

## LXXIX. THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF MIRACLES: 1 Corinthians 12:10a

**INTRODUCTION/CON(TEXT).** Today we come to the Spiritual Gift of miracles. **1 Corinthians 12:10a** "to another the working(s) of miracles..." Working (*energēma*) = *workings* or *effecting*. Miracles (*dynamis*) = *powers*.

**DOCTRINE.** Though the spiritual gift of miracles has ceased, Christ still exerts His divine power of the kingdom of darkness.

***Now... because there seems to be great confusion today concerning miracles, let now ask and answer two specific questions as sort of the foundation for understanding all of this biblically.***

**QUESTION 1.** What should *not* be called miracles?

**ANSWER I.** Pete Hegseth actually gives us a good example of what should NOT be called miracles.

- **In 2018, PETE HEGSETH, our now U.S. Secretary of War, said, while in Israel:** "Today Jennifer and I and others had a chance to see The Western Wall, the Temple Mount, the Western Wall tunnels—so much of the old city...and as you stand there you can't help but behold the miracle before you. And it got me thinking about another miracle that I hope all of you don't see too far away, because 1917 was a miracle; 1948 was a miracle; 1967 was a miracle; 2017—the declaration of Jerusalem—was a miracle and there's no reason why the miracle of the reestablishment of the temple on the Temple Mount is not possible. I don't know how it would happen. You don't know how it would happen, but I know it could happen." — **Pete Hegseth, 2018 in Jerusalem**

### **YEARS REFERENCED, FOR CONTEXT:**

- **1917.** Pete Hegseth is referencing the **Balfour Declaration** (November 2, 1917), in which the British government expressed support for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." This is often seen as a foundational step toward the creation of modern Israel, viewed by many as a "miracle" due to the shift in international support for Zionism amid World War I.
- **1948.** This refers to the **establishment of the State of Israel** (May 14, 1948), when David Ben-Gurion declared independence following the

UN Partition Plan. Israel survived immediate invasion by neighboring Arab states in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, which many describe as a miraculous survival and founding of the nation after centuries of Jewish diaspora.

- **1967.** Hegseth is pointing to the **Six-Day War** (June 5–10, 1967), where Israel preemptively struck and defeated Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, capturing the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, Golan Heights, and crucially, East Jerusalem—including the Old City and the Temple Mount (previously under Jordanian control). The rapid victory and unification of Jerusalem are frequently called a "miracle" in pro-Israel narratives.
- **2017.** This alludes to **U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital** (December 6, 2017), along with the announcement to relocate the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This move fulfilled a long-standing promise and was hailed by supporters as a historic "miracle" in affirming Israel's sovereignty over its capital, despite international controversy.

**ANSWER II.** Childbirth should not be called a miracle—"The miracle of childbirth."

**ANSWER III.** Surviving a car or plane crash should not be called a miracle (necessarily).

**ANSWER IV.** Drugs should not be called miracles—"A miracle drug."

**ANSWER V.** Receiving payment or a new job or a financial gift in the nick of time should not be called a miracle—"the Lord miraculously provided for us."

**ANSWER VI.** Ordinary obedience should not be called a miracle.

- One pastor told me that when they planted their church, 50% of the building material and labor were donated by members. He said, "Yeah! We're just walking in miracles."

**BOYS AND GIRLS...**

**QUESTION 2.** What are miracles?

**ANSWER.** Miracles are when Jesus upholds the universe differently than He normally does, and what we call the laws of nature are violated or suspended in order to accomplish something extraordinary.

**BOYS AND GIRLS...**

**Hebrews 1:3** "[Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power."

**This is why miracles are called "Signs and wonders."**

- **Paul in Romans 15:19:** "by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of

Christ;"

- **Deuteronomy 6:22** "The Lord showed *signs and wonders*, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes."

## **I. MIRACLES ARE SUPERNATURAL AND INEXPLICABLE FROM A NATURAL PERSPECTIVE (Selected Scriptures).**

1. **Consider the Parting of the Red Sea** (Exodus 14:21–22, 29): "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left... But the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left."
2. **Consider the Sun and Moon Standing Still** (Joshua 10:12–13): "Then Joshua spoke to the Lord... 'Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.' And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies... The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day."
3. **Consider Elijah Calling Down Fire from Heaven** (1 Kings 18:36–38): "Then... Elijah... said, 'O Lord... answer me... that this people may know that you... have turned their hearts back.' Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench."
4. **Consider Jesus Turning Water into Wine** (John 2:7–9): "Jesus said... 'Fill the water jars with water.' ... When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine..."
5. **Consider Jesus Walking on Water** (Matthew 14:25–26; John 6:19): "And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea... When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified..."
6. **Consider Jesus Calming the Storm with a Word** (Mark 4:39): "And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."
7. **Consider Jesus Raising Lazarus from the Dead** (John 11:38–44): "Jesus... cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips... Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'"

**BOYS AND GIRLS...**

## **II. MOSES AND AARON WORKED MIRACLES DURING THEIR EARTHLY MINISTRIES (Selected Scriptures).**

1. Moses' rod turned into a serpent (Exodus 4:2–4, 30).
2. Moses' hand became leprous (white as snow) and was then restored (Exodus 4:6–7, 30).
3. Aaron's rod turned into a serpent before Pharaoh (and swallowed the Egyptian magicians' rods/serpents) (Exodus 7:8–12).
4. Aaron's rod struck the Nile, turning its waters to blood (first plague) (Exodus 7:19–21).
5. Aaron stretched out his hand, bringing frogs over Egypt (second plague) (Exodus 8:5–6).
6. Aaron struck the dust with his staff, bringing gnats/lice throughout Egypt (third plague) (Exodus 8:16–17).
7. Moses and Aaron threw soot into the air, causing boils on people and animals (sixth plague) (Exodus 9:8–10).
8. Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, bringing hail and thunder over Egypt (seventh plague) (Exodus 9:22–25).
9. Moses stretched out his hand over Egypt, bringing locusts (eighth plague) (Exodus 10:12–15).
10. Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, bringing darkness over Egypt (ninth plague) (Exodus 10:21–23).
11. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, parting the waters of the Red Sea/Sea of Reeds (Exodus 14:21–22, 26–29).
12. Moses struck the rock at Rephidim/Horeb with his staff, bringing forth water for the people (Exodus 17:5–7).

**BOYS AND GIRLS...**

## **III. ELIJAH AND ELISHA WORKED MIRACLES DURING THEIR EARTHLY MINISTRIES (Selected Scriptures).**

### **I) Elijah worked many miracles.**

1. Elijah declared a drought on the land—no rain or dew except by his word (1 Kings 17:1).
2. Elijah multiplied the widow's jar of flour and jug of oil so they did not run out during the famine (1 Kings 17:8–16).
3. Elijah raised the widow's son from the dead in Zarephath (1 Kings 17:17–24).
4. Elijah called down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice, wood, stones, dust, and water on Mount Carmel, defeating the prophets of Baal

(1 Kings 18:20–40).

5. Elijah called down fire from heaven to consume the first captain of fifty and his men (2 Kings 1:9–12).
6. Elijah called down fire from heaven to consume the second captain of fifty and his men (2 Kings 1:11–12).
7. Elijah parted the waters of the Jordan River with his cloak (2 Kings 2:8).

