

# Miracles: What are they?

Do you believe in miracles?

Why are miracles important?

Are men doing miracles today?

# Many Claims

- The word is often used of any unusual event
  - birth, survive an auto accident, he graduated from school
- Some Liberals - deny miracles
- Some Conservatives - claim them today
- Let Bible answer some questions.

# 1 - What is a miracle?

- A miracle is an event in the external world brought about by the immediate agency or the simple volition of God, operating without the use of means capable of being discerned by the senses, and designed to authenticate the divine commission of a religious teacher or the truth of his message. (Easton's Bible Dictionary)

# 1 - What is a miracle?

- Distinguish between:
  - 1. **Miracle** - supernatural
  - 2. **Providence** - use of natural means
  - 3. **Amazing** - childbirth is amazing, caterpillar becomes a butterfly; These are not miracles

## 2 - Do you believe in miracles?

- 1. YES - God has done many miracles. Jesus did many miracles recorded in the Bible.
- 2. YES - Man can be empowered by God to do miracles - Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Apostles
- 3. NO - Men today are not empowered. There is no purpose today.
- 4. YES - God still has power.

## 3 - Why did miracles occur?

- Confirm the Word
- **Mark 16:19-20** <sup>19</sup> So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

## 3 - Why did miracles occur?

- Confirm the Word
- Hebrews 2:2-4 <sup>2</sup> For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, <sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, <sup>4</sup> God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

## 3 - Why did miracles occur?

- Confirm the Word
- Fill the gap until Bible is completed
- 1 Corinthians 13:9-10 <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part. <sup>10</sup> But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

## 3 - Why did miracles occur?

- Confirm the Word
- Fill the gap until Bible is completed
- Help young church to mature
- Ephesians 4:12-13 <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

## 3 - Why did miracles occur?

- Confirm the Word
- Fill the gap until Bible is completed
- Help young church to mature
- To instill faith John 20:30-31 <sup>30</sup> And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

## 4 - What about all the claims today?

- Mormons, Catholics, Pentecostal, Jehovah Witness - many more
- Others - Islam, Shinto, Buddah
- Preachers - Jack Coe, Oral Roberts, Pat Robertson, Jimmy Swaggart, Jim and Tammy Faye Baker

## 5 - Are men doing miracles today?

- **1 Corinthians 13:8-10** <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away.  
<sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part.  
<sup>10</sup> But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

## 5 - Are men doing miracles today?

- **1 Corinthians 13:11-13** <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. <sup>13</sup> And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

# 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

- Miracles will stop
- 8 Miracles will cease, fail, vanish away
- 9-10 Partial knowledge
- 11 Child (immature)
- 12 Dark mirror image
- 13 Things that stop
- Love is better
- Love never fails
- Full knowledge
- Man (mature adult)
- Clear glass
- Things that remain (abide)

# Miracles are important

- Miracles are how we are led to believe in Jesus
- Belief in Jesus is how we are led to obey
- Obedience is how we are led to salvation
- Salvation is how we are led to eternal life