

\$2,000.00 WILL BE PAID for Proof Of One Miracle!

Miracles were quite common during the First Century. Many of these were performed by Christ for the express purpose of confirming His claim of Divinity. (John 20:30-31). He gave others the power to work miracles, including the healing of the sick and raising of the dead. (Matthew 10:8; Mark 16:12-20; Acts 3-5). Their supreme purpose was to confirm or establish the spoken word; to prove that God was working with them (Hebrews 2:1-4).

Since the New Testament has already been revealed and confirmed and the need for miracles no longer exists, we are committed to the proposition that miracles have ceased. (I Cor. 13:8-10). We are persuaded that there has not been one case of miraculous healing in more than eighteen centuries. Therefore, we believe all claims of miracle-working power on the part of human beings today are without foundation.

The Churches of Christ of the Pensacola area listed below will give \$2,000 reward for acceptable evidence of one case of miraculous healing of cancer, tuberculosis, withered limbs, or paralysis. Certified testimony of any three reputable physicians, members of the Escambia County Medical Society, will be accepted as sufficient evidence.

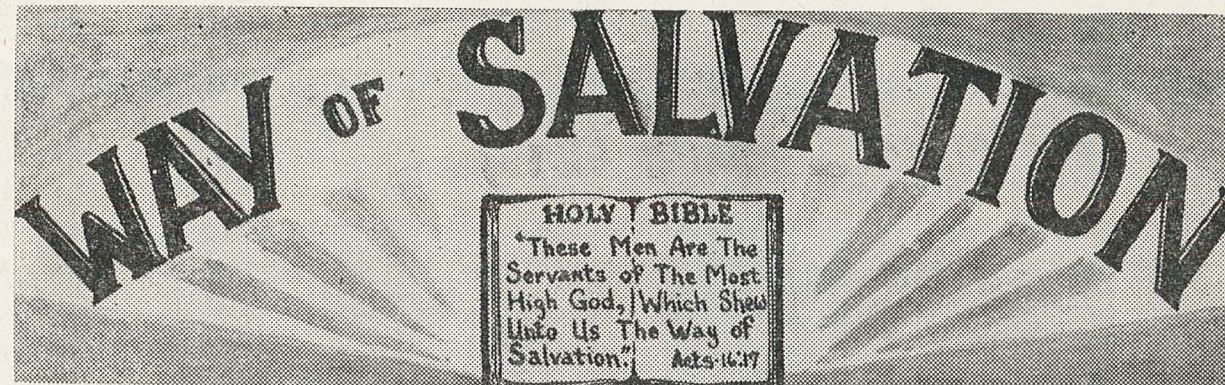
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BIBLE MIRACLES

By THORNTON CREWS

No person can read the Bible with any degree of profit without accepting the possibility of miracles, and the absolute necessity of them. The great Jehovah would not be God without the power and ability to perform them. The universe had to be created by a power that is far beyond any natural process that we can see and know. Nature nor blind chance has not the ability to make the heavens and earth. Divine power is not only demanded in the beginning of things but in the making of laws to govern things that have been made. For Jehovah to be the kind of God that the Bible pictures Him to be: He must know about His works from the beginning. Hence, He is the designer, creator, and preserver of all things, and we must expect miracles from Him.

Definition

In order to appreciate anything, we must know what it is so as to recognize it when we see it. What then is a Bible miracle? It is a work, act, or incident that is performed by a higher power, and without the use of natural or known laws. It may be something that is done contrary to known law, but it can never be accounted for by the process of law. The Bible refers to such incidents as mighty works, marvels, powers, signs, wonders, and miracles. The Bible mentions imitations and false wonders.

Illustration

To illustrate what is meant by the use of the term "Miracle": We are told that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, Gen. 1:1. David in explaining this says, "He spake and the worlds stood out." Ps. 33:9. In the fourth chapter of Mark, we see Jesus in the rear of the ship and asleep. A storm comes up, and they awake Him in great fear, but he calmed them and the pitching waves of the sea, by saying, "Peace be still." Not only did the storm end, but there was a great calm. In the fifteenth chapter of Matthew, He took five loaves of bread and two fishes, multiplied the amount so as to feed 5,000 men beside women and children.