## **II) Elisha worked many miracles.**

1. Elisha also parted the waters of the Jordan River with Elijah's cloak (2 Kings 2:13–14).
2. Elisha cursed mocking youths, and two she-bears came out of the woods to maul them (2 Kings 2:23–25).
3. Elisha provided water in the valley for the armies of Israel, Judah, and Edom against Moab, filling ditches without rain or wind (2 Kings 3:16–20).
4. Elisha caused the Moabites to see the water as blood, leading to their defeat (2 Kings 3:21–27).
5. Elisha multiplied a widow's jar of oil to fill many vessels to pay her debts (2 Kings 4:1–7).
6. Elisha raised the Shunammite woman's son from the dead (2 Kings 4:18–37).
7. Elisha purified deadly stew by throwing flour into the pot (2 Kings 4:38–41).
8. Elisha multiplied twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain to feed one hundred men, with some left over (2 Kings 4:42–44).
9. Elisha healed Naaman the Syrian of leprosy by having him wash seven times in the Jordan (2 Kings 5:1–14).
10. Elisha caused Gehazi, his servant, to be struck with Naaman's leprosy as judgment (2 Kings 5:20–27).
11. Elisha made an ax head float on the water—an iron axe head recovered from the Jordan river (2 Kings 6:1–7).
12. Elisha blinded the Syrian army sent to capture him and led them into Samaria (2 Kings 6:13–23).

### **BOYS AND GIRLS...**

## **IV. JESUS WORKED MIRACLES DURING HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY (Selected Scriptures).**

1. Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1–11).
2. Jesus performed the first miraculous catch of fish on the Lake of Gennesaret (Luke 5:1–11).

3. Jesus calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41; Luke 8:22–25).
4. Jesus cast demons into a herd of pigs (Gadarene/Gerasene demoniacs) (Matthew 8:28–34; Mark 5:1–20; Luke 8:26–39).
5. Jesus fed five thousand men (plus women and children) with five loaves and two fish (Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–15).
6. Jesus walked on water on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–52; John 6:16–21).
7. Jesus fed four thousand men (plus women and children) with seven loaves and a few small fish (Matthew 15:32–39; Mark 8:1–10).
8. Jesus miraculously provided a coin for the temple tax from a fish's mouth (Matthew 17:24–27).
9. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead in Bethany (John 11:1–45).
10. Jesus withered the fig tree (causing it to wither after he cursed it) (Matthew 21:18–22; Mark 11:12–14, 20–25).
11. Jesus performed the second miraculous catch of fish at the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1–14). *\*post-resurrection*

### **BOYS AND GIRLS...**

## **V. THE APOSTLES, AND THOSE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THEM, WORKED MIRACLES DURING THEIR EARTHLY MINISTRIES (Selected Scriptures).**

### **I) The Apostles worked miracles during Jesus' *earthly* ministry** (Matthew 10:1, 8; Mark 6:7, 13; Luke 9:1–2, 6).

1. The twelve apostles healed the sick and cast out demons, as commissioned and reported upon return. (Matthew 10:1, 8; Mark 6:7, 13; Luke 9:1–2, 6).

### **II) The Seventy-two Disciples also worked miracles during Jesus' *earthly* ministry** (Luke 10:9, 17–20).

1. The seventy-two disciples healed the sick and cast out demons in Jesus' name (with demons submitting to them) (Luke 10:9, 17–20).

### **III) The Apostles and their associates worked miracles after Jesus' resurrection and ascension** (Selected Scriptures).

1. The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people (said in Acts 2:43 as well as Acts 5:12).
2. Many of those tormented by unclean spirits, from towns surrounding Jerusalem, were delivered by the apostles (Acts 5:16).

3. Stephen performed great wonders and signs among the people (Acts 6:8).
4. Philip performed great signs and miracles in Samaria, including casting out unclean spirits with loud cries (Acts 8:6–7, 13).
5. Peter raised Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead in Joppa (Acts 9:36–42).
6. Paul cursed Elymas the magician and he was struck blind for a time (Acts 13:4–12).
7. Paul (with Barnabas) performed many signs and wonders in Iconium (Acts 14:3).
8. Paul cast out a spirit of divination from a slave girl in Philippi (Acts 16:16–18).
9. God worked extraordinary miracles through Paul in Ephesus, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that touched him were taken to the sick, and diseases left them and evil spirits came out (Acts 19:11–12).
10. Paul raised Eutychus from the dead after he fell from a window in Troas (Acts 20:7–12).

### **BOYS AND GIRLS...**

## **VI. MIRACLES WERE WORKED AS SIGNS TO VERIFY THE MESSENGERS OF GOD'S SPECIAL REVELATION (Selected Scriptures).**

**Hebrews 2:3-4** "3 How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will."

**(i) MOSES: Exodus 4:1-9** "1 Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'" 2 The Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." 3 And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. 4 But the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— 5 "that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." 6 Again, the Lord said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. 7 Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. 8 "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. 9 If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the

water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."

**(ii) JESUS: Acts 2:22** "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know."

**(iii) APOSTLES: Acts 4:29-30** "29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

**BOYS AND GIRLS...**

## **VII. THE GIFT OF MIRACLES CEASED EACH TIME IN HISTORY WHEN THEY WERE NO LONGER NECESSARY AS SIGNS TO VERIFY GOD'S SPECIAL REVELATION (Selected Scriptures).**

**(i) They ceased after Moses and Aaron.**

**(ii) They ceased after Elijah and Elisha.**

**(iii) They ceased after Jesus and His apostles.**

**2 Corinthians 12:12** "The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works."

**Ephesians 2:20** "19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. . ."

*The prophets and apostles laid the foundation of the Christian faith through writing the Scriptures, and once the foundation was laid, it need not be done a second time.*

**OBJECTION. Do you not believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and therefore has not changed the way He has acted in history?**

**ANSWER I.** I do believe Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and just as God ceased working miracles through men after Moses and Aaron, and then, again, after Elijah and Elisha, I believe Jesus has ceased working miracles through men after Himself and His Apostles.

**ANSWER II.** There are only three short periods for all of human history, wherein the Lord God worked miracles through men: a short period with Moses and Aaron (about 40 years), a short period with Elijah and Elisha (about 28 years), and a short period with Christ and His apostles (about 40 years). Maybe 108 total years out of the 6,000 years of all human history.

**QUESTION. What was the Spiritual Gift of Miracles?**

**ANSWER.** The spiritual gift of miracles—literally "the workings of powers" (Gk: *energēmata dynamōn*) in 1 Corinthians 12:10—primarily involved the exercise

of supernatural authority and power over the kingdom of darkness, especially through casting out demons. This gift empowered the apostles as early foundation-builders of the church to exert dominion over demonic forces as they laid the doctrinal foundation of the Christian faith, which would become the sacred Scriptures through their inspired speaking and writing.

