



CENTRAL SHELBY CHURCH OF CHRIST
working and worshipping together to serve the Lord



Are Miraculous Spiritual Gifts Still Among God's People Today?

The scriptures teach that miraculous spiritual gifts abounded in the first decades after the establishment of Christ's church. To some were given "the word of wisdom through the Spirit," to others "gifts of healings by the same Spirit," to others "the working of miracles." And there were other gifts, including prophecy, tongue-speaking, as well as "the interpretation of tongues" (1 Corinthians 12:8-11). But are these same gifts still among God's people today?

[1] Miraculous spiritual gifts had one primary purpose, that of "confirming the word" that was preached (Mark 16:17-20). They were a part of God's means of "bearing witness" to the message preached by the apostles (Hebrews 2:3-4). But the word of our Lord has been fully proclaimed and revealed. There is no further need of confirmation today.

[2] Miraculous spiritual gifts were bestowed on 1st-century Christians by the laying on of the apostles' hands (Acts 19:6; Romans 1:11). Read Acts 8:14-17 and note that Christians in Samaria "received the Holy Spirit" *only after* two of the apostles came down from Jerusalem and laid their hands on them. But the apostles have now been dead for over 1900 years. There are none alive to lay hands on anyone.

[3] The apostle Paul spoke of a time when prophecies, tongues and knowledge (the means of partial revelation of God's word) would "fail," "cease," and "vanish away." He said this would happen "when that which is perfect [complete] is come" (1 Corinthians 13:8-10). He was referring to the completed revelation of God's word. But God's word has been completed. It was "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). We must therefore conclude that miraculous spiritual gifts have "ceased" and "vanished away."

--Mike Noble