

**COTHAM-JOHN
DEBATE**

On
Miracles Today

THE COTHAM-JOHN DEBATE

ON MODERN DAY MIRACLES

Conducted at the
Eastern Avenue Church of Christ
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Monday, July 17, 1989

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, ceased at the close of the Apostolic age.

Affirmative — Perry B. Cotham
Negative — Peter John

Tuesday, July 18, 1989

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, continue in the Church today.

Affirmative — Peter John
Negative — Perry B. Cotham

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STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION

I thank all the preachers and congregations that had a part in making this public discussion possible. Especially am I grateful to Russ Holden and Dawn Jones for preparing the manuscript for publication. Many hours were spent in checking the tapes and typing the material. Their work was a labor of love for the cause of Christ.

— Perry B. Cotham

INTRODUCTION

The debate between Perry B. Cotham and Peter John took place on July 17-18, 1989 at the Eastern Avenue Church of Christ in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Perry B. Cotham is an evangelist who currently worships with the Skillman Avenue Church of Christ in Dallas, Texas. Peter John is in the advertising business and is also the minister for the Amble Church in Amble, Michigan. They debated the following propositions:

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, ceased at the close of the Apostolic age.

Affirmative — Perry B. Cotham

Negative — Peter John

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, continue in the Church today.

Affirmative — Peter John

Negative — Perry B. Cotham

Every debate has a history, which the reader is entitled to know. Peter John is a friend of Lee Groendal, the preacher for the Northview Church of Christ in Grand Rapids. They became acquainted through a radio program that Peter had done on issues relating to the government. In their private meetings, they found out about their mutual interest in the Bible and often discussed whether miracles continue in the church today.

In the Spring of 1989, Perry B. Cotham conducted a gospel meeting at the Portage Church of Christ in Portage, Michigan. One topic of the meeting was miracles. Lee Groendal attended the meeting and arranged for brother Cotham and Peter John to meet. Croyal Stinnett, a member at Portage, was very helpful in making this possible. At a restaurant in Grand Rapids, the date and propositions were agreed upon for the debate. A copy of the agreement signed prior to the debate is contained in the appendix to this book.

The congregation for which Lee Groendal preaches did not have a large enough meeting place for the debate. Lee contacted N. L. Evans, the preacher for the Eastern Avenue congregation. The Eastern Avenue congregation agreed to host the debate. The financial obligations of the debate were shared by the Eastern Avenue, Grandville, and Portage congregations.

The debate was video taped by James N. Harris of Murray, Kentucky. The video tape of the debate is available from brother Harris:

Video Tape Ministry
James N. Harris
1602 Richland Drive
Murray, KY 42071
Phone: (502) 753-0670

The transcription of the debate was taken from the video tape. Dawn Jones, the secretary for the Grandville Church of Christ, typed the transcript. Audio cassettes of the debate were made by Dennis Gamble of Pontiac, Michigan and are available from him:

Dennis Gamble
P. O. Box 3531
Pontiac, MI 48059

Tapes, however, cannot replace the value of having a debate in book form. Books give us the opportunity to reread and carefully examine a man's arguments. In the case of this debate, the book also provides the many charts used by brother Cotham. The debate is published by brother Cotham:

Perry B. Cotham
1814 Santa Cruz
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May this debate in book form prove valuable to those who wrestle with the issue of modern day miracles.

September 1990

Russ Holden
Grandville, Michigan

CHAPTER 1

PERRY B. COTHAM

AFFIRMATIVE SPEECH

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, ceased at the close of the Apostolic age.

Gentlemen moderators, Mr. Peter John, ladies and gentlemen, I'm very happy tonight to have the opportunity to come before you and to talk on the proposition that has been read in your hearing. That is, that miracles, such as were performed by Christ during his personal ministry and by the apostles as recorded in the New Testament, ceased with the close of the Apostolic age. This I believe the Bible to teach, and it is my purpose to set this forth in as clear a manner as I possibly can in your hearing.

I know this is a very important subject, and people are interested in it. Some have come from a long distance to study with us on this topic. I appreciate Peter's desire to participate in this public discussion in order that individuals might hear an opposite view as he believes that miracles are continuing today and that people have the power to perform the miracles as done by Christ and by the apostles.

I am going to define some terms in the proposition in just a moment. But first of all I want to submit to him some questions tonight that he may think about and answer when he comes to reply, and I do this now. And in order that you may see them, I have them here on the overlay (see Chart 1.1). Peter, I'll give you a copy in case you cannot see these from the screen. However, I believe that about all can see them.