Examples of a Few Bible Miracles

In the fourteenth chapter of Exodus, we see the children of Israel as they reach the Red Sea, and it seemed that there was no escape for them. But God told Moses to stretch out his rod over the sea; in a few moments they were crossing the sea on dry ground. The sea opened up and stood as congealed

walls on either side of the Jews as they crossed over. Ex. 15:8. This demonstrated God's power over the elements. In the tenth chapter of Joshua, we see the general needing more time to defeat his enemies, and He commanded the sun to stand still, Josh. 10:13, and that day was twice as long as a normal day. This shows God's power over the planets and over time, and the laws that govern them. In the days of Ahab, he had caused Israel to sin, and Elijah prayed for it not to rain, and for three years the heavens were shut up and it rained not. Then he prayed and much rain came. This showed God's power over the rains and the seasons.

When Jesus came into the world he found men suffering from many diseases. To the lepers, He said, "Be thou clean," and they were well and free from the disease. Matt. 8:2, 3. To the blind, He said, "Go wash," and he went and came seeing, Jno. 9:7. He healed all manners of diseases and they arose from the fevered bed and ministered to Him. The lame arose and walked; the palsied got up and carried their beds home; the dead heard His voice and came forth; the hungry were fed; the sick went home well.

They were not simply made better, but they were made perfectly whole, perfectly well. Peter and John healed the lame man of Acts 3. He had been there begging many years and all knew he was a cripple and could not walk, but one day they said, "In the name of Jesus Christ, walk." He arose and went into the Temple leaping and walking. No one could deny that this man had been made whole. Jesus was conceived and brought forth in birth without the natural law of conception. Lazarus having been in the tomb for four days came forth and lived a number of years as many could testify. And these things were all done in the open and without any display. They were works, incidents, happenings without the process of laws that usually governed such things. They were miracles. They show God's power to make and preserve all things. So far as we know, it takes no more power to make water into wine in a few minutes than it does by the regular process of law, but it is a different demonstration of power.

God is, therefore, presented to us as one that has all power and one that can do all things. When the church was set up in the city of Jerusalem as we find in the second chapter of Acts, we hear men speaking

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The Purpose and Duration of Miracles

Many signs and miracles were performed by Jesus while He was upon earth. (Matt. 8:16; 9:35; 14:14-36). He also gave others the power to work miracles, which included healing the sick and raising the dead. (Matt. 10:8; Acts 3:1-11; 5:16).



PERVIE NICHOLS

Were such miracles intended to be a part of the gospel and Christian system, to be performed in connection with gospel preaching? If so, every preacher must perform miracles in conjunction with his preaching, else he is not teaching the full gospel. But no person living can perform one miracle! Therefore, the gospel is either being preached in the absence of miracles, or it is being preached nowhere! Christ purposed that the gospel be preached "even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15, 16), but He did not intend to have the preaching accompanied by miracles throughout the gospel age.

Purpose of Miracles

What was the purpose of those miracles? (1) They were never performed for display or show (Lk. 23:8; Jno. 6:28). (2) Although miracle workers had compassion upon those physically ill, their miracles were not merely acts of mercy. (Jno. 9:3; Acts 8:5-23).

The supreme purpose of miracles was to confirm the gospel or last Will and Testament of Christ. To "confirm" is "to make firm or firmer; to establish; strengthen." Jesus performed miracles to prove His claim of being the Son of God, and to confirm the truthfulness of His teaching. He authorized certain ones to reveal His Will (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46-49), and bestowed upon them such powers as were needed to guide them into all truth, and confirm or establish their teaching as God's word. (Jno. 14:16-26; 16:13; Acts 1:5-; 2:1-4). "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 went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." (Mk. 16:19-20). (See also Heb. 2:1-4).

Duration of Miracles

When Christ ascended "He gave gifts unto men." (Eph. 4:8-13). There are nine miraculous gifts, including gifts of healing, listed in 1 Cor. 12:8-10. These gifts were to continue "Till we all come in the unity of the faith." (Eph. 4:13). "The faith" here means the gospel or New Testament. (Gal. 1:23; Jude 3). "Till . . . the unity of the faith" means "till" all parts of the faith or new covenant are revealed. If one says he will not leave the building "till" the sermon is ended, it is implied that he will leave when the sermon is finished. Likewise, miracles were to continue "till" the unity of faith was reached, but would cease, "fail" and "vanish away" when revelation of the gospel was completed. (1 Cor. 13:8-13).

