



MIRACLES

Our culture, like every culture, longs to see a miracle. Social media is full of people doing stunts that land the impossible, "America's Got Talent" features people changing into animals and performing beautiful scenes. A man from Japan grows a tree, releases doves that fly and then he turns into a dove that flies away. Magic! A miracle! Nope. Only tricks. What is it in us that longs to see a miracle?

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

Throughout the history of God revealing Himself, God has occasionally performed true miracles or "signs" that authenticate Himself and His messages to us. In the Old Testament, miracles or signs authenticated (i.e., verified) that God was speaking through Moses or Elijah or that He was greater than the Egyptians or Babylonians. In the New Testament, Jesus healed, multiplied bread and fish, and walked on water. In each of these times, there was a message and a messenger that God the Father was endorsing.

God can do miracles. The book of John calls them "signs." Jesus did many. And yet, even after all that Jesus had done in front of thousands, people demanded a sign. Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign." (Luke 11:39)

For this week, we will be continuing to study the "Spiritual Gifts." These are given by God to enable and benefit the family of God to live in His love, and reach the world with His message of hope. As we have learned, all the gifts given by God are supernatural, they are all endowments from God. Our focus this week will be on the "sign gifts." These have obvious visible manifestations. They are healing, miracles, tongues, and interpretation.

As in all the spiritual gifts, they are listed in multiple places in the New Testament and have only the names given and do not have definitions. We must look in the books of Acts and other places to learn of their manifestations. Study the follow passages to learn about these gifts. As you read, consider these three questions:

- (1) What do we learn about God?
- (2) How did these gifts authenticate (verify) the message or messenger?
- (3) How did these manifestations help people have faith and or increase the kingdom of God?

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

1 Corinthians 12:27-30

Acts 2:1-12

Acts 9:36-42

Acts 16:16-18

2 Corinthians 12:12