

## God Is Not So Mysterious (Part 4)

*(Understanding Miracles, Prayer, Providence, etc.)*

### I. Introduction:

A. Miracles happened throughout the entirety of the Scriptures (**Deuteronomy 11:1-3** and **Acts 2:22**).

1. Such occurred directly from Heaven (**Matthew 17:1-5**).
2. Such also occurred through men and women (**Acts 9:36-43** and **Acts 21:8-9**).
3. Such occurred through angels (**II Kings 19:31-35**).
4. Even animals were used to perform miracles (**Numbers 22:22-33** and **Jonah 2:1-10**).

B. Man has asked for and has received wonders (**Joshua 10:12-14**).

1. Understand though, God's working of miracles had a purpose (**II Kings 20:8-11**, **John 3:2**, and **Hebrews 2:3-4**).
2. Thus, when miracles were asked for and did not fit that purpose, the Lord didn't grant that miracle (**II Corinthians 12:1-10**).
3. Now, since the word is fully revealed, there are no more miraculous events being granted amongst men today. Consider the proof...

### II. Body: Miraculous Spiritual Gifts (**Ephesians 4:8-13**) Were Temporary...

A. Understand how this worked for Christians (**Acts 19:1-7**).

1. In the New Testament, which we're under today, there is a clear pattern of how the Holy Spirit was given (**Acts 8:1-25** and **Acts 19:1-7**). There are not Apostles today for this to occur...
  - a. An Apostle had to see the resurrected Christ (**Acts 1:15-26**).
  - b. Paul was the last the last of all (**I Corinthians 15:1-11**).
2. The only exceptions were the Apostles (**Acts 1:8**; **2:1-4**) and the first Gentile converts (**Acts 10:44-11:18**).
3. Those two exceptions were through Holy Spirit baptism (**Acts 1:5**), which has ceased (**Ephesians 4:4-6**), seeing as how it was not the baptism that saved (**I Peter 3:20-21**).

4. When they had the Holy Spirit giving them gifts, it was not a feeling or some inactive thing. The Spirit gave them abilities (**Romans 15:19**), knowledge (**I John 2:27**), etc. that was CLEARLY seen (**Acts 5:14-16**).

B. Understand what those gifts were and the promise of the cessation of those things (**I Corinthians 12:1-13:13**).

1. "That which is perfect" (**James 1:25**)...

2. ...Is now delivered (**Jude 1:3**).

D. The written word of God, not miracles, is what God designed to last (**Matthew 24:35** and **I Peter 2:22-25**).

1. Miracles were not sufficient in convincing unbelievers (**Matthew 11:20-24** and **John 12:36-43**).

2. Miracles confirmed the message, but was not the message (**Mark 16:15-20**).

3. It was and is the Gospel that is the power of God to salvation (**Romans 1:16**).

4. It was and is the word of God that is able to build us up and give us an inheritance (**Acts 20:32**).

III. Conclusion: Miracles very much  tied  to prayer (**Acts 28:8**), which will be our next lesson.