Paul said, "For we know in part, and we

prophesy in part." All of the truth was not revealed through any one man. One would receive a part, while another would receive some truth, until finally revelation of the gospel had been completed. And Paul declared, "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." (1 Cor. 13:8-13). When the perfect or complete revelation was received in contrast to the parts or fragments which they had, then partial revelation ceased.

When the last word of the New Testament was written (about 96 A.D.), that which "is perfect" had come. Complete revelation of the gospel was received, and the unity of the faith was reached. And since miraculous gifts were to be done away when this was accomplished, we must conclude that miracles have ceased.

To say that the "unity of the faith" has not been reached is to contend for miraculously qualified men, including apostles and prophets. And to affirm that God's Word has not all been revealed and confirmed, established, verified, is to deny the Bible, and to contend for continued revelation.

Need for Miracles Absent

Everything originated amidst miracles, but is perpetuated by God's Divine Law. The Old Testament or law of Moses was ushered in by miracles at Sinai. (Ex. 18:24). But when that law was completely revealed, and the last word of Malachi was written (about four hundred years before Christ) miracles ceased for a time.

Then the Christian age began with miracles. (Acts 2). The apostles were given power to enable them to reveal and confirm the Will of Christ. Their work was for the benefit of all succeeding generations. But when the New Testament was revealed, confirmed and recorded, the need for miracles ceased, and, in God's Divine wisdom, were taken away.

The only signs and miracles we have or need are recorded in the New Testament. ". . . These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." (Jno. 20:30-31).

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Rewards and Propositions

By CLOVIS CAUDLE

Rewards and propositions have been offered to many men who claim the power to work miracles by the divine power of God. The money has gone unclaimed and the propositions ignored.

In 1952 there appeared an open letter in a Miami paper challenging Oral Roberts to a discussion concerning miraculous healing. This invitation was spurned and the letter disregarded. These men have been challenged constantly and they have repeatedly refused to discuss the issue.

Several years ago the churches of Christ in and around St. Petersburg, Florida, offered a \$1,000.00 reward for proof of one miracle performed by any of these men. The \$1,000.00 was never claimed.

This money was not offered for the purpose of performing a miracle, but for sufficient evidence that any such miracle had been performed.

In 1950 the College Avenue church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, offered a similar reward for acceptable evidence of one case of miraculous divine healing of cancer, tuberculosis, withered limbs or paralysis. This money was never claimed and the notice was run in the same papers a week later and the money was still not accepted.

In January, 1953, the challenges were run again in the same papers and were ignored, the same as 30 months previous.

An article came out in the Newsweek on February 30, 1955, commenting on, and stating, the offer made to Mr. Oral Roberts and signed by eight ministers of eight churches of Christ. This offer was run in the three leading papers of Phoenix, Arizona. The offer of \$1,000.00 was made, and Oral Roberts, who at the time was running a revival in the city, stated: "We can claim the reward any time. We've won it again and again." Strange as it may seem, Mr. Roberts folded his tent and left the city, as well as the \$1,000.00, behind him.

An offer as high as \$3,500.00 has been mentioned to these individuals who claim that they heal through the power of God. This reward has not been taken, neither has an attempt been made to gain it.

There is a very good reason why this "easy" money has not been taken. These men do not have the courage to try to prove their position by the Bible and have it thoroughly investigated before an intelligent and impartial audience. This would call for competent men to diagnose the cases involved in a healing service, as well as Bible proof for such action on the part of the "healers".

Rewards and propositions will continue to be presented to Mr. Roberts and others like unto him, and the rewards and propositions will continue to be rejected.

The teaching and practice of present day "divine healers" have been exposed to such an extent thus far that these men would suffer absolute defeat when measured by the teaching of God's word. This they surely know, and so, refuse to be measured by the divine standard.

The rewards and propositions are still offered even at present in the area of Pensacola. Time will tell as to whether or not they will be claimed.

