

Miracles

Means & Transmission

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See also *Miracles: From God or Man?* by Jimmy Jividen

Means of the Miraculous

Miracles were performed in different ways

- Direct from God (Acts 2)
- Through the apostles' hands (Acts 5:12)
- Peter's shadow (5:15)
- Handkerchiefs or aprons from Paul (19:12)
- Those who had received the laying on of the apostles' hands (8:6-7; 19:6)

Miracles and the Apostles

- All miracles in Acts done through humans were worked by the apostles or those who had received or could have received the laying on of the apostles' hands
- The apostles were connected with most of the miracles in Acts which were worked through humans
- Exceptions: Stephen, Philip, Ananias (Acts 6:8; 8:6-7, 13; 9:12-18)

Miracles and the Apostles

- Even Stephen and Philip had received the laying on of the apostles' hands (6:5-6)
- Miracles confirmed genuine apostles (2 Cor. 12:12)
- The power of the apostolic office did not come through the immersion of the Holy Spirit; the power was inherent in the office
- The apostles had been called and trained by Jesus

Miracles and the Apostles

- They had participated in Jesus' work of healing and preaching
- The apostles had received the commission to preach the gospel
- They had been given the Holy Spirit before the immersion of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Jn. 20:22)
- The apostolic office was a distinctive gift to certain people (Eph. 4:11-14)

Acts 8:14-18

“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet he had fallen upon none of them. They had only been immersed in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given. . . .”

Laying on of the Apostles' Hands

- Those who did not receive the laying on of the apostles' hands were connected to the miraculous only in a passive way
- The actual power to perform miracles was limited to the apostles and those receiving the laying on of the apostles' hands
- Peter's rebuke is sufficient to warn people today not to covet miraculous powers which were not meant for them (Acts 8:21)

Laying on of the Apostles' Hands

- Stephen and Philip were two of the seven on whom the apostles' laid their hands
- The 12 men at Ephesus were immersed and were able to speak with tongues and prophecy only after Paul laid hands on them (Acts 19:5-7)
- Timothy received “the gift of God” through the laying on of Paul's hands (2 Tim. 1:6)

Transmission of the Miraculous

- Contrast *διά* (*dia*; 2 Tim. 1:6) and *μετά* (*meta*; 1 Tim. 4:14)
- In the New Testament, miraculous powers were transmitted only by apostles
- Those of the congregation at Corinth were “not lacking in any gift” (1 Cor. 1:7)
- Paul's time at Corinth allowed plenty opportunity for the laying on of his hands

Transmission of the Miraculous

- Paul wanted to impart spiritual gifts at Rome (Rom. 1:11)
- They must have lacked such gifts for Paul to want to impart spiritual gifts
- There is no record of an apostle being at Rome before Paul wrote Romans
- Without the presence of an apostle there would be no miraculous powers imparted