

The Working of Miracles

1 Cor 12 7-11e

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Miracles
- The Bible includes a long list of miracles - that clearly defy the laws of nature.
- And just to be clear - - the word - miracle - is defined in the Cambridge Dictionary as...
- ...an unusual and mysterious event that is thought to have been caused by a god - because it does not follow the usual laws of nature.
- And while those who embrace the cessationist position will insist that the specific gift of miracles ceased with the office of apostles...
- ...there is good reason for us to believe that the Holy Spirit has continued to distribute this spiritual gift - even today.
- But before I get too far ahead of myself - we're going to spend our time today - considering the working of miracles...
- ...in light of the miracles that we find all throughout the Bible.

II. Outline

● Points

- Working
- Here in our text today - - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...the Holy Spirit is still accomplishing miracles - here in the church age.

- And as we study these scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...the Working of Miracles is according to God's Power
 2. ...the Working of Miracles is according to God's Purpose
 3. ...the Working of Miracles is according to God's Praise
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
 - ...where we find Paul - presenting a list of spiritual gifts.

III. Power

● Set up

- Context
 - As we make our way to the 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians - - we should take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
 - We find ourselves in the middle of a study of the charismatic gifts that Paul presented to the Christians in Corinth.
 - Up until this point - we've considered the word of wisdom - the word of knowledge - the gift of faith - and the gift of healings.
 - Now - here in our time today - we're going to consider the charismatic gift that Paul calls - the working of miracles.
 - And with this as our focus - let's turn our attention to this list of spiritual gifts - found here in 1st Corinthians chapter 12.
 - Look with me - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- Miracles
- Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...the Holy Spirit has promised to provide SOME Christians with the power to work miracles.
- Just to be clear - that word - miracles - found there in verse 10 - was translated from the Greek word - dynamis...
- ...which is the basis for our English words - dynamic - and dynamite.
- The original Greek word speaks of Explosive power.
- And in the context of this passage - Paul was referring to the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit...
- ...which is necessary for performing miracles.
- Creation
- The first miracle that we find recorded in the Bible is found in Genesis chapter 1 - it's verse 1 - where Moses declared...

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- Now - that word - created - was translated from the Hebrew word - Bara - which in this context...
- ...was used of that which is created - ex nihilo - or in other words - God created the heavens and the earth - out of nothing.
- And while the ancient Greek philosopher - Parmenides - was correct when he declared: "from nothing, nothing comes"...
- ...it's also true that our omnipotent Creator has the infinite power necessary for creating an entire Universe - out of nothing.
- Old Testament
 - I should also point out that the Old Testament includes more and 100 miracles - that present us with the miraculous power of God.
 - For example - God flooded the Earth with water - in order to punish those who were engaging in all manner of wickedness.
 - And He also confused the languages of the people at the Tower of Babel in order to divide up the nations.
 - God sent the 10 plagues upon the land of Egypt - in order to demonstrate His power over the false gods of the Egyptians.
 - And He provided the children of Israel with water from a rock - as they wandered in the wilderness.
 - And listen - this is just a scratch on the surface of all the miracles that we find in the Old Testament.
- New Testament
 - The New Testament also includes a long list of miracles - that reveal the limitless power of God.

- This includes the miraculous conception of our Messiah - which took place on that glorious day...
- ...when the Holy Spirit placed the Logos of the Lord within the womb of the Virgin Mary.
- Jesus also began His Earthly ministry - - by turning six water-pots of water - into wine...
- ...and He also fed five thousand men - plus women and children - after multiplying five loaves and two fish.
- Jesus calmed the storm with a word - - and by the power of God - He walked on water.
- Resurrection
- The greatest demonstration of God's miraculous power is found in the fact that Jesus raised Himself up from the grave.
- Let's consider how Jesus put it - in John chapter 10 - it's verse 18 where He declared...