Really, there is no fear of losing the money.

BIBLE MIRACLES

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in languages they had never spoken before, and all heard them and understood them, for it was the mighty works of God. When old Bar-Jesus withstood Paul in the thirteenth chapter of Acts: he was stricken blind for a season. In the ninth chapter of Acts, we find a man who had been in bed eight years, but Peter said, "Arise and make thy bed," and he did so. He did not say he had some ailment and make claims of being healed. But they knew he had palsy and was not able to walk. But a miracle was performed and he was healed and made whole at once, and all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord. Acts 9:32-35. This is what is meant by Bible Miracles.

FAITH HEALING PROOF-TEXTS EXAMINED

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before He made the atonement. Consequently, bodily healing was not in the atonement. Secondly, those who are saved are not, at the same time, healed in body.

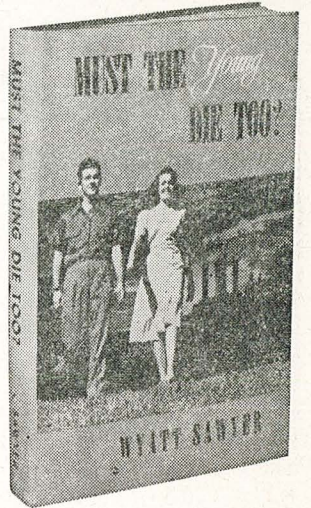
The affliction of Paul (II Cor. 12:7) and the infirmities of Timothy (I Tim. 5:23) prove conclusively that bodily healing is not granted to all who are saved in spirit. Paul and Timothy were saved, but they continued to have bodily affliction.

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The Real Issue

By SAM BINKLEY

Many people are confused today over whether God is now performing miracles or not. The modernist tries to discredit the miracles of the Bible for he



knows that if he can succeed in this he will be able to destroy the foundation upon which Christianity is built. On the other hand, when a person sets out to establish a new religion, he realizes that bare assertions are not sufficient to support his claims, therefore, he turns to what he calls miracles. In order to learn whether God intended for His disciples to perform miracles in all ages it is necessary that we clearly understand what the real issue is. This we hope to clarify in this article.

Not Question of Past, But of Present

That God has performed miracles in the past is abundantly proven in the scriptures. Those of us who believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God believe that the miracles recorded in the Bible actually happened. The thing we deny is that men have the power to duplicate those miracles today. The issue is not whether God HAS performed miracles in the past, but is He performing miracles today? Therefore, I ask the divine healing advocates to show me the scripture that teaches miracles are to be done today.

Not Whether God Heals, But How

To say that God heals is to say that which all who believe the Bible contend for, but the question is HOW does He heal? Certainly God heals today and such healing is divine, but it is not miraculous. There is a difference between divine healing and miraculous healing. All healing is divine, but all healing is not miraculous. If a man has pneumonia and proper medication is administered and the man gets well gradually, that is divine healing, but it is not miraculous. That is simply putting to use God's natural laws for the healing of such disease.

Illustrative of this point is the fact that God feeds us today, but does not do so miraculously. There was a time, during the wilderness wanderings, when God fed the Israelites miraculously with manna from heaven, but He is not feeding His people that way today. Our bread is provided by the Lord, but we must plant, harvest and make into bread. Miracles have always been provisional and temporary. They were never intended to be permanent. Therefore, to ask God to set aside His natural laws and heal miraculously is to ask Him to do that which He has not promised to do.

Not a Question of Praying for the Sick

Certainly it is right to pray for the sick. Those who oppose modern divine "healers" are often accused of not believing in prayer for the sick, but such is not true. We are taught to pray for our daily bread, but we are also taught to work to provide it. God has certain natural laws in regard to the sick and we must not ignore them. For example, suppose we were eye-witnesses to an accident in which a man

lost an arm: would we just pray for the Lord to replace the arm, or would we not try to stop the bleeding and summons help to get him a doctor that he may receive medical attention? Yes, we believe in prayer for the sick, but we also believe in doing something else for them.