Question number one — Can you perform the miracles as done by Christ and his apostles? Can you do that? If so, have you ever done any of them? And if you say no, have you seen anyone perform any of these miracles? And if so, which one:

Chart 1.1

QUESTIONS

1. Can you perform the miracles as done by Christ and the apostles?
2. If so, have you ever done any of these?
3. If no, have you ever seen anyone perform any of these miracles? which ones? where?
4. Is the Bible complete? Do we have continuous revelation?
5. What verse of scripture teaches that miracles would be permanent that they would continue beyond the apostolic age to the end of time?

like raising the dead, or walking on the water, or restoring a part of the body as Jesus did to Malchus when his ear was cut off, or various miracles as performed by Christ or by the apostles as recorded in the book of Acts?

Then number four — is the Bible complete, or do we have continuous revelations today? And then number five — what verse of scripture teaches that miracles would be permanent, that is that they would continue beyond the Apostolic age to the end of time? You can see these questions and he has a copy of them, and this will more or less pinpoint the proposition for discussion. Now it is always proper for the affirmative to clearly announce the proposition and to make clear the point of issue. The scriptures teach, by the scriptures of course we mean the word of God. Teach — state in such a way as to reach this logical conclusion, and that miracles, as done by Christ and the apostles as recorded in the New Testament which all of us know about as Bible readers, ceased at the close of the Apostolic age. That is they do not continue today. The point of issue is "Are miracles continuing today or not?" We both agree that miracles were once performed. No question about that. We believe in miracles. Now some might doubt that these happened, but we accept the account that miracles happened. Now, are miracles continuing today? That is the point.

Again we need to understand the Bible idea of a miracle. It is a supernatural act of God showing the power of the Lord.

Today people use the word miracle in a very loose way. A child is born — that's a miracle. No, that happened according to natural law. Or maybe there is an accident and one person escaped, and another individual is killed. The newspaper may write it up and say it was miraculous that this man escaped. Not so. When we come to the study of miracles in the New Testament, they are supernatural acts over and above and beyond natural law.

For an example when God created man from the dust of the earth, that was a miracle. When He created Eve, that was a miracle. Then God gave the law of reproduction. We come into the world in harmony with God's natural laws. When Jesus took the few loaves and fishes and multiplied them and fed the great multitude, more than five thousand men, that was a miracle. Now then, with the sunshine and the rain and the planting of the grain and the harvesting of the grain and the flour and the cooking, we have food. That's in harmony with God's natural law. So we can see the difference between a miracle and that which is in harmony with God's natural law.

We need to understand the purpose of miracles as outlined in the Bible, their design, when they ended and why they were performed. There was a time when Christianity was in the mind of God. I mean the truths of the New Testament as they have been revealed and recorded for us. In the fullness of time, Jesus Christ came into this world. He performed miracles to prove that he was sent of God. Nicodemus said to him as we read in John 3:2, "We know that you are a teacher come from God. Because no man can do these miracles that thou doest except God be with him." And so he performed many miracles. And we know about these; we are familiar with them.

The apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost, in preaching concerning the resurrection of Christ and causing the people to believe in Jesus, he began that great sermon concerning the Lord by saying in verse 22, "Ye men of Israel, hear these words. Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles, wonders and signs which God did by him in the midst of you as ye yourselves also know." These miracles, wonders and signs prove that God was with the Lord.

We read also in the 10th chapter of the book of Acts, Peter preaching at the household of Cornelius and in verse 38, he said, how that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power. He went about doing good and

healing all that were oppressed of the devil for God was with him. He had that power.

We read also in Matthew 10:8 that Jesus sent out the twelve apostles. In verse one we read, "he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." Then down in verse 7, he said to go and to preach, and verse 8 he said, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: Freely ye have received, freely give."

Then when our Lord was anticipating resurrection from the dead in going back to the Father, he wanted the apostles to go forth and announce the great truths of Christianity. So he told them of the coming of the Holy Spirit. As we read in Luke 24:49, he told them to tarry in the city of Jerusalem until "ye be endued (or clothed upon) with power from on high." Well, they waited in Jerusalem. They received this power. The Holy Spirit came to them on the day of Pentecost — Acts the second chapter. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit; they had this power. And we read of many wonders and signs that were done by the apostles. They performed miracles.

In Acts 3, we have the account of the lame man who was cured immediately, publicly and no one could question that. Over in chapter 4 we have the enemies of the Lord saying, "A notable miracle has been done and we cannot deny it." The miracles of our Lord and those of the apostles were public and no question about it. No idea of a fraud in any way whatsoever or a fake.

In John chapters 14, 15 and 16, we have Jesus saying some things to the apostles about the coming of the Holy Spirit — the power of the Holy Spirit. And he says in chapter 14:26 the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, "whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Then we go to chapter 16, and we have it in verse 13, where Jesus said, "When he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth; and he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come." The Holy Spirit will guide you into all of the truth, he says.