Jhn 10:18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."
- The Lord Jesus not only laid His life down for us - so that sinners could be saved...
- ...but - He also exercised the supernatural power of God - by raising Himself up from the grave.
- That's right - our Messiah demonstrated the miraculous power of God - by raising Himself up from the grave.
- And while it's true that this is the greatest miracle - recorded in the Bible...

- ...it's also true that the Lord Jesus promised that those who trust in Him will accomplish Greater works.
- Greater?
 - Now - this is not to suggest that the church will accomplish miracles that are greater than the miraculous resurrection of our Messiah.
 - No - instead - the Lord Jesus was assuring His apostles - that the church will continue to accomplish a greater number of miracles...
 - ...as the Holy Spirit empowers the church - with the charismatic gift of miracles.
 - And to prove my point - hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to the gospel of John.
 - Let's turn to John chapter 14 - - and as we make our way to the 14th chapter of John's gospel account...
 - ...I should take a moment to remind you that the working of miracles is a charismatic gift...
 - ...that enables some Christians to accomplish the miracles of God - by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- More Works
 - With this in mind - let's consider the promise that the Lord Jesus presented - here in John chapter 14.
 - Look with me - beginning there at verse 12 - where the Lord Jesus declared...

Jhn 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Jhn 14:13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Jhn 14:14 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus assuring His disciples about the works that they will accomplish after His ascension into heaven.
- That word - works - was translated from the Greek word - ergon - which is the root of the Greek word that Paul used...
- ...when he referred to the charismatic gift that he called the WORKING of miracles.
- And as we consider this promise - there should be no doubt that the church has in fact accomplished a greater number of miracles...
 - ...since the day when the Lord Jesus ascended into Heaven.
- Holy Spirit
- We should also consider how the Lord Jesus connected this promise - to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Look with me again - there at John chapter 14 - it's beginning there at verse 15 - where Jesus declared...

Jhn 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Jhn 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

Jhn 14:17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Jhn 14:18 "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - helping His disciples to understand that...
- ...the Holy Spirit would be sent - after His ascension into heaven.
- And just as Jesus promised - it was on the day of Pentecost - when the Holy Spirit was sent...

- ...to possess and empower every born-again believer - so that we can continue to accomplish the works of the Lord.
- And this most certainly included the working of miracles that the Holy Spirit accomplishes - through some Christians.

● Application

• Wait

- The was precisely the point that the Lord Jesus was making - on the day of His ascension.
- It's in Acts chapter 1 - beginning at verse 4 - where Luke recounts the day when Jesus was...

Act 1:4 ...assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

Act 1:5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Act 1:6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Act 1:7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

Act 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- It was on the day of Pentecost - when the Holy Spirit was first poured out on those who had placed their faith in Jesus Christ.
- And it was at that point in time when believers first received the power of the Holy Spirit.
- That word - power - was translated from the same Greek word - which was translated - miracles - back in 1st Corinthians 12.
- What this means is that - the Holy Spirit is the One Who provides some Christians with the power they need...

- ...so that they can accomplish the working of miracles - that are inline with the plans - and purpose of God.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...
 1. ...the Working of Miracles is not only according to God's Power...
 2. ...but - the Working of Miracles is also according to God's Purpose
 - With this as our focus - let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
 - ...where we find Paul - presenting us with a list of charismatic gifts.
 - Let's back up and begin reading again - there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

