

## The Holy Spirit X

In our last article, we started studying the work of the Holy Spirit as it related to the miraculous. It was stated that if one knows the purpose of the miraculous, then there should not be a problem in understanding why the miraculous is no longer needed. In John 20:30-31 it is stated by John that the written/recorded miracles are completely sufficient to produce faith in Christ. The Bible does not teach the idea of their having to be a miracle performed in “real time” in order to substantiate/verify/authenticate the reliability of the preacher doing the preaching and the message he preaches. The fact is, the message has already been confirmed as being from God and Almighty God does not have to constantly “reconfirm” his Word and work. The writer of Hebrews points out that the Word has already been confirmed through the miraculous, once and for all (Hebrews 2:3-4). This one set of verses and the verse just referenced should completely suffice in pointing out that the age of the miraculous is no longer in effect. There are, however, many more verses that teach this truth, as well. One of which is: Mark 16:17-20. Jesus tells us the purpose of miracles. He points out that the miracle is designed to “confirm the Word” (v.20). As has been pointed out, that message has been confirmed. The early church was in an age that can best be described as being “the age of incompleteness”. Just as scaffolding is used in the building process on certain structures, so the miraculous activity of the Spirit was used to help bring completeness in the early church. In specific, those things that were done “in part” (the miracles found in the early church) were done so as to bring about that which is “perfect” (the word here means complete or entire. It has nothing to do with Christ’s second coming.) is come (I Corinthians 13:8-13; Ephesians 4:8-ff). Paul points out in the Ephesians reference that the work of the miraculous was to remain “until” the early church came to the “unity of the faith” (Ephesians 4:13). And just as the scaffolding is taken away from a building when the building is completed, so the miracles “dropped by their own weight” when the truth of the New Testament was completely revealed to Inspired men. (The term “dropped by their own weight” is the meaning of the Greek phrase that is found in I Corinthians 13:8 where the word “cease” is given to describe the ceasing of speaking in tongues/languages when the complete will of God was revealed.) We now live in the mature stage of the Lord’s church and have that which the miraculous made possible, the completed and all-sufficient Word of God. We no longer need the miraculous.