Not a Question of the Power of God

God has the same power today that He has always had, and could, therefore, heal miraculously today as well as He did in the past, if He so desired. But the question is not whether He has the power to heal or not, but what is His desire in the matter. God has the power to do many things which He does not will to do. God made Adam of the dust of the ground, but is He making men that way today? No, He has certain natural laws which are operative in this today, and all men are born according to these natural laws, not because God does not have the power to create them, but because it is not His will to do so.

Jesus said, "God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham" (Matt. 3:9), but He did not do so. Therefore God is able to do things which He does not will to do. The question before us is not one of God's power, but of His law or will. What is His law in this today? Where is the scripture which teaches that God promised to heal the sick miraculously beyond the Apostolic Age?

Not a Question of Personal Testimonies

Personal testimonies of those who claim divine healing today cannot be depended on to present the real issue that is before us. It is not a matter of what I saw or what I heard, but what has God promised in His word. The issue can only be settled on the basis of what the Bible teaches and not by the testimonies of those who profess to have been healed today.

To settle the question and come to a knowledge of the truth in this matter, we must not evade the issue, but recognize that it is: What is the teaching of the Bible on the subject? Where is the scripture that teaches that God promised to perform miracles after the Apostolic Age?

Dear Reader: I urge you to follow the teaching of the Bible in the matter and not be deceived by those who would cloud and evade THE REAL ISSUE. Won't YOU think seriously and act scripturally? I bid you thus to do because your soul is at stake.

DOES GOD PERFORM MIRACLES THROUGH MEN TODAY?

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served and they ceased. In 1 Cor. 13 Paul explains that when "that which is perfect" ("perfect law of liberty" — James 1:25; also II Tim. 3:16-17) should come, that which was "in part" would be done away. (I Cor. 13:8-13). When the last Apostle died and the last person on whom an Apostle laid hands died, miraculous manifestations ceased. In this respect no man qualifies today.

Summarizing it all, we can scripturally say, God does not perform miracles through men today.

Does God Perform Miracles Through Men Today?

By HORACE E. HUGGINS

The question in consideration is not: Can God perform miracles through men today? It is not what can God do, but what does God do? To say that God



can do a thing does not prove that He does or will do it. All believe that miracles were performed during the days of the Apostles. Therefore, the issue is not what was done, but are they performed through men today?

By carefully observing the qualifications and peculiarities of New Testament miracle workers and, at the same time, showing that men do not "measure up" now, will inevitably prove God does not perform miracles through men today. Now, to the task.

Qualifications of New Testament Miracle Workers

1. Infallible Teachers of God's Word.

The Holy Spirit came to *guide* the Apostles (and other inspired men—Acts 8:5-6) in order to make them infallible teachers of God's word. (John 16:13; also 14:26). It is obvious that among the professed miracle performers today there is divisive teaching. Could this be a "guidance" of the Holy Spirit? There was no contradiction of teaching among the teachers in the "apostolic church." There was no flaw in their diction. (1 Cor. 2:12, 13). Is there a man who now qualifies? Who would be so arrogant to make such claim? Those who claim to have the baptismal gift of the Spirit are a living demonstration that they do not have it.

2. Received the "How" or "What" to Speak Without Study.

When Christ sent the twelve disciples out, limiting their teaching to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel," "He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." (Matt. 10:1 . . . emphasis mine). He also said, "But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." (Matt. 10:19, 20). Where is the mother's son among the supposed miracle workers that knows the "how" and/or "what" of Bible teaching without study? Some of them cannot even read it correctly.

3. Never Experienced a Failure in Performing a Miracle.

"There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were HEALED EVERY ONE." (Acts 5:16 . . . emphasis mine). Can this scene be duplicated today? Never! Faith or no faith (on the part of the one being healed), Christ and the Apostles never failed. (Luke 7:12-15 — How much faith did the dead son of the widow have?; Mark 5:41, 42 — Did the dead daughter of Jarius have faith?; How much faith did the loaves and fishes have? — Mark 6:35-44; (Acts

9:39-42). Why don't the modern "fake healers" reproduce scenes like those we read about in the above passages? There is no one who knows better than themselves. They are "false prophets" and their "coming is according to the working of Satan." (Mark 13:22; 2 Thess. 2:8-10).