**CALVIN:** "As to the workings of powers...I am inclined...to think, that what is meant is the influence which is exercised against devils, and also against hypocrites. When, therefore, Christ and his Apostles by authority restrained devils, or put them to flight, that was ἐνέργημα, (powerful working,) and, in like manner, when Paul smote [Elymas the magician] with blindness, (Acts 13:11,) and when Peter struck Ananias and Sapphira dead upon the spot with a single word. The gift...of miracles, therefore, serve[s] to manifest...[God's] severity for the destruction of Satan." — **Calvin, John. Calvin On The Bible: John Calvin's Bible Commentary (p. 13062). Kindle Edition.**

**POOLE:** "'To another the working of miracles,' of other sorts [than healings]. Such as the inflicting punishments on sinners, casting out devils, etc." — **Poole, Matthew. English Annotations on the Holy Bible . E4 Group. Kindle Edition.**

*No one besides Christ in the New Testament, even those with the spiritual gift of miracles, worked miracles of nature. Only Christ turned water to wine, multiplied food, walked on water, calmed a storm with his voice, withered a fig tree with a word, made a coin appear in the mouth of a fish, and caused fishermen's nets to be filled.*

*With the exceptions of Paul raising Eutychus (Acts 20:7-12) and Peter raising Tabitha (Acts 9:36-42), the entirety of the miracles worked by the apostles and their associates dealt with casting out disease (re: ἰαμάτων, healings) or casting out demons (re: δυνάμεων, powers).*

**BOYS AND GIRLS...**

## **VIII. THOUGH THE GIFT OF MIRACLES HAS CEASED, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST STILL EXERTS HIS POWER OVER THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS TODAY (Selected Scriptures).**

**I) Christ has bound Satan as it pertains to deceiving the nations—and this is why the gospel has spread over all the earth (even to you)!**

**Mark 3:27** "But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house."

**Revelation 20:2-3** "2 And [Jesus] seized the dragon, that ancient

serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer..."

### **BOYS AND GIRLS...**

## **II) Christ has sealed Christians by His Spirit so that they are protected from the evil one!**

**Ephesians 1:13** "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit..."

**1 John 4:4** "he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

## **III) Christ has caused us to be born again, freeing us from Satan, His confederates, and their demonic influence!**

**Ephesians 2:1-7** "1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

## **IV) Christ has brought Christians into His Kingdom of Light, delivering us from Satan's domain of darkness!**

**Colossians 1:13** "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son..."

## **V) Christ will soon crush Satan under the Christians' feet!**

**Romans 16:20** "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

*Christ Jesus, through His death and resurrection, has defeated the work of Satan and will soon crush Him under your feet, if you belong to Jesus through faith.*

### **I) The Tempter will soon be crushed under your feet.**

**Matthew 4:3** "And the tempter came and said to him."

### **II) The Accuser will soon be crushed under your feet.**

**Revelation 12:10** "the accuser of our brothers."

### **III) The Devourer will soon be crushed under your feet.**

**1 Peter 5:8** "Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

**IV) The Murderer will soon be crushed under your feet.**

**John 8:44** "He was a murderer from the beginning."

*Look to Christ, who on the cross allowed Himself to be tempted, accused, devoured, and murdered in your place so that Satan would be defeated and you given eternal peace.*

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## **STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **1. Understanding the Text and the Gift (1 Corinthians 12:10)**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:8–10 aloud. What specific phrase does the sermon focus on ("to another the working of miracles")? How does the Greek phrase "energēmata dynamēōn" (workings/effects of powers) change or deepen your understanding compared to the English word "miracles"?
2. The preacher argues that the gift of miracles is one of the most misunderstood spiritual gifts today. Why do you think that is? Have you personally encountered confusion or different teachings about this gift?
3. How does the sermon distinguish between the word "miracle" in everyday language and the biblical concept of a miracle? Give examples from the sermon.

### **2. What Should NOT Be Called a Miracle?**

4. The preacher lists several things people commonly call "miracles" (e.g., the survival of the Western Wall, the founding of modern Israel, childbirth, surviving a crash, a timely financial gift, church members donating labor/materials). Why does he say these are not true miracles? Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. According to the sermon, what is the biblical definition of a miracle? (Hint: supernatural, inexplicable naturally, suspension/violation of laws of nature, only explained by God's direct intervention.)
6. How does the story of Jesus paying the temple tax with a coin from a fish's mouth (Matthew 17:24–27) serve as a contrast to modern claims of "the Lord miraculously provided" for everyday needs?

### **3. Biblical Examples of True Miracles**

7. The sermon gives several examples of miracles (Red Sea parting, sun/

moon standing still, Elijah calling fire, Jesus turning water to wine, calming the storm, raising Lazarus, etc.). Pick one or two and discuss: Why is this event impossible to explain naturally? How does it point to God's power and authority?

8. Why are biblical miracles often called "signs and wonders"? (See Romans 15:19 and Deuteronomy 6:22.) What do "signs" and "wonders" each emphasize?
9. How is a true miracle different from a magic trick or illusion? Why is this distinction important?

#### **4. The Purpose of Miracles in Redemptive History**

10. The sermon identifies only **three periods** in history when God worked miracles through human beings. What are they, and what was the redemptive-historical purpose of each period (Exodus/Moses & Aaron, Elijah & Elisha, Jesus & the apostles)?
11. Read Exodus 4:1–9 and Acts 2:22. How do these passages show that miracles served as signs to authenticate God's messengers and new revelation?
12. Read 2 Corinthians 12:12 and Ephesians 2:19–20. Why does the sermon argue that the sign gifts (including miracles) were tied to the apostolic age and the laying of the church's foundation? What happens once the foundation is laid?

#### **5. The Specific Nature of the Gift of Miracles in 1 Corinthians 12:10**

13. The preacher argues that the gift of "workings of powers/miracles" in the early church primarily involved authority over demonic forces (especially casting out demons), not miracles over nature like Jesus performed. Do you find this convincing? Look at the examples from Acts mentioned (e.g., Acts 16:16–18, Acts 19:11–12). What do they show?
14. Why does the sermon emphasize that apostles did not perform nature miracles (e.g., multiplying food, walking on water, calming storms) like Jesus did? What does this suggest about the purpose of the gift?

#### **6. Cessation of the Gift and God's Ongoing Power**

15. The main doctrine of the sermon is: "Though the spiritual gift of miracles has ceased, Christ still exerts his divine power over the kingdom of darkness." How does the sermon support both parts of this statement?
16. How does the sermon respond to the charismatic objection based on Hebrews 13:8 ("Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever")? Do you find this response persuasive? Why or why not?
17. What ongoing ways does Christ exert power over the kingdom of

darkness today, according to the sermon? (See Mark 3:27, Ephesians 1:13, 1 John 4:4, Ephesians 2:1–7, Colossians 1:13, Romans 16:20.)

18. The sermon describes regeneration (being born again) as a continuing "spiritual miracle." Read Ephesians 2:1–7. How is this event similar to physical resurrections in the Bible, and why is it even more important for believers today?

## **7. Application and Personal Reflection**

19. How has this sermon challenged or changed the way you think about miracles, spiritual gifts, or God's power today?
20. The sermon warns about the dangers of misunderstanding or misapplying the gift of miracles (e.g., false promises, manipulation, adding to Scripture). Have you seen examples of this? How can we guard against it while still trusting in God's sovereignty?
21. The sermon ends by pointing to Christ's ultimate victory over Satan ("The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" – Romans 16:20). How does this truth bring comfort and hope in spiritual warfare today?
22. If someone asked you, "Can God still do miracles today?" how would you answer based on this sermon? How would you explain the difference between sovereign miracles and the ceased spiritual gift of miracles?

