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Now That Was a Miracle—Or Was It?

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One of the most captivating and perplexing doctrines presented in the Scripture centers around the works God performed through miracles. Many in our present age are intrigued with the concept of “Modern Day Miracles.” *Miracle* is commonly misused by people from every walk of life. When disaster strikes and lives are amazingly spared, people often refer to this phenomenon as a “miracle.” As an expecting mother gives birth to the baby she carried and nourished throughout the course of the pregnancy, people are very quick to call this God-given and natural process a “miracle.”

Are these amazing wonders of life truly miracles? What are the classifications for a true Biblical miracle? A miracle is a divine process that transcends what is normally viewed as natural law. This simply means that whenever a miracle has occurred, it cannot be explained in any natural fashion. There are specific traits which always accompanied the miracles recorded in the Bible. Above all, the divine power is never open to question. For instance, when Jesus performed miracles, wonders, and signs, no one ever denied (not even His enemies) the fact of what He had accomplished. In fact, His enemies were so convinced and convicted by Jesus’ ability to perform miracles that they attempted to attribute His power to some other source (Mat. 12:24ff).

True miracles were never done in a box. Typically, miracles performed during the first century

were done in the presence of many trustworthy witnesses (Acts 26:26). These witnesses often testified to the validity of the miracles they had seen performed (John 3:1-4). It is also imperative to point out that the effects of true miracles did not take time to work, but rather they produced immediate and amazing results (Mark 10:52; Acts 3:7). The New Testament records indicate that genuine miracles always produced instantaneous results. What was the purpose of miracles in the apostolic age? The intent of *signs* was to confirm the Word [I would also add reveal the Word—editor].

Through Mark’s inspired writing we learn that as the apostles were sent forth in the Great Commission, “And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen” (Mark 16:20). We also see from the Scripture that the miracles performed by Jesus were done so people would “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” (John 20:30-31). How were people able to perform miracles during the first century? The Holy Spirit was the power and source behind Jesus’ miracles (Mat. 12:22-32). In like figure, the Holy Spirit was given unto the apostles (Acts 1-2). Beyond this, only the apostles had the ability to “pass on” gifts of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:18; 19:6). The Holy Spirit worked through those to whom He had been given to demonstrate the power of God.

Are people still able to perform miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit? Since the Holy Spirit was only given “through the laying on of the apostles’ hands,” we must conclude that the answer is no; there are no “Modern Day Miracles.” With the death of the last apostle (likely John), the ability to pass on the gifts of the Spirit would have ended at that time. On top of this, the Bible teaches that miraculous manifestations of the Spirit were only given for a time, to fulfill the purpose for which they had been given (1 Cor. 13:8ff; Eph. 4:13). Upon reading this, someone might wonder and ask, “Since members of the churches of Christ do not believe in “Modern Day Miracles,” do they also not believe that God still works today?” In the Lord’s church, we are not deists!

The Bible affirms and we truly believe that God is alive and actively involved in our lives and the

affairs of this world. Following the age of miracles, God has continued to operate providentially—through prayer, the church, mankind, and the natural laws He established in creation (1 The. 5:17; 1 John 3:22; Gal. 6:2; Gen. 1:11; Jam. 1:17). Plus, God will continue to function in this manner until Jesus returns. Brethren, whenever we are presented with opportunities to share God’s truth concerning this matter, and all other matters pertaining to life and godliness, I pray that you and I will have the knowledge and courage to help people understand the will and ways of God (1 Pet. 3:15). God’s Word supplies everything essential to knowing and pleasing God (2 Pet. 1:3). His Word is not confusing, sometimes challenging—but very understandable (2 Pet. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:33; Mat. 7:7-8).

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Does “Full” Describe Your Life?

“Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people” (Gen. 25:8).

With the words of our text, Abraham ended a life of faith, having walked in such close fellowship with God that “he was called the Friend of God” (Jam. 2:23). When he died at 175 years old, his standing in the world from a human perspective might not seem to have warranted his nomadic life of sacrifice and faith.

He had sojourned in the land given to him by covenant, but he had not taken possession of it in any real sense. Although he had gained a measure of worldly possessions (Gen. 13:2), he had evidently given up a stable and satisfying life of luxury among his people to follow God into the land of promise. Once there, his nephew, Lot, had deserted him, taking the fertile land as his own (13:10-11). Abraham had seen war (chapter 14), famine (12:10), compromise (12:13; 20:2), fighting between his two wives, and had not had chil-

dren until his old age (chapters 16 and 21), had lived in poor relationship with his neighbors (chapter 20), and had eventually lost his dear wife, Sarah (23:2). But when Abraham died, Scripture says he died completely satisfied, the literal meaning of *full* in our text (the words “of years” added by the translators).

He had learned to measure time by eternity, to weigh the value of earthly things by the Spirit. “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10). He had “believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Rom. 4:3). The fullness of Abraham was that of a wealth that death could not touch. The seeming fullness of those who walk by sight, and not by faith, is emptied in death. Men and women of faith carry their fullness with them. Can your life be described as “full”? When the time comes, may we all die as Abraham died—full.

Author Unknown

Everyone is invited to attend!

Bellview Church of Christ

Gospel Meeting

with

Gilbert Gough

October 4–8, 2026

Sunday Bible Class:	Lovest Thou Me?
Sunday Morning Worship:	The Kingdom of Heaven (Part 1)
Sunday Afternoon Worship:	The Kingdom of Heaven (Part 2)
Monday Evening:	The Kingdom at War and Peace
Tuesday Evening:	Know the Enemy
Wednesday Evening:	Encouragement for the Present
Thursday Evening:	Man Under God's Wrath

Sunday: 9:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., & 1:00 P.M.

Monday – Thursday Evenings: 7:00 P.M.

A covered-dish meal will be provided on Sunday,
after the morning service, in the zone room.

Visitors are invited!

The lessons will be available for viewing on our website at:

<http://www.bellviewcoc.com/meeting.html>

Website

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com>

Sermons

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/sermons.html>

Bible Classes

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/classes.html>

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Michael Hatcher's YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/52MichaelH>

Defender and Beacon

Available Via Email

Send your email address to:

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Beacon

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Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Peggy Crowe

Nancy Travis

Linda Worley

Carla Burleson

Bill & Pam Busch

Linda Parks

Paul Brantley

Please Remember

September 30

Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium.

October 4-8

Gospel Meeting with Gilbert Gough

Weekly Services

Sunday

Bible Classes for all ages — 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Afternoon Worship Service — 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

Bellview Church of Christ

Bishops: Paul Brantley
Michael Hatcher

Minister: Bill Busch
Tim Cozad