Now the Holy Spirit is a divine person of the Godhead. There is the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Now then, He, when He comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will bring all things to your remembrance. So as we read in 1

Corinthians, chapter 2, where the apostle Paul speaks of the things being revealed by the Spirit, "Which things also we speak, not in the words with human wisdom, but that which the Holy Spirit speaketh; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." So the Holy Spirit guided them, gave the word, and they proclaimed the message of Christianity.

That isn't all. They performed miracles to confirm this as the truth of the Lord. In Mark 16:20, we have it said concerning the apostles, "They went forth, everywhere and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." They confirmed the message as being God's message and these as God's messengers. No human being can perform these miracles. Now the purpose then was to confirm this message of Christianity as being divine. So to reveal the truth by the Spirit, the Holy Spirit gave them power to perform miracles to confirm the truth. And we have Peter raising Dorcas back to life, Acts 9; the apostle Paul bringing Eutychus back to life, Acts 20 — many signs-Spoken of.

Now, we need to notice also something else. We turn to the book of Hebrews, given some years later, and we read in chapter 2:3, 4 this statement, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;" How? — "God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" So the word of the Lord was confirmed.

Passing on we have near the close of the first century, Jude's letter, and in verse three he asks the Christian to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints." "Once," Revised Version, "once for all delivered unto the saints." Peter says in 2 Peter 1:3, that the Lord "hath given unto us all things that pertain" unto salvation. So I say ladies and gentlemen when we come to the end of the book of Revelation, that has been given unto us by the apostle John; by that warning about adding to or taking from, we have the complete truth of the Lord.

Now are any of the apostles living today? The answer is no! But they were to be guided into all of the truth. I say we have all of the truth. All of the truth has been confirmed and that was the purpose of the miraculous power. And so it has ceased.

But that isn't all. Not only do we have that statement, but

let's keep in mind the power of the Holy Spirit revealed the truth, and confirmed the truth, and helped them in the recording guiding of the truth. In Ephesians 3:3-5, we have the apostle Paul stating, that the mystery which he spoke of and has written about, revealed by the Holy Spirit, and he said,... which things I have written unto you, "whereby when you read, you may understand" that which was revealed and given by the Holy Spirit through the apostles and prophets. Now it is true that Paul was selected as an apostle out of due time, but he received his teaching by revelation, so he tells us in Galatians 1:11-12. He was an apostle. The apostles had the power to lay hands on certain individuals and impart unto them certain miraculous gifts.

Now in our mention of 1 Corinthians 12 no one but an apostle ever bestowed any of these miraculous gifts. Timothy had a gift and Paul said, ". . . by the laying on of my hands . . .", 2 Timothy 1:6; he desired to go to Rome that he might impart some spiritual gift, Romans 1:11. Paul laid his hands on some that were baptized at Ephesus, and they spake in tongues and prophesied, Acts 19:6. But no one is living today that has received any of these miraculous gifts from an apostle. So when the last apostle died and the last man died on whom the apostle had laid his hand, these miraculous powers ceased, because no one receiving a gift from an apostle ever did hand it on down to someone else.

Take for example Acts 6. After seven men were selected to wait on tables, and Philip and Stephen were among that number, then the apostles laid hands on them and you have them performing miracles. Stephen did signs, and later we read in chapter 8 about Philip going to the city of Samaria and performing miracles. In fact, he came in touch with old Simon the sorcerer who made out like he was some great one. And people believed in him and evidently had contributed a lot of money to him, and he saw the difference. And the people saw the difference between the fake miracles, so called, and the real, genuine by divine power. Even Simon himself believed and was baptized.

Later, two apostles, Peter and John, came down from Jerusalem to lay hands on these individuals — baptized ones, at least certain ones of them, and Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given. He offered them money saying, give me this power I'd like to be able to do that, and Peter rebuked him and said he had neither part nor lot in this matter. And there you have

the example.

Now then, the Bible teaches also that these miraculous powers or gifts of the power of the Lord would cease and exactly when they would cease. And so I ask of you to turn to the Ephesian letter chapter 4, and we want to do some reading. And I have a diagram (Chart 1.2) for this which will be of help to us.

Chart 1.2

EPHESIANS 4:11-13

**CHRIST GAVE GIFTS - APOSTLES,
PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS,
PASTORS, TEACHERS**

FOR - PERFECTING THE SAINTS

**UNTO - WORK, MINISTRY, EDIFYING
THE BODY**

HOW LONG?

**TILL (MECHRI - PREP. OF TIME) - UNTIL
WE COME IN THE UNITY OF *THE FAITH*
- THE SYSTEM OF FAITH -
JUDE 3; JN 16:13; GAL. 1:23**

WITH WHAT RESULTS?