IV. Purpose

● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

• Purpose

- Now - when Paul informed his audience that the Holy Spirit distributes these gifts to each one individually - as He wills...
- ...that word - - wills - found there in verse 11 - was translated from a Greek word - which refers to the deliberate purpose of the Lord.
- What this means is that the Holy Spirit provides some Christians with the power to perform miracles - in order to accomplish His perfect purpose.
- And just to be clear - the Lord's purpose in the miracles He performs includes...
 - ...protection - provision - and the proof that compels unbelievers to repent and trust in Him.
 - With this as our focus - let's take some time to consider each of these supporting points...
 - ...so that we can better understand God's purpose - in the miracles He performs.
- Protection
 - Throughout the scriptures - we find times when the Lord performed miracles for the protection of His people.
 - For example - the Lord used Moses to part the Red Sea - so that the Children of Israel could escape the Egyptian army.
 - And then - after the people passed over on dry land - the Lord used the same waters to drown the Egyptians soldiers.
 - The Lord protected His people against the Amalekites - as Aaron and Hur helped Moses raise his hands over the battlefield.
 - He protected His people in the battle of Jericho - by causing the walls to fall down - so that they could invade the city.

- And the Lord protected His people against the Midianites - by empowering 300 soldiers to defeat massive Midianites military.
- Purpose
 - I should also remind you about the day when the Lord protected Shadrach - Meshach - and Abednego - from the fiery furnace.
 - And it was there in the midst of that fiery furnace - where a fourth man was seen - who's form was like the Son of God.
 - And I believe that this was actually a preincarnate manifestation of our Messiah - Who was protecting His servants.
 - The Lord also protected the prophet Daniel - after he was cast into a den - filled with hungry lions.
 - And listen - time would fail us to consider all of the ways in which the Lord provided His people with miraculous protection.
 - Not only that - but the Lord also used miracles - as a way to provide for His people.
- Provision
 - For example - the Lord provided quail - and manna from heaven - as the Children of Israel wandered in the wilderness.
 - He also quenched their thirst - by bringing forth water from the Rock in Horeb.
 - And as they wandered in the wilderness for forty years - their clothes did not wear out - nor did their feet become swollen.
 - I'm also reminded of the way in which the Lord fed the prophet Elijah - by sending ravens with food.
 - And after that - the Lord provided for him - by supernaturally increasing the Widow's oil and meal.

- And this is just a scratch on the surface - of the ways that the Lord used miraculous means - to provide for his people.
- Proof
 - We should also consider how the Lord has used miracles - to help people trust in Him.
 - The Lord used the 10 plagues of Egypt - to prove to the Egyptians - that their gods have no power.
 - And at the same time - He was also preparing His people for their trip to the land of Promise.
 - God also carried the prophet Jonah to the land of Nineveh - in the belly of a great fish...
 - ...so that the people of Nineveh might receive the warning of the Lord.
 - After hearing that word of warning from the prophet Jonah - the people of Nineveh repented of their sins - and were saved.
- Jesus
 - The Lord Jesus also performed many miracles - which were designed to reveal His divine identity.
 - Let's consider how He explained it - in John chapter 5 - - it's verse 36 - where he declared...

Jhn 5:36b "...the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.
 - The incredible works that the Lord Jesus performed during the days of His Earthly ministry...
 - ...were miracles that confirmed the divine identity of our Messiah.

- The Lord Jesus restored sight to the blind - - and He restored speech to the mute.
- He cleansed Lepers of their leprosy - and He raised Lazarus from the dead.
- He cured a Centurion's servant of palsy - and He reattached the ear of Malchus - you know - after Peter cut it off.
- Nicodemus
- With all of this in mind - there were many who came to faith in Christ - after witnessing the miraculous ministry of our Messiah.
- For example - it's in John chapter 3 - where we learn about a Pharisee named Nicodemus - who came to Jesus and said...

Jhn 3:2 "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

- Nicodemus was a Pharisee who was brought to faith in Christ Jesus - after witnessing the miraculous works of our Messiah.
- And while he initially came to Christ at night - in order to secretly inquire about the source of our Savior's power...
- ...we find Nicodemus helping Joseph of Arimathea to place Jesus' body in the tomb - after He died on the cross.
- And from this - I think it's safe to say that - the miraculous ministry of our Messiah provided Nicodemus with proof...
 - ...that the Lord Jesus is in fact - the promised Messiah.
- Resurrection
- The most convincing miracle that brought many to faith in our Messiah - was the physical resurrection of our Redeemer.

