

Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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"The churches of Christ salute you" Rom. 16:16

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

MARCH 7, 2021

Does God Give Christians Miraculous Gifts Today?

Part 2

Miraculous gifts were given by God through the Holy Spirit to the first century church with primary (thought not exclusive) purpose being to prove that the message the early Christians were teaching was the message which came from God (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:1-4). The New Testament was not entirely available in written form immediately (1Corinthians 2). The last book of the New Testament and therefore, the Bible was not written until near the end of the first century. As each church collected the inspired books of the New Testament some would have a few, others would have more, but all twenty-seven were not available in written form until the end of the first century. Thus, the completed New Testament as a written document was not immediately available for reference in teaching as God's divine standard of authority. The Old Testament Scriptures were referenced as authority, and New Testament books as they were written could be referenced as authority, but the much of God's revealed New Covenant was still being given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit in a verbal manner. To prove such a message was from God miracles were performed so that thinking individuals could draw the same conclusion about the early inspired message that Nicodemus drew from seeing the miracles of Jesus (John 3:1-3). Nicodemus understood by the evidence of the miracles of Jesus that what Jesus was saying must have been from God. When the first century Christians were presenting the inspired Gospel of Jesus Christ verbally, they could perform miracles in order to prove that message was from God.

Last week we noticed the teaching of 1 Corinthians 13 supports the ideas given above regarding the purpose and consequently the length of time for the miraculous gifts God gave Christians in the first century. In 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 Paul points out the fact that miraculous gifts would cease when the full, complete, or perfect knowledge of God was available. When the New Testament was completed, miraculous gifts were no longer given to Christians. Consider now another factor in this discussion that fits in well with the teaching that the

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miraculous gifts given to Christians were limited to the first century. Only the apostles were able to pass on the Holy Spirit, or lay hands on individuals so that they might receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:12 shows us there were people in Samaria who believed and were baptized. These individuals had heard Philip preach the Gospel to them (Acts 8:12) and they had seen Philip perform miracles to prove the message he preached came from God (Acts 8:5-8). Philip was a preacher who was filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3), and able to perform great miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:5-8), but he was unable to give the Holy Spirit, and therefore miraculous gifts, to anyone else (Acts 8:14-18). The context shows us both in what happened and by clear statement that it was through the laying on of the apostle's hands the Holy Spirit was given (Acts 8:14-18). To be an apostle one had to have been an eye-witness of the resurrected Christ, and one had to have been specifically appointed by Jesus Christ. Therefore, there are no apostles today. Like the miraculous gifts themselves, the work of apostles was only needed in the first century while the Lord's church was getting started, and prior to the time when the New Testament was completed. The Holy Spirit, and therefore the ability to perform miracles could only be passed on by the apostles. There were no more apostles appointed by God's authority after the first century. In fact, Paul is the last one, and all who later professed to be apostles were false apostles (2 Corinthians 11; cf. 2 Corinthians 12:11-12). We have no apostles today and therefore no one today has the ability to pass on the Holy Spirit for the purpose of performing miraculous gifts.

Some years ago I was involved in teaching Bible studies to federal prisoners. The studies always focused on first century Christianity and salvation. On one occasion one of the prisoners became upset when I spoke of the fact that God no longer gives miraculous gifts to Christians. He insisted he had the ability to speak in tongues. I showed him from Acts 2 that speaking in tongues means speaking in an actual language for the purposes of teaching the Gospel to people of other nations. He insisted he could speak in tongues so I simply asked him to do so. He then told me he could not because I was an unbeliever. Then I showed him 1 Corinthians 14:22 which says "tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers." The miraculous gift of tongues was given to act as both the means by which the Gospel could be preached to people of other nations, and as a confirming proof the message came from God.

We deny none of the miracles recorded in the pages of the Scriptures. We do not claim to know and understand all of the ways in which God works today. But, we do know from the clear and obvious evidence in the world around us, and from the specific teaching of the Scriptures, God is no longer giving Christians the ability to perform miracles.

~Kevin V. Rutherford



READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2021

March 8 - Mark 10:32-52
March 9 - Mark 11:1-18
March 10 - Mark 11:19-33
March 11 - Mark 12:1-27



March 12 - Mark 12:28-44
March 13 - Mark 13:1-20
March 14 - Mark 13:21-37

OUR SICK

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please continue to keep the following in your prayers:

Sherrill Stewart, Elwood Flinchum, Kathy and Wayne Hutchins, Steve and Ernestine Martin, Don Jackson, Sandy Smith, Mike & Dora Lundgren, D.J. Harrison, Edith Allen.