**VS. 14 - NO LONGER CHILDREN - SWAYED
BY "EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE"**

We read of the ascended Christ giving gifts unto men. All right begin reading in verse 11, "And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. . . ." And why? ". . .for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Now notice verse 13, how long? "Till!" "Till!" Until "we all come in the unity of *the* faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

These powers were given by the Lord to apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers for the teaching. For how long? Till, until, preposition of time — the unity of the faith, the

system of the faith that Jude talks about — contending for "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." They were to be guided into all truth, John 16:13, and in Galatians 1:23, it is said concerning Paul that he now preaches the faith that he once tried to destroy.

With what results then? Verse 14 no longer children, swayed by every wind of doctrine; we have all of the truth. So to give the truth, to confirm the truth, to record the truth and as Paul said in the Ephesian letter, again I go back to chapter 3, "Whereby, when you read, you may understand. . ." There are no inspired men living today. We have the inspired book; we have the book that inspired men have given unto us, confirmed by miracles. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they have given us these truths. Now, there is no need for miracles today. There is no one today who is an apostle living here upon this earth, and no one old enough to have received the gift from an apostle. And so then, miracles have ceased. Now at the close of the Apostolic age, I mean by that, when the last apostle died, and the last man died upon whom the apostles had laid hands, these miraculous powers ended or ceased. And now, we have the inspired book, the word of God.

Now here is a very important verse of scripture and it is in the book of Mark, the closing part of it. I read verse 20 a moment ago, but we want to go back and notice some other verses in the closing part of the book of Mark. I call your attention especially unto this which I have underlined here in verse 17 (Chart 1.3).

On the resurrection day we have things said concerning Jesus, and his appearance to the two that walked through the country, and finally eating with the apostles. He was rebuking them for their lack of faith. Now then, later, beginning or actually that same evening, verse 14 he appeared to them. Christ was on earth for about forty days, as we read, before his ascension from the Mount of Olives, and He was telling them now to wait in Jerusalem "until you be endued with power from on high". He gave what we call the great commission. "And he said unto them," verse 15, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe."

The believers are those of every nation who have heard, believed and were baptized. "These signs shall follow, in my

Chart 1.3

MARK 16:14-20

14. Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

15. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17. *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

18. *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.*

19. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

name shall they cast out devils," or demons, "they shall speak with new tongues." Tongues are languages they haven't learned given by the power of the Spirit of the Lord. "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." Now then after the Lord ascended, "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."

Now then a verse that talks about their work after Pentecost, after Acts 2 — "...they went forth," as apostles, "and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." Now Jesus did not say, though, that these signs would follow throughout the Christian age or dispensation. And you have to read that

in there; we have to suppose that. He said the signs will follow. Well, remember that the apostles were guided by the Holy Spirit, and they told us how long they would follow and when they would cease to follow — when all the truth had been given and confirmed. Often today those who believe in miracles will quote that verse of scripture, "these signs will follow them that believe." Well, yes, but Jesus didn't say throughout the Christian age or dispensation. And I ask for the verse of scripture that teaches that. And that is his idea and his doctrine. And so many believe that. But I'm saying that the Bible says when they ceased and how they followed.

Let me have another diagram (Chart 1.4) right quickly please.

Chart 1.4

. . . SIGNS FOLLOW' (MARK 16:17, 18)

CAST OUT DEVILS - TONGUES -
SERPENTS - DEADLY THING - SICK

1. DOES THIS APPLY TODAY?
2. ARE YOU A BELIEVER?
3. SIGNS:
 - A. DID FOLLOW - ACTS 8:6
 - B. HOW FOLLOW? - ACTS 6:6-8
 - C. WHY FOLLOW? - MK 16:20; HEB. 2:3,4
 - D. HOW LONG? - 1 COR. 13:10; EPH. 4:11-13

DO YOU PRACTICE THIS?

A man who does not practice what he believes is —
a hypocrite!

"WHY DON'T YOU PROVE YOU HAVE WHAT
YOU ***CLAIM*** YOU HAVE BY DOING IT THE
WAY THE ***APOSTLES*** DID?"

These signs shall follow, so forth, cast out demons, tongues —does this apply today, in Grand Rapids, in 1989? And I might ask, Peter, are you a believer? All right, then if you use that, and you are a believer then you are able to do what the

Bible teaches then. You are able to take up serpents, and you can drink poison, and you can raise the dead, and you can do things like that if you apply that and you say that means people today. That is not rightly dividing the word of God.

They did follow — Acts 8:6, the apostles laid hands on certain individuals and miracles were performed by those other than the apostles. Philip for an example, and there you have how they followed — by the laying on of the apostles hands to others besides the apostles. And why did they follow — to confirm the word. But Hebrew 2 speaks of the word having been confirmed. How long did they follow — Ephesians 4, "until".