4. New Testament Miracle Workers Proclaimed Mark 16:16.

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16-20). In order for the Apostles and other inspired men to perform a miracle they had to believe Mark 16:16. Look at verse 20, "And they went forth and preached every where . . ." What did they preach? Mark 16:16 was one thing they preached. Then again (vs. 20) ". . . the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." What word? Mark 16:16. How many of the professed miracle workers proclaim Mark 16:16 — "He that BELIEVETH and is BAPTIZED shall be saved" — today?

Did anybody ever hear one of these so-called "Holy Ghost-baptized" preachers of modern days tell sinners to do what Peter told sinners to do in Acts 2:38? No. For this reason alone modern "fake healers" would not qualify to perform a miracle.

Let us further observe:

1. "They shall speak with new tongues" — Mark 16:17.

To speak in "tongues" always meant to speak in KNOWN LANGUAGES — foreign languages unknown to those speaking them but clearly understood by the foreigners listening. (Acts 2: 4, 6, 8, 11; 1 Cor. 12:10). Nothing else is ever called "speaking in tongues" in the New Testament. There is no power like that on earth today. Only an Apostle could impart the gift of "speaking in tongues." (Acts 8:14-20; 19:6). Thus, the continuation of "speaking in tongues" could extend only through the life time of the Apostles. This affirms that the gift of tongues would cease. (1 Cor. 13:8). What is now called "speaking in tongues" is only a counterfeit offered by Satan to deceive the gullible.

2. "They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them . . ." — Mark 16:18.

Why is it that the "fake healers" talk much about healing the sick, and are afraid to handle snakes and drink deadly poison? The counterfeit "miracle workers" know better than anybody that they do not possess miraculous power.

5. Possessed Miraculous Gifts.

In the apostolic church the Apostles had Holy Spirit baptism (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4) and others in the church possessed "gifts" of the Holy Spirit — Spiritual gifts. (1 Cor. 12:7-12). These gifts were not general, but special. These gifts were imparted by the laying on of the Apostles' hands. (Acts 8:12-17; 19:1-6; Rom. 1:11). These gifts were provisional and not intended to last. In Eph. 4:8-16 Paul teaches that such spiritual endowments would continue only until all had come "in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man." When "the faith" (Jude 3) was fully delivered, the purpose of provisional gifts was

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Fake "Faith Healers"

By J. FRANK INGRAM

Friends, I believe in miracles, but miracles performed yesterday, not today. Surely we must know God heals today by natural law, not miraculous law. It is only my purpose here to state some of the claims, methods, and failures of fake "healers" which are known as facts in this country.

Claims

Mr. Oral Roberts of Tulsa, Okla., claimed in the summer of 1949, Ft. Worth, Texas, as he has every year, to heal people of cancers, tuberculosis, epileptic cases, blindness, tumors, polio, deafness, twitching and many other disorders. Mr. A. A. Allen, a faith healer, claims powers to the above as well as calling unclean demons out of people, which is nothing but a frog, in his magazine in February 1956. Mr. Jack Coe, now dead, having died of polio, claimed power to the above, yet he could do nothing for himself. Mr. A. G. Canada, of the San Francisco Holiness Church, said in a debate on miracles, "I can heal any ailment known to medical science." During the debate he injured his vocal cords and it was two weeks before he could speak. The above and many others are nothing short of religious racketeers. They advertise "Healing Cloths," into which they have cast the power of God. It's nothing more than a cheap piece of cloth which can do nothing but relieve people of their hard earned money to make millionaires out of Fake Faith Healers. But that is not all. Others are: "Raise the Dead Cloth," "Snake-Bite Cloths," and "Deadly Poison Cloths," all suggestive as to what power the cloths are supposed to contain. You can be sure of one thing, it is nothing more than a scheme to make money at the expense of deceiving people and playing upon their inner feelings. The apostles never asked \$1, \$5, or \$10 for such as they do. Paul said there would be some coming later of the devil with power and signs, who are counterfeiters with lying wonders. (2 Thess. 2:8-10).

