

## **DO ALL MIRACULOUS CURES COME FROM CHRIST?**

MIRACLES are defined in good dictionaries as “an event or occurrence that does not follow known laws of nature or that which is completely unexpected.”

Certain religious leaders, revivalists or crusaders are known to lay claims to power to perform miracles or divine healing in our time. Some of them claim their authority from the words of Jesus Christ recorded in the Book of Mark 16, which states: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.... And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” – verses 15-18.

This is no authority for any one today to make the bogus claim of having the gift of divine healing and miracles. Verses 19 and 20 of the same book and chapter show vividly that what Jesus Christ said was specific to the apostles, and it fulfilled on them as was manifest in their works. As it is written: “So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they (the apostles) went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” – Mark 16:19,20.

Moreover, the signs were of secondary importance. The primary aspect of the command was: “Go ye into all the world, AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE.” Obviously, it is BELIEF IN THE GOSPEL that brings God’s blessing and in the end salvation to the people.

When Christ said: “these signs shall follow him or her that believe”, he did not mean every believer. Not even all the apostle healed the sick in their days. Bartholomew, Andrew and Thomas Didymus are not known to have healed anyone? Were they therefore not apostles or servants of God just because they healed none?

St. Paul stated clearly that God dispenses His gifts as it pleases Him and that NOT ALL BELIEVERS DO MIRACLES. He said: “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.” He then asked: “are all apostles? are all prophets? Are all teachers? ARE ALL WORKERS OF MIRACLES? HAVE ALL THE GIFTS OF HEALING? DO ALL SPEAK WITH TONGUES? ...” – 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28-30.

If ALL ARE NOT workers of miracles; if ALL DO NOT speak with tongues, why do certain preachers of today go about saying that performance of miracles is the mark of the true Church?

Another text which miracle workers frequently cite to support their claims is John 14:12-14 in which Jesus Christ declared: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; ...” The disciples of Christ never did greater miracles than he did. The primary mission of Jesus Christ was to preach the gospel (Luke 4:43), and for the three and half years of his ministry, he concentrated primarily on the Jews. (Matthew 10:5,6; 15:26,27). What Jesus Christ meant was that his disciples would do the work of dispensing the gospel for a far longer period and to many more nations than he did. – Luke 24:45-47; Acts 1:8.

That performance of miracles cannot be used as a proof of God's true servants is clear from the fact that, false prophets or satan's agents can do them. (Exodus 7:10-13,19-22; 8:5-14; Matthew 24:11,24; 7:22,23). Saint John and Apostle Paul in their books exposed the activities of false prophets and showed that they can perform miracles – Revelation 16:13,14; 13:11-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12.

Miracles workers in our days also engage in stage-managed miracles; use sorcery/witchcraft power to perform miracles. – Acts 8:9-13; 3:1-10.

The GKS believes that God does miracles but not through human agents any more. – Malachi 4:2; Jeremiah 33:6; Isaiah 35:8-10

It should be noted that the Almighty God has power to prevent false miracles from happening. But He does not. This is to prove those who claim to worship Him whether they whole-heartedly trust or rely on Him for their needs or believe and follow false prophets for help. – Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 1 John 4:1.

Performance of miracle on a person does not in any way guarantee salvation or eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Lazarus who was resurrected by Jesus Christ did not continue to live but died again.- John 11:38-45.

Not all ailments will be cured now, but in God's Kingdom fully set up. (2 Corinthians 12:8,9; Isaiah 35:5,6; 33:24) Until then, those suffering from one problem or the other should exercise implicit faith in God and endure them till God's time.

### **False Prophets**

In so far as the doing of wonders are concerned, false prophets can do them, Jesus said: "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and SHALL SHEW GREAT SIGNS AND WONDERS; INSOMUCH THAT, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, THEY SHALL DECEIVE THE VERY ELECT". – Matthew 24:11,24.

So you can see that the mere performance of wonders or so-called miracles IS NOT what is necessary to identify the church of Christ today. Rather, such wonders are the works or marks of false Christs, prophets or agents or instruments of the Devil. Did the magicians and sorcerers of Egypt in the days of Moses not turn their rods into serpents as Aaron did? Did they also not by enchantment cause frogs to be in the land of Egypt as Aaron did? Did those "wonders" show up the magicians and sorcerers as the servants of God? Read Exodus 7:19-22; 8:5-14; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

False miracle workers and divine healers will be destroyed by God through Christ unless they repent. Jesus Christ made known what their fate will be when he said: "... Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? AND IN THY NAME HAVE CAST OUT DEVILS? AND IN THY NAME DONE MANY WONDERFUL WORKS? AND THEN WILL I PROFESS UNTO THEM, I NEVER KNEW YOU: DEPART FROM ME, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY"! – Matthew 7:21-23.