

Where Are the Headlines?

by Dennis Lange

When Jesus performed miracles in the first century, word spread. Crowds formed. They clamored to see Him. The buzz was about Him. The talk spread throughout Israel. Later, powerful spiritual gifts were given to some Christians and one was the gift of miracles. Men throughout the Roman Empire would see the miracles and marvel.

Some claim that the gift of miracles is still for today. Where are the headlines? Where is the conclusive investigative report by the major networks?

I know a man who was paralyzed in a car accident a number of years ago. News of the accident was in the papers. The whole town talked about it. If he were to suddenly walk again because a Christian was able, by a spiritual gift, to make him walk, it would be in the papers. The networks might come to see. The Mayo Clinic might investigate. Nothing like that is happening.

The opposite occurs concerning the so-called miracles of the day. They are often unsubstantiated, passed by word of mouth, winding up as urban legends. "My cousin knows of a missionary who heard of a woman being raised from the dead in the country next to where he spent 2 years on the mission field."

Supposed miracles have been exposed as trickery. A chicken gizzard instead of a cancer winds up in the hands of the healer. The wife pumps people outside the meeting for information and relays the information to her preacher husband who "miraculously" knows what is wrong with the individual. Faith healers on television heal the individual of an internal ailment when they are deaf instead. What one cannot see and the individual never knew of, was healed, while the deafness that was known and is apparent to all, still exists!

The miracles of the first century appeared suddenly with the coming of Jesus and disappeared fairly quickly after the departure of the apostles. Why? It was a period of transition in God's great plan. The miracles of Jesus attested to the validity of His claims. They gave credence to what He said.

The miracles of the apostles and other early Christians confirmed God's message from them. The problem as Peter stood up to preach on Pentecost (and others later) was that he had a message that couldn't be checked except for the miracles that accompanied as proof. "So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands" (Acts 14:3). Now, we have the confirmed word, attested to by miracles, complete and finished, so that we may know what is the true will of God. The miracles that were once needed are needed no more.

The word of God teaches that they have passed away. And common sense tells us they are not happening any more or the 24 hour news channels would make them the big story on a slow news day.