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## **SERMON TRANSCRIPTURE**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, friends and visitors, we continue our way through First Corinthians and find ourselves today coming to the spiritual gift of miracles. The spiritual gift of miracles. Look in your own Bible. We are just looking really at that one part of verse 10, where it says to another the working of miracles.

Each spiritual gift we have come to I think I said this to you last week because there is this is maybe one of the most confused spiritual gifts or the teaching on it today especially in our area is just so distorted and confused. the gift of healing. But then I think maybe this one is even more misunderstood than the spiritual gift of healing. And even part of the reason is because of the translation. What do you think of when you hear the word miracle? I can imagine probably what is in your mind now. What do you think of when you hear the word powers? Powers. Miracles. Do you think of those as synonyms? Like probably not. That but the literal the literal Greek is to another the workings plural of powers, dynamis. So it is where Alfred Nobel invents dynamite and he wants to find out a word to call it and

he calls a scholar and says what is a Greek word for power? So I just created something powerful. He says, "Well, it is dynamis in the Greek." And he is like, "All right." So, he uses that, calls it dynamite. It is explosive power. That is that is what the Greek word is. And so, just imagine you, we live in the shadow of Tulsa, Oklahoma with all sorts of charismania. And so, I am sure you have heard of the spiritual gift of miracles, the spiritual gift of healings, all that kind of stuff. But imagine if it were translated the affecting of powers or the working of powers. Would you think about it differently? I think you probably would and I probably would as well. But since it is translated miracles and that word is used where it is very obviously someone has done something miraculous and it is talking about a powerful work of God through an individual. I do not mean it is totally disassociated from what we would call a miracle. It is just different when you actually understand what Paul is saying. And we are going to have to spend an entire week this Lord's day looking at this what is called the spiritual gift of miracles. Just these words to another the workings of miracles or the affecting of powers. That is a spiritual gift that he is mentioning in this list. It is not really his main point to try to list every spiritual gift. That is not Paul's point in 1 Corinthians 12. But since the gifts are so widely misunderstood in our day for our own good and our edification, we need to take them slowly and go through each of them. The doctrine that I want you to learn today and I think you should learn from this one part of this verse is this. Though the spiritual gift of miracles has ceased, Christ still exerts his divine power over the kingdom of darkness. Though the spiritual gift of miracles has ceased, Christ still exerts his divine power over the kingdom of darkness. Now, because there seems to be great confusion today concerning miracles just in general, let me ask and answer two specific questions as sort of the foundation for understanding miracles biblically. We are going to ask and answer two questions and then I will point out to you eight truths from the scriptures and really give you hopefully a theology of miracles and how to properly understand 1 Corinthians 12:10. So question one, what should not be called a miracle? What should not be called a miracle? Well, uh Pete Hegseth actually gives us a good example of what should not be called a miracle. Uh a clip resurfaced recently when Hegseth, who is our secretary of war, said while he is in Israel, he said, "Today, Jennifer, his wife at the time, and I and others had a chance to see the Western Wall in Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, the Western Wall tunnels, so much of the old city. And as you stand there, you cannot help but behold the miracle before you, that the Western Wall still exists." You know, everybody speaks like this. I am not trying to pick on Hegseth, but people speak like this. Just a miracle of what it is, but that word gets thrown around so much that people do not actually understand what it means. You keep using that word and I do not think you understand what it means. I do not think it means what you think it means. So, you could not help but behold the miracle before you. Hegseth continues, "And it got me thinking about another miracle that I hope all of you do not see too far away. He is talking about the third temple being rebuilt. That is the miracle.

That should not happen. Probably will not happen. If it does happen, it is not actually the third temple. It is actually in defiance of Christ. But I digress. He says, "Another miracle that I hope you all do not see too far away because 1917 was a miracle." That is what Hegseth says. That is the bell for declaration where the British government declared that uh is Israelis should have their own country in Palestine. That was a miracle. The Balfour Declaration in 1917. 1948 was a miracle. He says, which was the creation of the current modern nation state of Israel. 1967 was a miracle. This was the 6-day war from June 5th to June 10th, 1967. 2017 was a miracle. That is when Donald Trump officially moved the or recognized the capital in Jerusalem. He says that is a miracle. And there is no reason why the miracle of the reestablishment of the temple on the temple mount is not possible. I do not know how it could happen. You do not know how it could happen. But I know it could happen. Miracle. Miracle. Miracle. Miracle. miracle. Oh, no. None of those are miracles. They will have a natural explanation. Just because something seems hard or it is like, I cannot believe this actually happened. This is crazy. That is not a miracle. Uh child birth should not be called a miracle. The miracle of child birth. And I know most people use these words. They do not actually mean it is a miracle. Or maybe you do not actually mean that. But maybe a lot of people actually do and they just think a miracle is something really difficult and something man something amazing to behold. It is amazing to behold. That is not a miracle. Surviving a car or a plane crash. Even if you are the only survivor and hundreds die, that is not a miracle. That is not what a miracle is. Uh drugs should not be called miracles. Like you hear that a miracle drug. Receiving a payment or a new job or a financial gift just in the nick of time should not be called a miracle. The Lord miraculously provided for us. It is like really? What fish did you catch that had money in its mouth? I will give you that one. That cannot be explained. Like when Christ needs to pay his tax and says, "Hey, go catch a fish." and they catch it and there is money in fish's mouth, it is like, "Okay, I will give you that." But when a check comes at the right time or someone gives you a gift or you get a new job or whatever it may be, it is like that is not the Lord miraculously providing for you. That is him providentially providing for you. That is not what a miracle is. Uh ordinary obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ should not be called a miracle. Ordinary obedience shall not be called a miracle. One pastor years ago, Nate and I were actually together, Pastor Nate and I down south meeting uh this other pastor of a church that had just been planted. And he is walking us around their church building. and he said, "You know, 50% of the material and the labor for this church building that we are putting together was donated." I like, "Man, that is awesome." Cuz their church members came together and put in a lot of the labor and donated a lot of the materials. You know, somebody had a lumber business and donated a bunch. He said, "50% of the materials and labor." So, we saved like half of what we would have to spend. Nate and I are both like, "Man, that is awesome." He said, "Yeah, we are just walking in miracles."