Please keep **Holly Hauser** in your prayers, she will be having gallbladder surgery on Monday, March 8th.

Please keep **Mark & Nancy Minor** in your prayers. Mark has learned that he has been exposed to the COVID-19 virus and is waiting to hear from his test. They have been in self-quarantine until they learn of the results of his test.

Please remember **Abby Little** in your prayers as she is recovering from her surgery on February 9th.

Please keep **Roger Allen** in your prayers. He has an appointment for a MRI to have surgery on his hand.

Steve Martin has an appointment with a doctor at the Baptist Hospital on March 18th to undergo an outpatient procedure on his throat to improve his natural speech pattern. He will be conscious during the procedure for monitoring. Please keep him in your prayers.

Debbie Southern's aunt, **Betty Johnson**, underwent hip surgery this past Monday and is reported to be doing well in her recovery. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Please continue to keep Lauren Rutherford's friend, **Sandy**, in your prayers.

THANK YOU SO MUCH ~

We cannot begin to express our appreciation for all the support and love that has come our way over the last month. You have been our strength in this storm of life and we have leaned heavily on you and we want to thank you. It is a blessing to be part of the family that looks after each other. —with much love, the Cloud Family. (We have shared together the blessings of God.) - **please continue to pray for this family.**

Begin a Correspondence Ministry:

Many are sick or lonely or need encouraging words. Send notes, cards, texts - be creative.

Humorous Church Marquee Signs

"The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday."

"Seven days without prayer makes one weak."

"Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible"



WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

Children's Wednesday Evening Bible Classes (Wednesday evening only - for now) began on March 3rd. We have 3 classes available - pre-school, elementary and combined middle/high school class at this time.

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Pray with us for a sister congregation

This Week's Focus:

This week join us in praying for success for the **East Main church of Christ in Tupelo, Mississippi**. East Main church of Christ was one of the first congregations to start using House to House over 20 years ago. So far, they have mailed hundreds of thousands of copies of HTH into their community.

Their preacher, Barry Kennedy began working with the congregation in 2018. Their elders are Mike Childers, Dennis Hallmark, Mark Hitt, and Bobby Lindley. The East Main church of Christ has about 240 members. You can watch their past services and check out Barry's "Monday Motivations" on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFKCnbEiua3qljW7kYmz3GQ>

Please pray for them today. Pray that their HTH mailings will produce prospects for salvation and for them to have success in leading these members of their community to become members of the kingdom of heaven.

Thank you for taking time to pray for the kingdom (James 5:16).

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Worship Service - February 28, 2021	113
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SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

MARCH, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY: TODD HINSON

COMMUNION FOR MARCH: DAVID MOORE

OPENING PRAYERS FOR MARCH:

SUNDAY - a.m.

March 7 - Gene Southern
March 14 - Jim Harrison
March 21 - Brad Hoots
March 28 - Andy Santiago

SUNDAY - p.m.

March 7 - Adam Warner
March 14 - Mark Minor
March 21 - Carl Cooper
March 28 - David Queen

WEDNESDAY

March 3 - Bob Tesh
March 10 - Tim Allen
March 17 - D.C. Mock
March 24 - Wayne Allen
March 31 - Johnny Spillman

**BUILDING SECURITY: OPENING, SETTING UP FOR TEMPS, AND LOCKING BUILDING:
SUNDAY AM OPEN BY 10:10, PM BY 5:25, AND WEDNESDAY BY 6:25**

MAIN BUILDING: GENE SOUTHERN AND TIM ALLEN

SONG LEADERS FOR MARCH:

SUNDAY - a.m.

March 7 - Wayne Allen
March 14 - Clayton Workman
March 21 - Roger Allen
March 28 - Charley Belch

SUNDAY - p.m.

March 7 - Wayne Allen
March 14 - Clayton Workman
March 21 - Roger Allen
March 28 - Charley Belch

WEDNESDAY

March 3 - Roger Allen
March 10 - Clayton Workman
March 17 - Wayne Allen
March 24 - Charley Belch
March 31 - Roger Allen

IF YOU SHOULD BE UNABLE TO SERVE ON ASSIGNED DATES, PLEASE GET SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.

GENE SOUTHERN

<p>“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE” at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8 SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68</p>
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**WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST
8999 LASATER ROAD
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ELDERS

Tim Allen
Todd Hinson
Steve Tesh
Andy Santiago

DEACONS

Randy Warner	Gene Southern
Keith Warner	Shawn Thomason
Mark Minor	Mark Roy
Jason Allen	Adam Warner
Jody Everett	Jacob Woodbury