Also, I introduce 1 Corinthians 13:10 where the apostle Paul, speaking of these miraculous gifts in the church at Corinth and speaking of love being something better, he said well love will never fail. But what about these miraculous gifts? Well, "whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge," that is miraculous knowledge mentioned in chapter 12, "it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part." Part by part the truth was given. Some eight or ten years after Pentecost, the truth was given concerning the Gentiles obeying the Lord and becoming Christians and being baptized. You don't have to go by way of the old law of Moses. And, so, additional truth was given. Not all was given at one time — part by part.

"But," verse 10, "when that," and *that* is neuter, not when "*he*" but when *that*, "which is perfect is come, then that which is in part," part by part teaching God's word by inspired men, "shall be done away." Then he closes the chapter by saying, "And now abides faith, hope, love," or charity, "these three; and the greatest of these is love."

They did follow. So, I'm asking Peter tonight, do you practice this though? Can you really do those miracles? Now a man who does not practice what he believes and teaches, it has been said, is a hypocrite. I'm asking you, why don't you prove that you have what you claim you have by doing it the way the apostles did. They did it publicly. "The signs of an apostle," said Paul, "were wrought among you," at Corinth — 2 Corinthians 12:12. Have they been wrought among you — you here tonight? I tell you, I have never seen a real Bible miracle. I've never seen one raised from the dead. Have you? I don't believe there is a man living in this state or any other state that can raise one from the dead as Jesus brought back

Lazarus from the tomb or Dorcas by the apostle Peter. Not at all. If so, I want to see that.

I believe in Mark 16. I believe what the Bible teaches. But miracles have ceased because they have served their purpose. There isn't a man living tonight anywhere in all of the world that can raise one from the dead. If so, I'll go to the cemetery and let him do it. Beloved, people are being deceived. They have not a proper understanding of the teaching of the Bible along this line.

I believe I have another diagram (Chart 1.5) on this please. All right, Signs Following — Do These Signs Follow Today?

Chart 1.5

SIGNS FOLLOWING BELIEVERS

Do these signs follow today? Not question of *power* but of *fact*.

1. How follow (given)? By hands of Apostles.

Stephen & Philip — Acts 6:5,6,8; 8:6,13

Samaritans — Acts 8:14-21

Ephesians — Acts 19:2,6

Timothy — II Tim. 1:6

Romans — Rom. 1:11

Not by "praying"

No Apostle living today to impart gifts

Second man did not impart gifts

2. Why follow? To help, reveal, confirm, and record word of God — Eph. 3:3-5; Accomplished — Heb. 2:3-4; Mk. 16:20

3. How long follow? Gifts to cease when perfect will of God comes — I Cor. 13:8-10; Js. 1:25. Till the unity of the faith — Eph. 4:11-13, Jude 3.

No need for miraculous gifts today!

All have ceased!

****OBSERVE****

He will *not* perform one miracle!

It is not a question of power. Some times it is said, "Well God has the power." That's not the point. It is a fact that God is not doing what He has the power to do. He has the power to create man as he created Adam, but He's not doing that today. He established the law; not a question of power but of fact. How did they follow? By the hands of the apostles — Stephen, and Philip, and the Samaritans in Acts 8, the Ephesians in Acts 19, and Timothy, and the Romans. Not by praying for the gift as it is sometimes said. So I'm saying no apostle living today to impart the gifts and the second man did not hand it on down to somebody else. And there is no one old enough today to say he received a gift from an apostle.

But why did they follow? These signs follow to help reveal, confirm, and record the truths of the New Testament. And so that's what Paul said, "revealed by the Holy Spirit unto the apostles and prophets." This has been accomplished. The word has been confirmed (Ephesians 2), and the word was to be confirmed, Mark 16. So how long did they follow? The gifts to cease when that which is perfect, the perfect will of God comes. *Until* the unity of *the* faith. And Jude said we have *the* faith; contend for it. No need for miraculous gifts for today. They have all ceased.

So observe. And I'm going to say this in all kindness tonight, but we might as well press the point, he will not perform one Bible miracle in your presence. He will not. He will not take us to the cemetery and raise one from the dead. He will not open the eyes of the blind. He will not restore the limb from the body of an individual. He will not because he cannot. I tell you sometimes, it is sad indeed when little children get sick, and they are not given medicine and proper attention and then die. And as a result of that, the parents misunderstanding the teaching of the Bible, not questioning their sincerity, but understanding the teaching of the Bible and let little children die. That is horrible. God heals today through his natural laws. Give the medicine, do the best we can; certainly we believe in praying for the sick but there is a difference in God working through natural laws in His providence, behind the scenes so to speak, and miracles being performed.