Like, you mean like the Christians in your church sacrificially giving of their time,

talent, and treasure? That is literally not a miracle. That is awesome. But that is so not a miracle. What are you talking about? A miracle is something that cannot be explained naturally and where it either violates or suspends what we call the laws of nature. That is what a miracle is. There is no ordinary explanation for it. The only explanation is the Lord Jesus Christ if Hebrews 1 says he upholds the universe by the word of his power. So, a miracle is when Jesus is upholding the universe by the word of his power in a different way than he normally is. And what we call the laws of nature are either just totally violated or suspended for a period of time in order to accomplish something extraordinary. Laws of nature being violated or suspended. That is what a miracle is. When Christ feeds 5,000 people with a kid's, two loaves and fishes, that is a miracle because there is no explanation for how Christ can feed 5 to 15,000 people and then there are 12 baskets full of leftovers, but they started with not even one basket full. How did that happen? Because he multiplied the loaves and the fishes. There is no explanation for Christ walking on water. It is like, well, maybe it was like the lake was frozen. It is like it was like 85 degrees that time of the year. No, that is not what is going on. So, a miracle is not just something that is difficult. Miracles are when Jesus upholds the universe differently than he normally does and what we call the laws of nature are violated or suspended in order to accomplish something extraordinary. Boys and girls, look up here at me. A miracle is something that happens that Jesus does either by himself or through a person. And there is no explanation for it. There is no way that we can explain how that is possibly happening. Like when Jesus fed 5,000 people with one kid's sack lunch. Like how did he do that? You cannot explain it. How did he walk on top of water? Boys and girls, I bet you have tried to run on top of water or jump in a pool and just keep going. Does it work? What if you try and one of your friends does it and it does work? Do you have any explanation for how it could work? Like, I have no idea how that happened. That is what a miracle is. A miracle is when there is no explanation and Jesus does something extraordinary. This is why all of you need to know this is why they are called signs and wonders in the scripture. Signs pointing to the authority of the person doing it. Wonders because it just puts you in shock and awe and you just wonder at the miracle that is actually taking place. So Paul in Romans 15:19 speaking of the this his operation of the gift of miracles and of healings as well the sign gifts Paul says in Romans 15:19 by the power of signs and wonders by the power of the spirit of God so that from Jerusalem and all the way around Ilicum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ by the power of signs and wonders. And then in Deuteronomy 6:22, speaking of what the Lord did in setting his people free from Egypt, it says, "The Lord showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household before our eyes." Signs and wonders because there is no explanation. And you just sit there in awe of what is actually happening. So what should we not call miracles? Things that can be explained naturally. and that are providential workings of God. Like when someone is a sole survivor of a plane crash, it is like that is not technically a miracle, but it is amazing, but that is not a miracle. No laws of nature were suspended in someone surviving or anything like

that necessarily. So God can do miracles whenever he wants, however he wants. So even with me saying that the spiritual gift of miracles has ceased, do not hear me saying that God does not do miracles or cannot do miracles. He can do whatever he wants whenever he wants. We got that. Okay. First main point after those two introductory questions, miracles are supernatural and inexplicable from a natural perspective. And we have already alluded to this, but I want to just help you consider a few of the miracles in scripture. And do you see that they are supernatural and inexplicable from a natural perspective? Consider the parting of the Red Sea. Is there any explanation for how that could happen? No. They are supernatural. They defy logic. They defy reason. The only answer is God is doing this. There is a sea and then all of a sudden there are just two walls of the sea and there is dry ground in the middle for people to walk through. That is a miracle. Consider the sun and the moon standing still in Joshua's day when they needed longer to fight against the people of in the valley of Aijalon. The people of Ai Joshua spoke to the Lord. Sun stand still at Gibeon and moon in the valley of Aijalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. That is a miracle. There is no other explanation for that. Consider Elijah calling down fire from heaven. Elijah, in order to prove the vanity of false gods and of these false prophets, he calls down fire from heaven and it starts raining down fire. Like, okay, no other explanation for that. Consider Jesus turning water into wine. He takes not only normal water, but he took the vats of water that were used to wash everyone's hands, filthy vats of water, and turns it into wine. Totally going against what it was naturally, water, and not only turning it into uh liquid from the vine, but also speeding up the fermentation process. Is there any explanation for how that happens? No. It was a miracle. Jesus walking on water is the same thing. Or how about Jesus calming the storm with a word? He says, "Sit down and be quiet to a hurricane over the Sea of Galilee." And it says immediately it not only stopped, but the sea became like glass. And that is why his disciples respond with being mega fearfully afraid because who can do this? It was a miracle. There is no other explanation. Or you could consider Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead four days after he had died. And the King James said he stinkketh. He was dead. He was really dead. He was stinky dead. And Jesus calls him out of the grave. Like that is a miracle. So miracles are supernatural and inexplicable from a natural perspective. Boys and girls, you cannot explain miracles. A miracle is something that there is no explanation for it other than God did this miracle. Now, have you ever seen children, have you ever seen someone do what we call a magic trick, card trick, something like that? Maybe a friend that you have got, maybe your grandpa, something like that. Or you have seen crazy people on TV that are insanely good at magic tricks. I have seen some of those. And some of those I look at and go, I do not know if there is an explanation for this. I cannot figure out how on earth they do that. But is there an explanation for it? There is some kind of explanation. They are manipulating us, tricking us in some way that seems totally real, but we know there is some kind of real explanation for

this. A miracle is not like that. A miracle that God does on his own or through someone is something that there is nothing behind the curtain. It is just suspending or violating the laws of nature to accomplish something extraordinary. Now, as we move forward, hopefully we have got these good foundational things there, but we need to also understand miracles in the scripture and even more specifically than just miracles that happen. So, I am arguing God can do a miracle whenever he wants for whatever reason he wants. But I am arguing that the spiritual gift of miracles and God working miracles through an individual as if they have the ability to affect a miracle that has ceased. That does not exist anymore.

And some people are like, "So you think God just did miracles all throughout the Bible and then he just stopped?" Say, "No, I think God can do a miracle whenever he wants and probably does." and he can do whatever he wants whenever he wants. I am just saying specifically doing it through human beings. He has ceased operating like that because those existed for a specific purpose for a specific time. There are only three periods in the history of the world that God did miracles through humans. three periods in the history of the entire world and charismatics today act like God has you just think Jesus changed all of a sudden and does not do miracles anymore like no he only did them through people three times in the history of the world so I am just saying well let us look at it first you need to understand Moses and Aaron worked miracles during their earthly ministries Moses and Aaron was anything happening with Moses and Aaron that you would This was a crucial time in the history of redemption where God was doing something extraordinary. Well, yeah. The Exodus, setting his people free from slavery, then entering into covenant with them at Mount Sinai, giving them the law, giving them the promised land that he had promised Abraham. Yeah, a lot going on. So, Moses and Aaron worked miracles during their earthly ministries. Moses' rod turned into a serpent in Exodus 4. Moses' hand became leprous, white as snow, and was then restored when he put it in his jacket, then pulled it out. Aaron's rod turned into a serpent before Pharaoh, and it even swallowed the Egyptian magicians rods, serpents. Aaron's rod struck the Nile, turning its waters to blood. That is the first plague. Aaron stretched out his hand, bringing frogs over Egypt. That is the second plague. Aaron struck the dust with his staff, bringing gnats or lice throughout Egypt. Third plague, Moses and Aaron threw soot into the air, causing boils on people and animals. Sixth plague, Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, bringing hail and thunder over Egypt. Seventh plague, Moses stretched out his hand over Egypt, bringing locusts. Eighth plague, Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, bringing darkness over Egypt. ninth plague. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, parting the waters of the Red Sea. Then Moses struck the rock at Rephadim with his staff, bringing forth water for the people. So there are many miracles that it was not just that happened in that time, but Moses and Aaron were instrumental and God's doing miracles through them. Boys and girls, Moses and Aaron worked miracles and God did miracles through Moses and Aaron in the story of the Exodus. But then we have

