

RUSSELL SANDERS

5-11-2020

THE POWER GIFTS: MIRACLES

The operation of the gift of miracles results in works of the Holy Spirit that defy human reasoning or logic; it defies the laws of nature or physics. It brings about “the impossible” which is beyond all human understanding.

Yesterday we studied the gifts of healing. There can be a fine line between the two gifts, healing and miracles, and they often get confused. Sometimes a miracle is called a healing, and a healing gets called a miracle. Oh, you say, they can be the same thing. Close, but not exactly.

Let’s look at John 5:2-9. Jesus walked by the pool of Bethesda and saw a 38-year old man lame from birth lying on a bed. He was waiting for “the angel of the Lord” to disturb the waters to get his miracle, but he could never be the first into the pool. Someone else always beat him there. This had gone on year after year. Jesus asked him (v. 6) **“wilt thou be made whole?”** After his reply, Jesus said, **“Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.”** Immediately he was made whole, took up his bed, and walked. This was a miracle, not a healing. A healing brings wellness from disease or sickness. This man was neither sick nor diseased. He needed a creative miracle.

Peter and John had the same type of miracle recorded in Acts 3:1-22 when another man lame from birth received his creative miracle through Peter. Although v. 11 calls it a healing, that is the fault of the English translators. The Greek word is “iaomai” which means “to make whole.” It took a miracle to “make him whole” so that he could walk. It was an operation of “the gift of miracles.”

Raising the dead is also a miracle, not a healing. Jesus had three such recorded cases. There have been other cases in our own modern times. That is not a healing, but a miracle.

There can be any number of types of miracles. Sometimes it is a miraculous deliverance from certain death or an accident. It can be the multiplying of food. There is no limit to the types of miracles God can perform through or on behalf of one of His servants. Some of those servants see many such miracles in their work or ministry as the grace of God through the Holy Spirit has gifted them to believe for it.

Tomorrow we will consider the gift of faith, a gifting which is beyond that of a believer’s ordinary (though powerful) faith.