Failures

On August 26, 1947, in Summerville, Ga., a disciple sipped poison at a meeting and died. Oral Roberts, although claiming to have healed, failed to do so on those who were deaf in Tampa, Fla., where I was present. He laid claim to having healed a Mrs. Vondercher of cancer, yet she died a few weeks later. In fact, many have died waiting in line to be healed. I wonder why these are kept quiet? After several attempts, Mr. Roberts failed to heal a mentally afflicted girl from Arkansas. Mr. Jack Coe failed to heal a three-year-old boy of polio in Miami, although he laid claim to having healed him. Although the legs began to swell, the mother, following his instructions, left off the braces. The result: doctors say this may have impaired his legs for life. Mr. Coe refused to answer letters from the boy's mother about the swelling in his legs. WHY? A.A. Allen claimed he healed a man of stomach cancer from Colorado on TV, but the man was dead two weeks later. In an item from the Associated Press in the Shreveport, La., Times, there appeared an article which read as

follows: "Faith Healing was Fatal to Child." . . . Parents of the child who believed in "Faith Healing" refused to allow doctors to administer aid. Result: "DEATH." They have failed to heal people of TB, diabetes, etc. The ones who were healed, so-called, were healed by or through natural law, not miraculous. Failures, as the above, and many more, would tend to produce a lack of faith in the minds of early disciples, if the apostles had been failures as these today. The above are but a few of the many failures.

Methods

Let us consider a few of the many methods employed by "Fake Faith Healers." Preceding the healing service, Mr. Oral Roberts tells of his being healed of TB and how God brought him out of the clutches of death and how God personally called him into the healing ministry. He tells very forcefully how the spirit of God and His power entered his body through his right hand, the instrument through which God heals today. By this time there is or has been pomp, pageantry, display and excitement created and instilled in the bodies of all, and they are ready to yield themselves to any suggestive thought. Much of this is done by emotionalism, mysticism, and power of suggestion (cousin of hypnosis). The Associated Press from Washington on August 4, 1951, reported where they were to raise a dead man. The trick failed, for the dead men was seen to come out of a tunnel on the other side of the tent and a riot was the result. Can you imagine such mockery and hypocrisy of men. The devil will stop at nothing to gain souls. Mr. A. A. Allen employed a registered nurse to lie and deceive people, but later this was acknowledged by the same nurse in an affidavit. But that's not all, individuals are urged to testify to healing when they have received none. Does this sound like God's methods or the devil's? Many of these I have seen and heard. Although thousands of cards are signed by ones to be healed, only a selected few are chosen by these men. Is this the work of God?

To be a fit subject for healing one must (1) be convinced the healing is the will of God, (2) believe that healing is for him, (3) must be "right with God" before claiming healing by faith, (4) is required to lay claim to healing, (5) act as one healed, (6) ignore lack sincerity, (3) still clings to his sins, (4) fails to obey God implicitly, (5) faults of the individual, (6) had no desire to be healed, (7) unbelief, and many others. Can you find any such puny excuses as these by the Lord or the apostles who worked miracles? We pray to God that every intelligent person will think seriously upon these matters with an open mind, and that much good will be the result.

CORRECTION

In the March issue, Page 5, under advertisement SPECIAL ISSUE IN APRIL, appears this statement: "If you would use extra copies at \$1.00 per 50; . . ." It should have read "If you would use extra copies at \$2.00 per 50; . . ."

Faith Healing Proof-Texts Examined

By E. V. SRYGLEY, JR.

The Proposition Clarified

"Faith healers" of the Oral Roberts variety openly claim the power to perform, by the power of God, veritable miracles. Our nation is flooded by "testimonials" of such miracles. Naturally, inquiring individuals ask: "Do these 'faith healers' have any Bible evidence for what they claim?"



In this article the reader is invited to examine closely several prominent arguments used by faith healers in their attempt to prove the present reality of miracles.

The Power of God

Quite frequently is made the general argument that to deny present miracles of healing, etc., is to deny the power of God. That is, "healers" argue that God *will* do whatever He *can* do. This argument is based on the bald assertion and assumption that God *will* do whatever He *can* do. No right-thinking person can possibly believe that. In fact, the assertion is simply false.

God *could* create men miraculously as He did Adam and Eve, but God *will* not *do* that. God *could* create trees and animals miraculously as He did in the beginning, but He *will* not *do* that. Instances could be greatly multiplied. Again, the point is this: God *will* not *do* all He *can* do. Faith healers are obligated to prove that God will DO all He *can* do.