not only Moses and Aaron, you fast forward and we have two prophets, Elijah and Elisha. Elijah and Elisha, whose ministries sort of overlap. But Elijah and Elisha worked miracles during their earthly ministries. So you have got the foundation of the law with Moses and Aaron. You have got the foundation of prophets or the affirmation of prophets with Elijah and Elisha. That is what we have got here. So Elijah worked many miracles. He declared a drought on the land and there was no rain or dew on the land except by his word. He was controlling it. Elijah multiplied the widow's jar of flour and a jug of oil so they did not run out during the famine. Elijah raised a widow's son from the dead and Zerapath. Elijah called down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice, wood, stones, dust, and water on Mount Carmel when he defeats the prophets of Baal. Elijah called down fire from heaven to consume the first captain of 50 and his men in 2 Kings 1. Elijah called down fire from heaven again to consume the second captain of 50 and his men also in 2 Kings 1. And Elijah parted the waters of the Jordan River by touching his cloak into the water. Jordan River parts. So God did miracles through Elijah. And then there comes Elisha. Elisha also parted the waters of the Jordan River with Elijah's cloak. Elijah does it, walks across. Elisha then takes his cloak and touches it and the waters part. Elisha and probably the most based story in all the Bible cursed these youths that were mocking him. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled them. They made fun of him for being bald. He said, "Watch this." Pretty brutal. He calls these he curses them. And what comes from it? There is no other explanation other than how did he just control those female bears. Uh Elisha also provided water in the valley for the armies of Israel, Judah, and Edom when they were fighting against Moab, filling ditches without rain or wind. It is a miracle. Elisha caused the Moabites to see the water as blood. It did not actually turn to blood, but they saw it as blood, leading to their defeat. In 2 Kings 3, Elisha multiplied a widow's jar of oil to fill many vessels so that she could pay her debts. 2 Kings 4. Elisha raised a Shunammite woman's son from the dead. In 2 Kings 4, he purified deadly stew by throwing flour into it. He multiplied 20 loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain to feed 100 men with some left over. Elisha healed non the Syrian of leprosy by having him washed seven times in the Jordan River. He caused Gahazi, his servant, to be struck with non's leprosy as an act of judgment. Elisha made an axe head float on the water. An iron axe head recovered from the Jordan River. And he blinded the Syrian army sent to capture him and led them into Samaria. So Elijah and Elisha also worked many miracles. Moses and Aaron, Elijah and Elisha, and then we have the Lord Jesus and his apostles. This is the third period in history that God worked miracles through individuals Moses and Aaron, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and the apostles that you would say it looks something like the spiritual gift of miracles. Though Christ himself does not have the spiritual gift of miracles or powers because he is God himself. But Jesus and his apostles also worked miracles. Jesus turned water into wine at Cana in John 2. Uh he performed the first miraculous catch of fish on Lake Gennesaret. When he says, "Have you caught anything?" They say, "No, been fishing all night." He says, "Cast your net on the other side of the boat." and they do and it is full. There

is no other explanation for that. Jesus did not have polarized sunglasses to see that there is actually a big school of fish right there. It is miraculous and their nets are full so that they are breaking. He calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee. He cast out demons into a herd of pigs. He fed 5,000 men plus women and children with five loaves and two fish. He walked on water on the Sea of Galilee. He fed 4,000 men plus women and children with seven loaves and a few small fish. He miraculously provided a coin for the temple tax from a fish's mouth. He raised Lazarus from the dead in Bethany. He withered a fig tree by cursing it. He cursed a tree and then they came back by it the next day and the tree was dead. Everyone goes, "Uh oh." That is the tree that he cursed yesterday and now it is dead. It is a miracle. Jesus then performed the second miraculous catch of the fish at the Sea of Tiberius. This was after his resurrection. One of his first miracles is, "Have you caught anything?" No. Cast it on the other side full. And then after his resurrection, he does it again. So Jesus worked miracles during his earthly ministry. But the apostles and those closely associated with the apostles also worked miracles during their earthly ministries. An apostle is an authoritative representative of the Lord Jesus Christ. And he gave them signs and powers specifically so that their ministry would be verified and everyone would listen to them. He even did this during his earthly ministry while Jesus before Jesus has died, resurrected, and ascended when he is still during his earthly ministry. The apostles worked miracles. They healed the sick and cast out demons as commissioned and reported upon return. Then there are 72 disciples during Jesus earthly ministry who also worked miracles. These 72 disciples healed the sick and cast out demons in Jesus' name. And the demons, they were shocked that the demons submitted to them. This is Luke 10. But then after Christ's death for our sins, resurrection for our salvation, and ascension to rule and reign from the right hand of the father to send the spirit to us, to advocate for us. Christ continued to work miracles through his apostles and their associates. The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. That summary is said in Acts 2:43 as well as Acts 5:12. That the apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. Many of those tormented by unclean spirits from towns surrounding Jerusalem were delivered by the apostles. Acts 5:16. They brought people from the surrounding towns to them because they saw what God was doing through the apostles. So they brought all these people who were sick and who were demon oppressed or demon possessed. Brought them to them and they are all delivered. Many people from those surrounding towns. Then we have Steven in Acts six performed great wonders and signs among the people. Philip also performed great signs and miracles in Samaria, including casting out unclean spirits with loud cries. That is in Acts 8. Peter raised Tabatha, also called Dorcas, from the dead in Joppa. In Acts nine, Paul cursed Elymas the magician and Elymas was struck blind for a time.

Paul with Barnabas with him performed many signs and wonders in Iconium. That is Acts 14. And Paul cast out a spirit of divination from a slave girl in Philippi in Acts

16. Do you remember that scene that Paul comes to Philippi and there is this slave girl that had made her masters a lot of money because she had an unclean spirit of divination. She could tell the future and so she made a lot of money for her masters and she because of the demonic spirit within her recognized who Paul was. So, she is following him around, heckling him. And Paul finally gets fed up and turns around and rebukes the unclean spirit and delivers her. That is powerful. There is no other explanation for that.

So, he cast out that spirit of slave girl in Philippi. He worked extraordinary miracles through Paul when he came to Ephesus so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that touched him were taken to the sick and diseases left them and evil spirits came out. And then we have Paul raising a young man named Eytichus from the dead after Paul preaches much longer sermon than you and I have ever heard. So Eytichus falls asleep, fell from a window, dies. Paul goes and raises him up. So Jesus and his apostles worked miracles. Jesus because he is God the Son. the apostles because they are the authoritative representatives and those closely associated with them to also verify their early ministry so people would pay attention to them when God did mighty deeds through their hands. Miracles were worked as signs to verify the messengers of God's special revelation.

