

# Characteristics Of New Testament Miracles

## I. Introduction.

- A. Focus of Pentecostal or Charismatic religions is the emotionalism derived from the belief that they have received a visit from the Holy Ghost, and have received miraculous powers when He came.
  - 1. H. S. baptism.
  - 2. Tongue speaking.
  - 3. Miraculous healings.
  - 4. Casting out of demons.
  - 5. New prophesies.
- B. Not at all disturbed by the fact that the doctrine of these organizations contradict the New Testament.
  - 1. Kingdom yet to come.
  - 2. Worship corrupted.
  - 3. Works in addition to that assigned by God.
  - 4. Organization is different.
- C. All objections to these errors are dismissed amidst the hand clapping, leaping, cheering, and crying which is observed in their worship.
- D. Miracles are central to their beliefs.
  - 1. They believe they have the same thing the Apostles had.
  - 2. But, do they demonstrate that they do?
  - 3. Their so-called miracles are not the same, as we shall see.
  - 4. **Elder Vernon Caton**, Warren, Ohio, came to Brown Street in 1987, promising to perform a miracle. A crowd of 596 gathered. He attempted no miracle.
- E. PURPOSE: To examine the characteristics of N. T. Miracles.

## II. Instantaneous.

- A. Matt. 8:2-3: “And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And **immediately** his leprosy was cleansed.”

- B. Matt. 8:15: (**Peter's mother-in-law**) "And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and **she arose**, and **ministered** unto them."
- C. Matt. 9:27-30: "And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And **their eyes were opened**; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See that no man know it."

### III. Faith Not Always Required.

- A. Persistent dodge: "No miracle because you do not have faith."
- B. John 5:1-16.
- C. Miracles were performed with unbelievers present.
- D. Mk. 3:1-2: "And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; **that they might accuse him.**"
- E. Those watching were certainly unbelievers.

### IV. All Kinds Of Healings.

- A. Matt. 4:24: "And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him **all sick people** that were taken **with divers diseases** and **torments**, and those which were **possessed with devils**, and those which were **lunatic**, and those that **had the palsy**; and **he healed them.**"
- B. Matt. 8:16: "When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and **healed all that were sick.**"
- C. Matt. 9:35: "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing every sickness and every disease** among the people." **Cancer; MS; Diabetes; Kidney Failure?**

- D. When Oral Roberts had heart trouble, he did not go to his son Richard, a faith-healer, to be healed. He had by-pass surgery in California!
- E. Oral Roberts is the same faith-healer who actually built a hospital on the campus of Oral Roberts University. **WHY?**

## V. Not Just Headaches.

- A. Matt. 15:30: “And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were **lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others**, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; **and he healed them.**”
- B. Lk. 17:11-19: “And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were **lepers**, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, **they were cleansed.** And one of them, when he saw that **he was healed**, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: **thy faith hath made thee whole.**”
- C. If these powers exist today, why do we have/need hospitals?

## VI. Even Raised The Dead. John 11:1-53 (Read)

## VII. Public.

- A. Matt. 12:9-10, 13-14: “And when he was departed thence, **he went into their synagogue**: And, behold, there was **a man which had his hand withered**. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him...Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and **it was restored whole, like as the other.** Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.”
- B. Acts 3:1-16. (Read)

- C. Acts 4:21: "So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, **because of the people**: for all men glorified God for that which was done (the healing of the lame man)."
- D. **Aeneas** (Acts 9:32-35): "And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which **had kept his bed eight years**, and was **sick of the palsy**. And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And **he arose immediately**. And **all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him**, and turned to the Lord."

## VIII. Made Complete And Whole.

- A. Matt. 12:13: "Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine (withered) hand. And he stretched it forth; and **it was restored whole**, like as the other."
- B. Acts 3:16: (The lame man at the Temple). "And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him **hath given him this perfect soundness** in the presence of you all."
- C. Acts 4:9-10: "If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man (at the Temple), by what means he is **made whole**; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even **by him doth this man stand here before you whole**."

## IX. Acknowledged By Enemies.

- A. Matt. 12:13-14: "Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other. **Then the Pharisees** went out, and held a council against him, **how they might destroy him**."
- B. Acts 2:22-23: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, **as ye yourselves also know**: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain."
- C. Acts 4:16: "Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed **a notable miracle**

**hath been done** by them is **manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem**; and we cannot deny it.”

**X. God Glorifying.** Acts 3:8: “And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, **and praising God.**”

**XI. Supported Truth - Not Error.**

- A. Heb. 2:1-4: “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if **the word** spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect **so great salvation**; which **at the first began to be spoken by the Lord**, and **was confirmed unto us by them that heard him**; **God also bearing them witness**, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”
- B. Would God validate error by enabling false teachers to perform miracles?

**XII. Those Healed Not Always Present.** Matt. 8:5-13: “And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, **my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy**, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: **but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed**. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, **I have not found so great faith**, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **And Jesus said** unto the centurion, Go thy way; and **as thou hast believed, so be it done** unto thee. **And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.**”

**XIII. Healed By The Faith Of Others** (Matt. 8:5-13). The Centurion, his servant.

#### **XIV. Did Not Try - Fail - Blame It On The Faithlessness Of The Subject.**

- A. THE PROBLEM: THE HEALERS, not the subjects.
- B. Matt. 17:14-20: “And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is a lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And **I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.** Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came **the disciples** to Jesus apart, and said, **Why could not we cast him out?** And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief:** for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

#### **XV. Related Observations.**

- A. Not used to establish and maintain a denomination.
- B. **Jesus and the apostles did not claim god would heal everyone - have disease themselves.** (Oral Robert's by-pass).
- C. **No preliminary investigation to “weed out” hard cases.**
- D. **No special healing services.**
- E. **Emotion charged atmosphere not required**

#### **XVI. Conclusion**

- A. I defy any man to compare N. T. miracles with those which are claimed today.

- B. Modern so-called miracles do not have this character - they are not the same.
- C. Modern claims are false; claimants are phony!
- D. **God limited the duration of miracles.** (See. 1 Cor. 12:4-11; 12:28-31; 1 Cor. 13:8-10; Jas.. 1:25).
- E. Do not be deceived or troubled by modern claims of miracles.
- F. Miracles are not being performed by preachers today!

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