23-25

C. Jarius' Daughter - Jesus raised Jarius' daughter (Luke 8:41-56) back to life as well as Lazarus from the grave after being dead for four days (John 11).

II. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD (Contd.)

D. Dorcus - Peter was used in Acts 9:36-43 to raise Dorcus [Greek] (Tabitha - Aramaic) back to life. She had been a woman who had served the Lord faithfully (Acts 9:39) by making clothing for those in need. It was an untimely death. God used this miracle to cause many to believe upon the Lord (Acts 9:42).

E. Eutychus - Paul also was used to raise the dead. As he was speaking one night at Troas a young man by the name of Eutychus fell asleep and landed hard enough from the three stories that he died.

Most of us would give up any hope at that time. Paul was different.

"Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said.

'He's alive!'

11. Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left.

12. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted."

Acts 20:10-12

F. The Widow's Only Son

Jesus restored the widow's only son during the funeral procession in the town of Nain.

"Then he went up and touched the coffin and those carrying it stood still.

He said, 'Young man, I say to you, get up!'

15. The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother."

Luke 7:14,15

The miraculous power of God is still available and is being exercised by those who will trust God.

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Date: Aug 9/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: What a Mighty God we Serve - G

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D. Coin in Fish - *Philippians 4:19; Matthew 10:9,10; Luke 22:35,36; Matthew 17:27*

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A. The Widow's Son - *I Kings 17:18*

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E. Eutychus - *Acts 20:10-12*

F. The Widow's Only Son in Nain - *Luke 7:14,15*