miracles were performed or worked or effected, whatever word you want to use, as signs to verify the messengers of God's special revelation. So, we have this explicitly with Moses, explicitly with Jesus, and explicitly with the apostles that we are told why God did miraculous things through them. Listen to the beginning of Exodus 4. This is after the Lord sends and commissioned Moses, "I am going to use you to set my people free from Egypt. You go and tell them." This is Exodus 4 1-9. Just listen. Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you. The Lord said to Moses, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." And the Lord said, "Throw it on the ground." So Moses threw it on the ground and it became a serpent, a snake. Moses ran from it, as many of us would do. But the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail." So he put out his hand and caught the snake by the tail and it became a staff again in his hand that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has appeared to you." And again the Lord said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak. And when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak. And when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the very first sign, they may believe the latter sign. If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the ground, the dry ground. And the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground. So why did God do miracles through Moses? To affirm, to be signs affirming that he is

revealing God's special revelation. not general revelation just revealed in nature. Special revelation is when God is speaking to us such as we have in the scriptures. But in this day it was how are they going to know? They are not going to believe. It is like well I am going to work miracles through you and that will affirm to them. Oh boy. This is God speaking to us through Moses. So he did it through Moses and through Aaron. Miracles were worked as signs to verify the messengers of God's special revelation. We have the same thing with the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen to Acts 2:22. This is Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost. Men of Israel, hear these words. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. Stop there. That is that is how his sermon starts. You know Jesus is who he claimed to be because God did he attested to you mighty works, wonders, and signs that God did through him in your midst. You know it as you yourselves know. What was the point of Christ's miracles, casting out demons, doing all those things? It was God attesting to everyone. He is who he claims to be. He is revealing God to us. He is God himself made flesh. The same thing with the apostles. Acts 4:29-30. And now, this is part of their prayer after they had been persecuted. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness while you, Lord, stretch out your hand to heal and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. So the apostles are praying after being persecuted, thinking, "How are we going to continue to preach, continue to teach when these people do not want to listen to us? And when they are trying to throw us in jail, they say, "Lord, help us continue to speak boldly as you stretch out your hand, to heal, and to do signs and wonders." They did not have the New Testament scriptures completed then. Today we just argue from the New Testament scriptures and they verify themselves. Do not need signs and wonders because there is no new special revelation happening today. But in this day, there was new special revelation happening and God verified it. Verified the messengers with miracles.

The next thing you need to understand is the gift of miracles ceased. And I do not just mean ceased in the first century. The gift of miracles ceased all three times. Those three short periods they happened in human history. They happened and then they ceased. They happened and then they ceased. They happened and then they ceased. It is the same pattern of what God has all always done. They ceased after Moses and Aaron. Why? Because God used them for a specific purpose in the Exodus and for the people enslaved and Pharaoh himself to know this person is speaking from the Lord authoritatively. Elijah and Elisha, mostly contrary to where they were at in the history of Israel, but also to oppose the false gods of Baal and show that they have no authority to put them to shame. God did miracles through Elijah and Elisha. He affirmed the message of those two prophets through their working of miracles. When Christ comes into the world and his apostles being his representatives, God does miracles through them affirming the messengers of special revelation. They ceased after Moses and Aaron. They ceased after Elijah

and Elisha. And they ceased after Jesus and his apostles. 2 Corinthians 12:12 says, "The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works." Mighty works, powerful workings, just like we have here in 1 Corinthians 12:10. Are there any apostles today, authoritative representatives of Jesus? No. The criteria for apostle was you are an eyewitness of Christ after his resurrection. Can anybody claim that today? No. There are no apostles today. Why do we therefore then need signs of the apostles today? And this is what charismatics try to do too. They want to think those have continued. They also many of them think apostles have continued. But it is not true. You do not need the signs of a true apostle because there are no true apostles. And those were the signs that verified the apostles in the first century. Ephesians 2:20 will also help you understand why would God do that in a specific period and then cease working miracles through individuals through a spiritual gift. Ephesians 2 19 and 20. So then, you gentile Christians, you are no longer strangers and aliens. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apo apostles and prophets, Christ himself being the cornerstone. Christians have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who is the cornerstone. And the whole Christian faith is built on the foundation of the prophets and the apostles. They were foundation layers. They laid the foundation, the prophets and the apostles. And once the foundation is laid, you do not need to lay another one. And those who were laying the very foundation of our faith were affirmed by signs and wonders and miracles. So that was very clear. God is using these people to lay the foundation. We do not need another foundation laid today. So we do not need the gift of miracles affirming revelation. You have the gift of miracles today, then you should expect that you have continued new revelation. So start adding to your Bible. So if someone can do those kind of signs, those exist to affirm that that person is speaking new direct revelation from God. But it is not the case. And that is why none of the miracles that these miracle workers do are ever verifiable. If they were, we would all believe it. Do you know this whole the insanity of this whole charismatic movement that misunderstands the gifts like this? It radically hurts people. It promises people miracles and miraculous healings and things like that when the person has absolutely no authority to do it because they do not have the spiritual gift of healings or miracles. But they promise people they do and then they just have the out. If it does not happen, you did not have enough faith. If I did, you did not have enough faith. They always have an out. And false teachers know what they are doing to manipulate people. And many of them make millions and millions of dollars by manipulating people into thinking they have the spiritual gift of healings or of miracles and things like that. and they almost always have some kind of direct secret knowledge from God that they could clue you in on. Okay. When was the last time you were in Tulsa and you were near Riverside Parkway? We were there earlier this week for a dinner that we went up there for. And every time I drive anywhere near there, I look over near O.R.U. and I see that tower just sticking up out of nowhere. There is one tall building nowhere near any other tall buildings. Have you ever wondered why that exists? That exists because

Oral Roberts told people that God was going to kill him if they did not give money to his ministry. That tower was built to be a hospital and working miracles in this kind of hospital with miracle workers in there and healing workers in there that we are just going to eradicate sickness in Oklahoma. Eradicate disease because it was Oral Roberts the faith healer who built it. Go look up his videos and audio of being like the Lord's told me like if you guys are not faithful he is going to take me out. He is telling his followers, "God is going to kill me and I am your like prophet. I am your guy. God's going to kill me if you do not give me money." That is just one such example of a bad understanding of spiritual gifts. And you can see back why Paul says what he does in verse one of 1 Corinthians 12. I do not want you to be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts. We do not need these temporary signed gifts such as healings and the the effectings of powers or the affecting of miracles. You do not need those. We have got the completed scriptures. God has spoken. The book is closed. We can study it and examine it. There is no new revelation happening that we need to try to affirm. We have got everything we need in the scriptures. Now, here is one of the objections uh by modern charismatics. They say, "The scripture says Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." And to that, we would all say, "Amen. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever." And their objection would be, "But you are saying since these miraculous spiritual gifts have ceased that Jesus is not the same as he was in the first century. He was doing it then, but then the Bible is finished and he just stops doing this. So, you do not believe Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever.

And rather than getting into this whole long discuss discussion about like parsing all of that out, I would just say, "No, I am actually the one who does believe Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and you are the one who does not." because there are only three periods in all of human history where God worked miracles through individuals and each time they ceased. But you are saying Moses and Aaron did miracles, then they ceased. Elijah and Elisha did miracles, then they ceased. But then Jesus and his apostles do miracles and they never ceased. And all of us do them 2,000 years later. You are the one who is saying Jesus is different. I am saying Jesus is doing what he has done every time. He affirms the messengers of special revelation and then when they are affirmed, it ceases because they are no longer needed. I am saying Jesus is doing exactly what he did with Elijah and Elisha and exactly what he did with Moses and Aaron. That is what he did with himself and the apostles. You just need to know those three periods of all human history that God worked miracles through individuals like this. They encompass a total of 108 years. We have got at least 6,000 years recorded in the scriptures. 6,000 years. And 108 of those years had people in them that God was doing miracles through. And people act like the whole Bible is just like miracle after miracle, miracle workers, miracle performers, all this stuff. And you just think Jesus stopped. It is like you vastly misunderstand the whole book.

