

What about Miraculous Sign Gifts? – Part 3 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Introduction:

1. The Corinthians were in great spiritual danger. This danger proceeded from their ignorance concerning spiritual gifts. vs. 1
2. Spiritual gifts were being counterfeited in order to communicate false doctrine. In verse 3, Paul is saying:
 - If somebody manifests a supernatural sign, but in so doing, communicates false doctrine concerning Jesus Christ, it is **not** from God's Spirit.
 - On the other hand, if somebody does **not** manifest any kind of outward miraculous sign, but his message is **correct** concerning Jesus Christ, this **is** from God's Spirit.
3. The Corinthians were in danger of being duped, just as they had been duped before salvation. vs. 2
4. Paul spends three chapters (12-14) dealing with the issue of spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit was visibly manifesting Himself through the use of these spiritual gifts. vs. 7
 - They were given for the corporate edification of the church, yet they were being abused, and the church at Corinth had become chaotic and disorderly.
5. There are two types of spiritual gifts that Paul deals with in his epistles:
 - Supernatural gifts that were of a miraculous nature - sign gifts
 - Ministry gifts used in service to God and others - **Romans 12:6-8**
6. Paul is dealing primarily with the use of the supernatural gifts here in Corinthians. Verses 8-10 give us a list of these gifts. In this lesson we will endeavor to explain each of these gifts and what they were in the early church.
7. We will then explain why these supernatural gifts were given and were necessary.

The word of wisdom and word of knowledge - vs. 8

1. These two gifts are closely related. They deal with the supernatural impartation of divine knowledge and information.
2. When the local assembly would meet, God would supernaturally impart to certain ones doctrine. They would receive a word of knowledge. Why was this necessary?
3. Remember - this was written during the Acts time period. Paul wasn't in their midst any more. As Paul would receive additional information from God, the local assemblies had to be brought up to speed with the doctrinal information.
4. People in the assembly were given this supernaturally by God's Spirit. They were fountains of divine knowledge. **Example: Acts 21:10-12**
5. The word of wisdom was the ability to make application of the knowledge. It was the supernatural ability to come up with divine answers to human problems.
 - **Example: Matthew 10:17-20** - don't study or worry about it - the answer will be there when the time comes. cf. **Acts 5:1-3**

Faith - vs. 9

1. This is speaking of a supernatural capacity to exercise faith. cf. 14:2;
Matthew 17:19-20, 21:21-22
 - Why is the mountain removed in the tribulation? **Revelation 8:8, 8:3-6**

2. It has to do with miraculous answers to prayer and removing monumental problems that confront you. **Example: Acts 4:23-33**
3. Have you tried removing any mountains lately? It doesn't work, does it? It is because this is not what God is doing today, and church leaders have to come up with religious gimmicks to keep from embarrassing themselves and God with their false claims.

Healing - vs. 9

1. This was the supernatural capacity to make sick and afflicted people well.
2. This is a consistent part of God's program with the nation of Israel. Physical healing is part of God's covenant with them. **Exodus 15:26, 23:25; Ezekiel 34:16; Jeremiah 30:17**
3. Divine forgiveness and physical healing go hand in hand in Israel's program. **Isaiah 33:24; Psalm 103:3; Matthew 9:6; James 5:14-16**
4. Physical healing was part of Christ's earthly ministry to Israel (**Matthew 9:35, 10:1**), His earthly commission to the twelve (**Mark 16:18**), and we see them exercising this supernatural gift. **Acts 3:1-8, 5:15-16**
5. You can try to exercise this gift all day long, but it won't work because this was part of God's kingdom program with Israel. That kingdom program has been set aside today, but will resume one day after the body of Christ is complete.
 - This dispensation of grace is referred to as "*the sufferings of this present time.*" **Romans 8:18; cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-17**
 - There **is** a healing program for the body of Christ - it is called the "*day of redemption.*" Our corruptible bodies will be redeemed and we will be given a glorified body like Christ's. **Romans 8:23; Philippians 3:21**
 - Do believers sometimes get sick and recover today? Of course, but is it the result of a faith healer touching you and healing you? No!
6. Benny Hinn and all the other TV religious superstars can claim to have the apostolic gift of healing, but rest assured, **they do not**. When scrutinized by the standard of God's Word and the healing ministry of Christ and the apostles, they aren't even on the same planet.
7. What we see today is a mixture of demonic deception, emotional manipulation, mind-control, religious hysteria, and self-induced wishful thinking. They are taking advantage of afflicted people that are looking desperately for an answer to their problems.
 - Every healing revival, these "healing evangelists" send away multitudes of disappointed people that didn't get a cure. Compare this to Christ and the apostles. **Matthew 9:35, 10:1; Acts 5:15-16, 28:8-9**

Working of Miracles

1. This is the God-given ability to exercise power over natural laws. It is a supernatural demonstration beyond natural causes.
2. We use this term very loosely today, and not in the Biblical sense.
 - "I needed \$20 to pay my electric bill; I was at the mall and in the parking lot was a \$20 bill, right by my car on the ground. It was a miracle!"
 - That certainly would be a wonderful thing, but it is not a miracle.

3. A miracle is when the laws of nature are clearly and obviously suspended.
 - **Example: Acts 3:1-8** - when a guy that has been lame from his mother's womb is walking and leaping and there are verifiable witnesses, this is a miracle.
Acts 4:16
 - **Example: Acts 12:5-11** - when a guy is locked in a prison with guards on both sides and bound with two chains and gets out, this is a miracle.
4. God has always used miracles as a sign to the nation of Israel. This was one of the signs to Israel that Christ was the Messiah. **Acts 2:22**
5. God sent Spirit-filled men to Israel after they crucified Christ, and they, too, worked miracles. **Acts 6:8, 8:5-6**
6. Paul's apostleship, message, and ministry were also validated by miracles.
Acts 15:12, 19:11
7. Miracles are not common everyday occurrences in the Bible. During Israel's history, there were brief time periods where miracles were witnessed commonly (Exodus from Egypt, wilderness, prophetic ministries of Elijah and Elisha, 3-year ministry of Christ, certain times in the book of Acts).
8. Remember, the false prophet has the ability to work miracles in the tribulation (**Revelation 13:14, 16:14, 19:20**), as did the Egyptian sorcerers in Exodus.
9. Today we do not need a miracle as a sign of God's truth. We are complete in Christ and possess the complete and final revelation of God to man, the Bible.

Prophecy

1. This is the ability to declare what can't be known by natural means.
2. The idea of a prophet is one who speaks for another, a spokesman, a mouthpiece.
Exodus 4:16; cf. 7:1
3. A true prophet of God was a person through whom God revealed His truth.
Jeremiah 35:15
4. At times, God would reveal future events, in advance, to these prophets (**Acts 11:27-28**). During the book of Acts, God was still dispensing prophetic truth. His Word was not complete yet.
5. There were obviously prophets in the Corinthian church that had the ability to speak for God and communicate truth that God was making known. cf. **Ephesians 3:4-5**