I have read of so many, not long ago, a few years ago, of a preacher in Arkansas or Missouri whose mother died, and he kept her out in cold storage for several days, and they prayed and prayed and thought about trying to bring her back to life. And they said they would. And he read here from Matthew,

"Raise the dead." Certainly. But that applied to those in giving the truth before the New Testament was given. And it had to be given orally and confirmed by miracles and then recorded as the truth of the Lord. Well he never raised her from the dead and they finally buried her.

Friends, it's pathetic indeed. But I want you to listen kindly now to Peter as he comes in reply to this. And I leave you with these thoughts in mind at this time. And thank you so very much for your kind attention.

I have showed you what Bible miracles are, the purpose of them, the power of the Lord, why they were given, and when they ceased. No apostle living today and no one living has that. The word has been given, it's perfect, and complete and able to furnish us completely "unto every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Thank you very much.

CHAPTER 2

PETER JOHN

NEGATIVE SPEECH

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, ceased at the close of the Apostolic age.

Praise you Jesus! Lord God I just come before you right now in the precious name of Jesus. And I just ask that you would help me; help me by your Spirit and just give me the words to say. Minister to these people, Lord God. I pray that it be of your word and of your spirit. In Jesus Holy name, I pray. Amen.

Well, as far as these questions are concerned, if all of you got your Bibles, I'd like you to turn to Matthew 12:38. You know those are the same kind of questions that the Pharisees used to ask Jesus all the time. He'd just get done performing a miracle, open up a few blinded eyes and all of a sudden the fame of Him would go abroad, and people by the thousands would throng at his meetings to hear what He had to say because he was performing miracles. Of course later on, we get in to find what those miracles are; what the word miracle means. Can you perform the miracles as done by Christ and his apostles? Well, let's hear what Jesus had to say when they said the same thing.

Miracles, by the way, the word sign is semeion in the Greek. Get your Strong's Concordance out, and you'll find out that it means a sign, a mark or token. And as it relates to these verses that brother Perry related to us, there are miracles and wonders by which God authenticates the man sent by him, or by which men prove that the cause they are pleading is God's, as it says in Matthew 12:38; which I'm going to read to you in a minute. And it's the same exact Greek word as it relates to Mark 16:15-20 as it relates to these signs that will follow them that believe.

Notice that he says these signs will follow them that believe. He didn't make it just for the apostles; he didn't make it just for the prophets; he didn't make it just for those who had a so called "special anointing." The Bible talks about an anointing that will come upon you when you receive the Holy Ghost of God. Isn't that what the Bible says in I John 2:20, and verse 27? That unction of the Holy One comes into you, that same anointing that Jesus had in Luke 4:18 when he says, "Behold, the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. . .", and He took that out of Isaiah 61. And He said He would, "preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind," and he says that he would "heal the brokenhearted." That is just as much a miracle as healing a lame person that never walked, or a blind person from birth. That's the same miracle working in power as in Hebrews 2:4, that he talked about confirming the word with miracles, signs and wonders.

Those three words are always found together. Many times that you find them, as he quoted so aptly, in Acts 6:8 and Acts 8:6. Just turn those two numbers around; you'll find out he's talking about Stephen and Philip.

And I'm going to talk about what a true Biblical evangelist is — a Biblical evangelist. Because I here say to you that if you say there are no longer apostles or prophets in the world today then there are no more evangelists, and there are no more pastors, and there are no more teachers. Because after all the Bible is complete. Right? — in first Corinthians chapter 13 and verse 10 — hog wash. Wait till you hear what the Greek word perfect is from Thayer, one of the greatest Greek historians in Greek language of men of our time. He died in 1901 and was professor of sacred literature of Andover Theological Seminary from 1864.

So folks, miracles weren't exactly happening in abundance back then because the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as it has been renewed throughout the ages really didn't get started until around Topeka, Kansas in 1901. So it wasn't a real popular thing. So, he had no bones to pick with anybody, but there really wasn't too much going on. And I say that because in the Old Testament miracles for a long period of time didn't take place either. Did you know that? There were long seasons of dry spells with no miracles. You know why? It had nothing to do with God's willingness to perform miracles, but it had everything to do with the condition —

the spiritual condition of the people. Because the people were filled with unbelief. And they were in a apostate religious cycles constantly, over and over; disobedience to God's word and God's law. And as a result of it, God didn't do a whole lot.

I mean, after all, if the Bible's complete let's just forget about preaching because every time Jesus talked about healing the sick — every single time, it was always in relation to preaching the gospel. So we might as well forget about preaching because after all the word's complete; so we should just hand out Bibles to everybody.