- Remember - it was after His resurrection from the grave - when the Lord Jesus spent 40 days...
- ...as He presented Himself to His disciples - with many infallible truths.
 - And it's in 1st Corinthians chapter 15 - where Paul informs us that there were 500 eyewitnesses...
 - ...who became committed Christians - after witnessing the miracle of Christ's resurrection.
 - And let's not forget that Paul himself became a believer - after our risen Lord revealed Himself - on the road to Damascus.
 - Clearly - the Lord had a purpose - in the way He provided people with proof of His resurrection.
- Disbelief
 - At the same time - it's also important for us to realize that - there were many who witnessed the same miracles - - and yet - didn't believe.
 - For example - there were many religious rulers who were quick to accuse Jesus of performing miracles by the power of Beelzebub.
 - We not only find this accusation - recorded in the gospel accounts of Matthew - Mark - and Luke...
 - ...but - we also find a similar accusation made - in a Talmudic passage known as Sanhedrin 43A...
 - ...where Jesus of Nazareth was falsely accused of practicing sorcery.
 - In other words - the religious rulers of Israel weren't denying the miracles of our Messiah - no - instead...
 - ...they were accusing Jesus of working miracles - by the means of satanic sorcery.

- Purpose

- From this - we can see that - the manifestation of Miracles don't always turn unbelievers into believers.
- At the same time - it's also important for us to realize that the purpose of these miracles is still fulfilled - either way.
- In order to explain what I mean - let's consider the warning that the Lord Jesus presented to the children of Israel.
- Hold your place - here in the book of 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Matthew chapter 11.
- And as we make our way to the 11th chapter of Matthew's gospel accounts - I should take a moment to point out that...
- ...there were many who witnessed the miracles of our Messiah - only to then reject Jesus as the anointed Savior.
- And it's for this reason that the Lord Jesus described the purpose of those miracles - - as proof of their guilt.

- Application

- Judgment

- Let's consider Matthew's account of the day when Christ Jesus rebuked the unbelieving Israelites - who were witnesses of His miraculous works.
- Look with me - there at Matthew chapter 11 - beginning there at verse 20 - where we learn that...

Mat 11:20 He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

Mat 11:21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Mat 11:22 “But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

Mat 11:23 “And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Mat 11:24 “But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - warning those who witnessed His mighty miracles...
 - ...only to then reject His command - to repent - and trust in Him - for the forgiveness of sins.
 - And as we consider how the miracles of our Messiah - provided the people with proof of His divinity...
 - ...the same miracles will also provide proof - that the unbelievers who witnessed those miracles - and yet refused to repent...
 - ...will deserve the punishment that they will receive on the day of judgment - - according to the purpose of God.
- Witness
 - And listen - the same purpose is also true for the miracles that the Lord is still performing - here in the church age.
 - I like the way that Paul explained it - in Hebrews chapter 2 - - it's verse 4 where he declared...

Heb 2:4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will...

- The signs and wonders that the Lord performs here in the church age - are according to His will.
- And what this means is that - God has a perfect purpose in the miracles that the Holy Spirit accomplishes...

- ...through the Christians that He empowers with the working of Miracles.
- This includes His protection - provision - and the proof that compels unbelievers to repent and trust in Jesus - to the glory of God.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...
 1. ...the Working of Miracles is not only according to God's Power...
 2. ...and - the Working of Miracles is not only according to God's Purpose...
 3. ...but - the Working of Miracles is also according to God's Praise
- With this as our focus - let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
- ...where we find Paul - presenting us with a list of charismatic gifts.
 - Let's back up and begin reading again - there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