But now I do not think I have said anything that would blow your mind, but now I have got to say something I think will blow your mind.

And my question and just helping us actually understand, I think we have got hopefully we have got a good grasp of the purpose of them, all that kind of stuff. But we still need to ask, what was the spiritual gift of miracles in the first century that Paul is talking about right here in 1 Corinthians 12:10? What was the spiritual gift of miracles? It is literally the workings of powers *ergamata dynameon* in the Greek. It is like energy, power, the workings, the energetic workings of powers. My argument is that this gift primarily involved the exercise of supernatural authority and power over the kingdom of darkness, especially as it pertained to casting out demons.

The apostles are not walking around walking on water, are they? Peter walked on water, but that was a miracle of Jesus. He said, "Invite me out there." Jesus said, "Come on." But just recall reading through Acts, do any of the apostles ever do a miracle of nature?

Any of them ever multiply loaves and fishes? Do any of them ever rebuke a storm? What we would call a miracle of nature like Christ did? Any of them ever do that? No. None of them. So, what is this gift Paul is talking about? The effecting of powers. That word is used repeatedly throughout the gospel accounts, even in Christ's ministry. And it is almost always connected with Christ showing his power over demonic forces by casting out demons.

So my argument is the this gift empowered the apostles as early foundation builders of the church to exert dominion over demonic forces as they laid the doctrinal foundation of the Christian faith which would later become the sacred scriptures through their inspired speaking and writing. this what we have in 1 Corinthians 12:10 the clearest explanation it is not there were some in the first century and even the apostles affirmed by these signs and they are just walking around even doing miracles like Christ did like none of them turned water to wine none of them said hey go catch that fish and it will have the money in its mouth none of them said cast your net on the other side no apostle that actually had this gift Paul is talking about ever did a miracle of nature

Christ turned water to wine, multiplied food, walked on water, calmed the storm with his voice, withered a fig tree with the word, made a coin appear in the mouth of a fish, and caused fishermen's nets to be filled. With the exceptions of Paul raising Eytichus and Peter raising Tabatha from the dead, the entirety of the miracles worked by the apostles and their associates dealt with casting out disease and demons. Disease, casting out disease is obviously the miraculous gift of healings that we even looked at last week. The other one is casting out demons.

So that is what the spiritual gift of powers was. They had power over demonic forces to cast out demons at will and show their authority over the demonic world to show that Christ's kingdom is greater than the kingdom of darkness and these are emissaries of the kingdom of light. That is the whole point of what is going on. And just I just encourage you to go read through go look through again all of these things that they are not physical healings because that falls under the category of the gifts of healings. But the ones that are what we would classify as like this is a miraculous thing that happens. Go read it all and maybe you will be shocked to see that is true. None of them did anything like Christ did except the casting out of demons. Like that is the primary focus of this power that they were endowed with and it had its effect.

But that gift has ceased. The spiritual gift of powers of exerting of powers what is translated miracles in most translations. It is no longer necessary because there is no longer new revelation. But though that gift has ceased, you need to know the Lord Jesus Christ still exerts his power over the kingdom of darkness today. Though we do not have people walking around with the spiritual gift of powers, casting out demons, chasing demons away, Christ is still exerting his power over the kingdom of darkness even today. He has bound Satan as it pertains to deceiving the nations. And this is why the gospel is spread all over the world. Christ is still exerting his power over the kingdom of darkness, lowering the kingdom of darkness and raising up and building up the kingdom, as Paul says, the kingdom of God's beloved son, the kingdom of light. Mark 3:27, but no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. This is Christ talking about binding Satan so he can plunder his house and set free those who were in the domain of darkness. Set them free into the kingdom of light. Believer, that is what has happened to you. You were in the domain of darkness, dead in your trespasses and sins. But Jesus seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, threw him into the pit and shut it, sealed it over him so that he might not deceive the nations any longer so that the gospel would spread and people like you and I, 7,000 miles away from where the gospel began, we would get saved and we as the nations would belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is still exercising his power over the kingdom of darkness today. He is also sealed Christians by his spirit so that you and I in Christ are protected from the evil one. The apostles would walk around and cast out demons, put them to flight, rebuke hypocrites who are obviously demonically influenced, but Christ is still, even though people do not have that spiritual gift today, Christ is still protecting us. in ruling over this present darkness. He has sealed Christians by his spirit so that you and I are protected from the evil one. Sealed. In him you also when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation and believed in him, Christ, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4. If you are a believer, you need to know that Satan and demons are real. They hate you, but you are safe. You are not safe from

their accusations. You are not safe from their temptations. You are not safe from their trying to influence you, but you are safe from oppression and possession. You have been sealed, Christians, by God, the Holy Spirit. And greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. You are protected from the evil one. Christ has also caused us to be born again, freeing us from Satan, his confederates, and their demonic influence. This is this is the miracle that continues to happen today. It is not technically a physical miracle that bends the laws of nature, whatever, but it is a spiritual miracle of the new birth. Just as if someone is physically dead and you raised them from the dead, that is a miracle. Well, it is a it is a spiritual miracle. When God caused you as a believer to be born again, you were dead in trespasses and sins. Just listen. Listen to this. Ephesians 2 1-7. Listen to it. But think it think of it through the lens of in the domain of darkness but Christ is exe executing his power over that darkness and even performing spiritual miracle to you to make you alive. Listen, you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience, among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind. But God being rich in mercy because of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead in our trespasses made us alive together with Christ. You are in the domain of darkness. You are dead. And the Lord Jesus, still exerting his power over the domain of darkness, takes you a spiritually dead, rotting corpse, makes you alive, breathes the spirit into you, gives you the gift of faith. By grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace and kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah. Darkness that does not win. Jesus wins. He has brought Christians into his kingdom of light, delivering us from Satan's domain of darkness. Colossians 1:13. And here is a great truth as well. Though the gift of powers has ceased today, Christ is still exerting his power over Satan and demons as our great high priest. Christ will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The tempter will soon be crushed under your feet, Christian. The accuser will soon be crushed under your feet, Christian. The devourer will soon be crushed under your feet, Christian. And the murderer will soon be crushed under your feet. Look to Christ. Trust in Christ who on the cross allowed himself to be tempted, accused, devoured, and murdered in place of his people so that Satan would be defeated and you would be given eternal peace. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. Pray with me.

Our father in heaven, we thank you for your word. We ask you to help us understand it and to apply it. We thank you for verifying your messengers through signs and wonders, through powerful workings. Thank you for those sign gifts that did exist to help us to affirm that these men really spoke from you to lay this

foundation of our Christian faith. We ask you to help us properly understand spiritual gifts and to think and act in a way that you would be glorified.

We thank you for sending your son into the world to set us free from the domain of darkness and transfer us into his beloved kingdom. We ask you to save those who are not yet trusting in Christ alone for salvation. Sanctify us who are. And in Christ's name we pray. Amen.