

The Holy Spirit IX

Are miracles being performed today? This is a question that deserves our most discerning attention. The miraculous has fascinated people for many years. This fascination and attitude is seen demonstrated by Herod. The Bible says that he wanted to see Jesus for the purpose that he “hoped to have seen some miracle done by him” (Luke 23:8) As was true at that time, so it is today, there is a great deal of misunderstanding and error taught on this subject. This is true as it relates to the general religious world but it is also true in the Lord’s church. If this state of misunderstanding and error is ever to be corrected, one must go to the Word of God to correct it. First, what is a miracle? The dictionary defines a miracle as “an event or action that apparently contradicts known scientific laws and is hence thought to be due to supernatural causes, esp. to an act of God”. A miracle is above the laws of nature, and above the finite abilities of man and beyond human comprehension. To illustrate; is there anyone who can comprehend and describe by scientific process how a dead man was raised back to life? Neither man nor nature can multiply five loaves and two fish to feed a great multitude of people. The creation of the universe and the earth within that universe was a miracle. The creation of the first oak tree was accomplished by a miracle. Every oak tree from that day forward though has come about through a law process within the laws of nature. It is an amazing thing, but it is not achieved through a miraculous process now. One often hears of children being born into this world. It is a regular occurrence. But, sometimes people speak of these blessed events as being “a miracle”. While it is true that it is a blessing from God and that we are to be amazed by it. It is not a miracle. Every child that comes into this world today does so because of a natural process of law. Adam came into this world through a miraculous process, but today, this is not the case.

When a person understands the purpose of the miraculous, there will not be a misunderstanding of whether or not these acts are still taking place. There are two primary scriptures that define the purpose of the miraculous. First, John 20: 30-31 points out that the miracles that are recorded in the New Testament (specifically the book of John yet is applicable to the whole New Testament) are there to engender in one saving faith of who Jesus was/is and what we are to do in relation to his being Divine. John points out that those miracles that are recorded are SUFFICIENT to bring about this faith. The performed and recorded miracles of the New Testament are all a person needs to verify and substantiate the Lord’s claims and the reliability of the Word of God.

This brings one to the second scripture. This scripture is found in Mark 16: 17-20.

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