V. Praise

● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- Prison Break
 - As we continue to consider this charismatic gift that Paul called - the working of miracles...
 - ...we must not fail to realize that - there's a long list of miracles that the Holy Spirit accomplished - during the days of the apostles.
 - For example - it's in Acts 5 - where we learn about the day when the high priest placed the apostles in the common prison.
 - But then - later that night - an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out...
 - ...and he told them to go stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.
 - Can you imagine an angel - breaking you out of prison - and then sending you back out to do the thing you got arrested for?
- Paul
 - It's in Acts chapter 16 - where we learn about the day when Paul and Silas were cast into a Philippian prison.
 - It was at midnight when they were praying and singing hymns to God - when a great earthquake shook the foundations of the prison.
 - At the same time - all the doors were opened - and everyone's chains were loosed.
 - The keeper of the prison assumed that the prisoners had escaped - and so - he prepared to take his own life.
 - But that's when Paul assured him that they were still there - - and he proceeded to lead the jailer to the Lord Jesus.

- And listen - there's a long list of incredible miracles that the Holy Spirit accomplished - during the days of the apostles.
- Snake
 - It's in Acts chapter 28 - where we learn about the day when Paul survived a shipwreck - by swimming to the Island - Malta.
 - According to Luke - the natives showed unusual kindness to those who survived.
 - As they natives kindled a fire - - Paul helped by gathering a bundle of sticks.
 - And as he laid them on the fire - a poisonous viper fastened itself to Paul's hand.
 - The natives concluded that Paul must've been a murderer who escaped the sea - and yet justice did not allow to live.
 - But rather than dying - Paul simply shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.
 - Clearly - this was a miracle that the Lord was using - to confirm the apostolic calling of Paul.
- Counterfeit
 - Now - as we consider the way in which the Holy Spirit confirmed the ministry of the apostles - with the working of miracles...
 - ...I should take a moment to point out that - - there are times when the enemy uses satanic signs - and lying wonders...
 - ...to lead people astray - with counterfeit parlor tricks that appear to be miracles.
 - In order to prove my point - let's consider how Paul explained it - in the second letter he sent to the church in Thessalonica.

- Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians and let's turn in our Bibles to 2nd Thessalonians chapter 2.
- It's here in the second chapter of 2nd Thessalonians - where we find Paul - describing the satanic signs - and lying wonders...
 - ...that the antichrist will eventually perform - by the power of Satan.
- Sings/Wonders
 - It's here in 2nd Thessalonians chapter 2 - where Paul described the events that will transpire after the rapture of the church.
 - Look with me - beginning there at verse 7 - where he declared...

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

2Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

- Here in these verses - we learn about the way in which the Antichrist will accomplish the works of Satan...
 - ...as he receive the power to perform satanic signs and lying wonders.
 - And while we can't say for sure what sort of signs and wonders he will perform...
 - ...I have no doubt that the people here on this planet will believe that the Antichrist is performing miracles by the power of God.
 - What they will fail to realize is that - his signs and wonders will be counterfeit miracles - which will lead people astray.

- Miracles?
- It's also important to understand that - the enemy is known to use counterfeit signs and wonders...
 - ...as a means for misleading people with pseudo miracles.
 - Case in point - the magicians of Pharaoh were able to match some of the miracles that the Lord performed through Aaron.
 - They were able to turn their staffs into snakes - - they were able to turn water to blood - and they were able to summons a horde of frogs.
 - Now - it's possible that they were receiving power from Satan - to perform those counterfeit miracles.
 - It's also possible that they were using sleight of hand stage craft - like smoke and mirrors - to produce their signs and wonders.
 - Either way - they were leading people astray with their deceptive magic.
- Deception
 - In light of this example - it's crucial for Christians to understand that - the servants of Satan will use signs and wonders...
 - ...in order to dupe people into believing that - God is the One Who is empowering the person who is performing the miracle.
 - And it's sad to say that there are many who are being deceived by the the charlatans in the signs and wonders movement...
 - ...after gold dust appeared on their hands during a church service - or - angel feathers fell from the ceiling.
 - There are those who report gold teeth - replacing their cavities - and my favorite - the lengthening of a short leg.

