



**Miraculous Gifts and
the Spirit**

Seeing Miraculous Effects

Can Christians see **the effects of miracles** today?

Can we see the Creation?

Can we see the effects of Jesus's resurrection?

Can we see how Jesus had multitudes follow Him?

Miraculous Signs

What is the purpose of **miraculous signs**?

“And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs” (Mark 16:20).

“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction” (1 Thess 1:4–5a).

Miraculous Gifts of the Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are also **signs of God**.

“how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will” (Heb 2:3–4).

Those with **the gifts work together** (1 Cor 12:4).

Two churches teaching contrary beliefs and both doing miracles cannot both be right.

Recorded Miracles

How else do **recorded miracles** cause faith?

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:30–31).

Why did John record only seven miracles and the other Gospels record over twenty?

Signs and Wonders

Do **signs and wonders** help with obedience?

“For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;” (Rom 15:18–19).

Why would the apostle Paul write about **signs and wonders** unless there were **signs and wonders**?

Works Miracles

How could the apostle Paul remind the Galatians of him **working miracles** unless there were miracles?

“Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith — ” (Gal 3:5; Gk. *dunamis*)

Can you imagine writing a letter reminding a group of people of the miracles that you did but that did not actually occur?

Power of the Holy Spirit

Did you know that Christians have hope through the **power of the Holy Spirit**?

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Rom 15:13).

What kind of people possess this **joy and peace**?

The Meaning of Miracles

“Miracle” does not have its own Greek word.

The word “miracle” is in English Bibles by trading the word “miracle” for “sign” (*seimeion*) or “powers” (*dunamis*).

“Miracle” is mostly a translation for “sign,” *seimeion* (John 2:11).

Unless one includes “wonders” (*teras*), which is not commonly translated “miracle.”

Gifts of the Spirit

Observations from **1 Corinthians 12:7–13**:

God gave the **gifts of the Spirit** for the common good.

God gave a variety of gifts **to spread God's Word**.

Individuals received a portion of these abilities from **the same Spirit**.

Gifts and the Indwelling

Having the Spirit does not require having the **gifts of the Spirit**.

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you — that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine” (Rom 1:11–12).

The Romans already possessed the Spirit **necessary for salvation**.

“Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him” (Rom 8:9b).

Gifts and Salvation

Having gifts of the Spirit does not secure **salvation.**

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” (Matt 7:21–23).

Could any of Jesus’s disciples have said this?

Evil Men and God's Spirit

Remember that **evil men** can possess gifts from the Spirit.

Judas Iscariot did miraculous signs (Matt 10:1–4, 8).

Caiaphas the high priest prophesied about Jesus and also sought to put Jesus to death (John 11:49–53).

The Spirit can **control wicked men**.

Receiving the Gifts

How did most people receive the **miraculous gifts** of the Spirit?

The baptized believers in Samaria received the Spirit with gifts by the **laying on of the apostles' hands** (Acts 8:14–17; cf. 18–20).

Paul baptized a dozen men in Jesus's name and they receive the gifts by Paul **laying on hands** (Acts 9:1–7).

Likewise, Timothy **received the gift** of prophecy from Paul (2 Tim 1:6).

Miracles through Hands

Miracles have ceased **through the hands** of men (cf. Acts 14:3).

Will there come any **other miracles**?

Jesus will come back in the clouds, people will change bodies, and believers will meet the Lord in the sky.

The Creation is the effect of God's miraculous working.

Reflection

Having **gifts of the Spirit** is not necessary for salvation while **the gift of the Spirit** is essential to salvation.

Miracles **through hands of men** have fulfilled their purpose of confirming God's Word.

The **creation, humanity, and church** are the effects of God's miracles that prove the faith today.

Challenge

Challenge those who believe in miraculous gifts that **the Word fulfills** the miraculous signs.

Uphold **biblical miracles** as more than enough to believe.

Do not debate **God's wonderful works today** to heal people and bring forth life in this world.

Invitation

Allow the Spirit to work to **change your life.**

By the Truth, the Spirit **transforms** believers (2 Cor 3:18).

The Holy Spirit **gives us new life** through baptism in Jesus's name (John 3:5; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:4).

One must have the Holy Spirit to **belong to Christ** (Rom 8:9).



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