

Faith, Healing and Miracles

by G.W. North

Faith, Healing, and Miracles are gifts given to the Church to be used in conjunction with physical effort to demonstrate God's power.

Scripture: Luke 5:20, John 2:7, Hebrews 11:1

Topics: "Faith in Action", "Gifts of the Spirit"

Description

G.W. North emphasizes the significance of Faith, Healing, and Miracles as essential gifts given to the Church, highlighting their active nature in the life of believers. He illustrates that these gifts are not merely passive but require physical action and effort, as seen in biblical examples where faith is demonstrated through tangible acts. North points out that miracles often involve the participation of individuals, such as the apostles distributing food or the actions taken by those seeking healing. He connects these gifts to the broader theme of faith being an active force that drives believers to engage in works that manifest God's power. Ultimately, he asserts that these gifts are vital for the functioning of the Body of Christ and the realization of God's purposes on earth.

Transcript

For the above reason the Lord has also given to His Church some other gifts which are to be received and held as powers complementary to the foregoing, for He has designed and given them to that end. These particular gifts are listed as Faith, Healing and Miracles, each of which may be specifically thought of as one of the major working powers of the Body. These three, wherever they are revealed in scripture, are for the most part, if not entirely, associated with action of some sort. In this they are distinct from the former three, even though each of those are spoken of in an active form -- Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge and Discernment of spirits. All three require either the action of speech or the action of discernment by the inward man, but we do not ordinarily think of these mental or spiritual exercises as action.

On the other hand, from a reading of Hebrews 11, it is at once obvious that, although Faith is first introduced to us therein in terms of understanding, most of the chapter is devoted to showing us its association with various activities. Working, walking, building, offering, and other things involving work or expenditure of energy in some way are presented as being by Faith. This is also borne out by other scriptures, such as Luke 5, where we are plainly told that when four men let down a friend on his bed through the roof to the feet of Jesus, 'He saw their faith'. In all these cases to which we refer, faith is shown to be action involving physical work.

Again this can be said of Healing. Often such phrases as 'He laid His hands on them and healed them', link the resultant healings with His or some other person's activity. We find it the same also with Miracles. The New Testament records that when Jesus turned water into wine, it was only possible because in association with His power and at His direction the servants engaged in much activity, filling, bearing in and pouring out the wine, and so the glorious miracle was brought into effect. Again the miracle of sight-giving to the man born blind was only accomplished by Jesus through the means of spittle and clay and the ultimate washing in the pool following an arduous journey to Siloam.

If we think of the miracles of the feeding of the multitudes it is the same; these works of power were only accomplished by the Lord taking and breaking, and the apostles distributing the bread and fish. We could go on in this vein to establish the grounds upon which we rightly associate Faith, Healing and Miracles with application of power accompanied by physical effort: in fact the very word 'Miracles' is really a translation of the Greek word 'Powers' . Although all the spirituals are operable by power from on high, only this one is called by this name.

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