- Yep - there are many Christians who are being duped by the most ridiculous signs and wonders that you can imagine.
- And yeah - this is despite the fact that the Lord Jesus warned us about these deceivers.

- Warning

- It's in Mark chapter 13 - where the Lord Jesus was describing the deception that will occur in the last days.
- Here's how he put it - beginning at verse 22 - where He declared...

Mar 13:22 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Mar 13:23 "But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

- Christian - listen - the Lord Jesus has already warned us about the false prophets who will rise up and show signs and wonders.
- And what this means is that - there will be believers - who end up being deceived...
- ...by the charlatans who will produce satanic signs - and deceptive wonders.
- That being the case - it's crucial for every Christian examine every miracle worker...
- ...so that we can avoid the deception that the Lord Jesus warned us about.

- Glory?

- One way to do this - is by making sure that those who are performing miracles - are giving glory to God.
- In order to explain what I mean - let's consider the way that the apostles used a miraculous healing - to give glory God.

- Let's turn in our Bibles to Acts chapter 4 — and as we make our way to the 4th chapter of Acts - I wanna take a moment to remind you...
- ...it was in our study last week - when we learned about the day when the Holy Spirit used Peter - to heal a man who was lame from birth.
- That miracle caused a huge commotion there in Jerusalem - and it's for this reason that the religious rulers decided to arrest the apostles.
- It was the next day when the high priest - Annas - asked them - - by what power or by what name were they able to perform that miracle.
- And in response - the apostle Peter proclaimed the praises of the Lord Jesus Christ - as he preached the gospel of grace.
- Praises
- With this context in mind - let's consider Luke's account of what happened next.
- Look with me - there at Acts chapter 4 - let's begin reading at verse 21 - where Luke informs us that...

Act 4:21 ...when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done.

Act 4:22 For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

Act 4:23 And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

Act 4:24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,

Act 4:25 "who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

'Why did the nations rage,
And the people plot vain things?

Act 4:26 The kings of the earth took their stand,
And the rulers were gathered together

Against the LORD and against His Christ.’

Act 4:27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together

Act 4:28 “to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

Act 4:29 “Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

Act 4:30 “by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

- Here in these verses - we find the apostles - proclaiming the praises of the One Who empowered them to perform the miracle.
- They didn’t set up a table - so that they could autograph their books...
- ...they didn’t sell tickets to their next healing revival - - they didn’t promote their website - by pointing people to SaintPeterministries.org.
- No - instead - they gave the glory of God - as they proclaimed the praises of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- And as a result - the Holy Spirit empowered them to speak the word of God with all boldness.

● Application

- The Spirit
- With all of this in mind - I should remind you of the point that Paul was making back in 1st Corinthians chapter 12.
- It’s verse 11 - where he declared...

1Co 12:11 ...one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- It's the Holy Spirit Who distributes the working of Miracles - to those whom He chooses to empower with this charismatic gift.
- That being the case - I can assure you that - those who are performing miracles - by the power of the Holy Spirit...
- ...will also give God the glory - by proclaiming the praises of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- And just to be clear - they will proclaim the praises of the Jesus - Who died for our sins - and rose from the grave on the third day.
- In this way - the working of miracles is a charismatic gift - that is according to God's praise.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

• Points

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - it's my prayer that we will all benefit from this charismatic gift.
- And as we pray for the Holy Spirit to accomplish incredible things here at Calvary South Austin - it's important for us to remember that...
 1. ...the Working of Miracles is according to God's Power...
 - ...and with that being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that our omnipotent God is still able to accomplish miraculous things.
 2. ...the Working of Miracles is also according to God's Purpose...
 - ...which includes His protection - provision - and the proof that compels unbelievers to repent and trust in Jesus Christ.
 3. ...And finally - the Working of Miracles is according to God's Praise...

- ...and with that being the case - we should proclaim the praises of the One...
- ...Who is able to accomplish incredible things - according to the working of His mighty miracles.