Jesus Is the Same

It is insisted that Heb. 13:8 teaches the present reality of miracles. Generally, the argument runs like this: Jesus is the same; at one time Jesus performed miracles; therefore, Jesus performs miracles today. This argument is based upon two assumptions: first, that the present sameness of Jesus includes His miracle working; second, that even if the present sameness of Jesus *does* include miracle working, Jesus does today exactly what He did in the past. In the first place, Jesus is *not* the same today in the sense that His will and law are the same. In fact, Heb. 7:12 teaches that God's *law* did (and, therefore, does) change. Further, we learn from I Cor. 13:8-10 that God's *law* regarding *miracles* was to change when the perfect thing (or the complete Revelation) existed.

What *does* Heb. 13:8 teach? It teaches us that all the infinite traits or characteristics of Jesus (His love, compassion, hatred of sin, etc.) are utterly unchanging.

The Works of the Devil

It is commonly argued that I Jno. 3:8 teaches Jesus performs today miracles of healing. The argument commonly made is this: sickness and disease are works of the devil; Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil; therefore, Jesus today destroys sickness and disease. This argument assumes two things: first, that all sickness is the work of the devil; second, that even if all sickness *is* the work of the devil, Jesus destroys that work in *this life*. In Jno. 9:3 Jesus

makes it clear that disease is not necessarily the result of sin; therefore, the work of Satan. Secondly, Jesus nowhere promises to give us perfect bodies in *this life*.

The context of I Jno. 3:8 reveals clearly that the work of the devil under consideration is *sin*; not bodily affliction. Sin, as the work of Satan, *is destroyed by Jesus*. Matt. 1:21; I Jno. 2:1, 2.

Further, if Jesus destroys all disease, why did God allow Paul to keep a "thorn in the flesh," II Cor. 12:7? Again, if Jesus removes sickness, why did Timothy have stomach trouble and "oft infirmities," I Tim. 5:23?

Signs Shall Follow

Some "healers" think they find comfort in Mark 16:17-20. These verses say that signs were to follow, or accompany, believers. However, these verses deal with the *reality* of signs; not the *perpetuity* of signs. That is, Mark 16:17-20 does not teach that apostolic miracles to *continue*, as such, throughout all Christian generations. Let some "healer" prove that in order for signs to follow believers they must follow *all* believers of *all* time. I am speaking, of course, of signs or miracles in *actuality*.

The real or actual signs were to follow believers until the completing of God's revelation, I Cor. 13:8-10. Today those *same signs* follow all believers in written accounts; not in actuality.

Call for the Elders

It is supposed that James 5:14, 15 teaches the position of modern faith healers. First, it should be shown that James 5:14, 15 is not uniformly carried out even by *faith healers* themselves. The healers do not "call for the *elders*." They call for some *healer* who is not an elder, or bishop, in any proper sense of those terms.

Secondly, modern healers do not uniformly anoint the sick with oil. Thirdly, James 5:14, 15 does not teach the one who is *sick* to pray. To the contrary, the passages say that the *elders* are to pray over the sick. However, modern "healers" make quite a display over the prayer of the *sick person*. Notice again that James says, "And *if* he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him." Modern "healers" would say, "There is not any doubt about it. The man *has* committed sins. That is the reason he is sick."

What does James 5:14, 15 teach? Apparently there was some *special* reason for calling for the *elders* of the church. According to I Cor. 12 it is certain that certain apostolic Christians were granted the gift of miracle healing. It is entirely possible and reasonable that the elders of James 5:14, 15 were possessed of this power. However, I Cor. 13:8-10 teaches us that gifts of the spirit (miraculous gifts) were to cease when the completed revelation of God should be possessed by man.

A Part of the Atonement

It is urged that miracle healing is a part of the atonement. This contention is based upon Isa. 53:5 and similar passages. In other words, it is argued that Jesus died to save the body as well as the soul.

It is evident that Isa. 53:5 and similar passages do not contemplate *bodily* healing. These passages are dealing with *spiritual* healing. This must follow from two facts in the case: first, Jesus healed *bodily* (Continued on Page Seven)