So let's go to Matthew 12:38. It's the same question they asked Jesus all the time, constantly. Besides Jesus didn't have to answer them anyway, did he? I mean he just went around doing his own business because he was doing the business of the Father, and he says he didn't do anything of his own will. He did everything as he saw what his father did. And if you notice in Hebrews 2:4 when he talks about miracles, signs and wonders confirming the word as he says in Mark 16:20, it says as the Lord wills. You just don't drum up miracles, folks. Miracles happen as a result of a life and a relationship with Jesus. And signs followed them that believed, not those who don't believe. A lot of times we like to quote that verse and say believe and be Baptists and thou shalt be saved.

Mr. Cotham's Moderator: Ah, excuse me just a minute. Will you hold your applause. You were asked to hold your amens and applause until after the speaker is through. Will you please obey that? We appreciate that.

Peter John: All right, we don't want to raise anybody from the dead today. We will talk about raising the dead. I've got a whole table full of evidence of people that have raised the dead. Documented absolute evidence of the truth of people that have been raised from the dead. Smith Wigglesworth did it about 13 times, William Bram did it about four or five times by the anointing of the Holy Ghost. But see, I'm not hear to talk about present day miracles. I don't care if you believe that I can do a miracle or not. Cause Jesus didn't care.

Let's read Matthew 12:38. "Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a miracle or a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas." Then of course you know what the sign was

when Jesus went to the heart of the earth for three days. The same as Jonas did. The prophets of old have always prophesied concerning Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15, that's the heart of the gospel. As the scriptures teach, according to the scriptures, Jesus died; according to the scriptures, Jesus was buried; and according to the scriptures, Jesus rose again from the grave —the greatest miracle ever told.

The greatest miracle, I mean if you can't believe that God can do anything today, how in the world are you going to be able to believe that Jesus came out of the grave? How do I know that you believe that Lazarus came out of the grave? Because there isn't, I haven't heard one scripture tonight that says that miracles have ceased according to the Bible. Not one. I haven't heard one Greek proof text that says that. And I'll go through each one of those points. So as far as answering a lot of these questions, we'll get to them a little bit later. We'll answer some of the questions as he presented in his program. By the way, I don't have a timer, so, somebody's going to have to stop me.

Mr. Cotham's Moderator: I'll tell you the time.

Peter John: All right. Ok, all right. So, the same scenario, if you want to read in Matthew 13:58 that says that, "And he could do not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." Why? The verse before says, "A prophet," Jesus said, "is without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house." Well, even Jesus was hindered by unbelief. In fact, when Jairus' daughter was raised from the dead, what's the first thing that Jesus did before he went into the house? He threw out all the unbelievers and just took in Peter, James and John. Maybe that's why they call me Peter John. I just believe the word. And he says don't fear, believe only and only believe. That's all you gotta do.

Now, if we are filled with unbelief, Jesus talked about that time and time again, if you don't believe, it won't happen. So, you're right. For those that believe that the miracles have ceased at the end of the Apostolic Age, what ever that was, I haven't found any verse of scripture that talks about when the end of the Apostolic Age was. In fact, I read in my Bible in Matthew 28 and in the last verse after he gave a commandment, to go out and preach the gospel to every — who? — creature: man, women and beast.

And by the way, we might as well throw out water

baptism too because, after all, that was in the same breath that Jesus talked about miracles. I mean do we still water baptize today? Absolutely, I don't know hardly any church that doesn't water baptize today. Except I do know one Christian sect who is consistent in their theology, at least, that doesn't believe in water baptism because they don't believe that miracles happen today: And they do not practice holy communion, because they do not believe that miracles happen today. So at least they are being consistent in their theology. So here I'm going to talk to you about theology and what the Bible has to say. I don't have to sit here and demonstrate any miracles to you because, after all, Jesus didn't have to perform any miracles to authenticate his ministry. But after all, the Bible talks about, he started right out with Acts 2:22, that he was approved of God because he did miracles. So if Jesus needed approval by miracles; at the same time, I think we will also need some vindication and confirmation in regards to what we're preaching. Is it, "Thus saith the Lord" or not? Is this the Holy Word? Is this the inspired, infallible word of God? The Apostolic Age never came to an end because after he told them to go out and baptize them, he says to "teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you even until the end of the age," as in the Greek or "the end of the world." That hasn't happened yet, has it? Absolutely not. So, there was no cessation of miracles; there was no cessation of water baptism; there was no cessation of preaching the gospel because we have the Bible as we know it today.

Like I say, I'm going to get to I Corinthians 13:10 in the next half hour. We'll get into what the Greek word has to say about some of those things. The Bible says that Jesus went about doing good; healing all those who were oppressed of the devil for God was with him. God anointed Jesus of Nazareth, that's the one that he quoted, I love to quote that too because the Bible says, "As Christ is in the world, so are we" I John 4:17. So we are to manifest the same glory in the power as a result of preaching the gospel that Jesus did. Matthew 10 validates that again, that's one of my favorite verses, he says preach the kingdom of God; preach the gospel. Then, he said heal the sick, cleanse the leper, cast out devils, raise the dead. Now he says cast out devils is coupled in there with healing the sick, and it's called as a miracle.

I'll tell ya folks, if any time in America we need the deliverance ministry of casting out devils, it's today. The

Bible says in Galatians 5:19, he lists off a bunch of the works of the flesh which will send you to Hell. "He which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God," he says. You know one of those works of the flesh is? Witchcraft. The Greek word for witchcraft is pharmakeia. Pharmakeia comes from pharmaceutical goods or as in drugs. We got a whole society that needs a miracle. They need the devil cast out of them, to get delivered from the drug addictions that are in the world, and I've got a brother right back there who was totally hooked higher than a kite on LSD and Cocaine. And in one instant moment, he was totally delivered by the power and the anointing of Jesus. He's living proof of it; he's a miracle.

So we are not talking about just conversion here, but after all if we don't believe in miracles, we are going to have to throw out being born again. Because that's the greatest miracle, because that's the resurrection power of Jesus Christ living within mortal man. That's what eternal life is all about. He talked about Luke 24:49 talking about what Jesus said to go wait in Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high. That word power is the same Greek word, dunamis — miraculous power; it's the same word for miracle in Acts 1:8. "But you shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you." The ability of God is what it means, dunamis, as in dynamite — the very power of God; the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And that's what he is talking about. And we have that as a result of receiving Jesus Christ into our life and receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Because that's what Jesus said to do.

Acts 2:1-4 was a fulfillment of that. Ten days later, what happened? The day of Pentecost arrived and the whole upper room, where they were, was filled with a mighty rushing wind; "cloven tongues like as of fire... sat upon each head." And the Bible says that "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance." Fulfilling what Jesus said that these signs would follow them that believe. First of all, that they would cast out devils in his name and secondly that they would speak with new tongues — the same tongues, the same glossa or glossolalia, Greek word, for tongues in I Corinthians 12, the same miracle working power.

All the gifts of the Spirit are in the same framework of miracle working power — gifts. The same word has to do with miracle working power. It's all here. Charisma is the

Greek word. In those same operations and gifts, diverse as they are, the Bible says operate as he wills. Not as I will. I can't perform any miracles anyway. Jesus said, if you don't believe me for what I say; believe me for my works sake for it is the Father that works in me. It's God that's working. So, for us to deny miracles is to deny our Father and to deny God. Remember they even said about Jesus that Jesus, you've got a devil. Oh, Ho, you've got a devil. I wonder what's worse: denying that God can do what he said he could do in his word or calling the works of the Holy Spirit of the devil. And according to Matthew 12 if anybody says that miracles are of the devil, they could be guilty of blaspheming the Holy Spirit. And he wasn't referring to rejecting Jesus. He was referring to attributing the works and the miracles of God to the devil. The Bible says to cast out devils. Satan divided against himself cannot stand, Jesus says. That's what we are talking about.

He quoted John 14,15, and 16 when Jesus talked about the Holy Spirit coming. Now, Jesus talked about being born again in the third chapter of John. He talked about that experience being water in the fourth chapter of John. By the way, right after he explained about being born again he went right out and baptized people before the cross. I just want to bring that to your attention — make that notation in your mind as a note for a later date.

Then in the seventh chapter he says, "out of your belly shall flow rivers of living waters. But this spake he of the Holy Ghost. . ." which had not yet been given, "because Jesus had not yet been glorified." So Jesus had to go away first before he could give the Holy Spirit. So being born again was nothing unique to Old Testament believers. Genesis 15:6, "Abraham believed God; and it was accounted unto him as righteousness." Romans chapter four, Paul talked about that very thing, that Abraham was justified by faith. Therefore he had peace with God and he quoted that verse concerning Abraham. He even said it of David. He says, "Blessed is the man whose sin is not imputed unto him."

The Bible says in Galatians 3:8 that "the gospel which before hand preached unto Abraham," that he would become the father of many nations. So he had a revelation of the cross. He saw forward to the cross whereas we look back to the cross. So the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, which by the way we know that miracles happened for a couple thousand of years from Abraham, and

in fact the first miracle of healing is in the twentieth chapter verse seventeen of Genesis when Abraham prayed for Abimelech's wife to have a baby. And the Bible says, "If you be Christ's, you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise." [Gal. 3:29] So healing and miracles are nothing new to the New Testament. Being born again is nothing new to the New Testament. But being baptized with the Holy Ghost is something new to the New Testament. And that's what he was talking about when he said, "Out of your belly would flow rivers of living water." Then in the fourteenth chapter, the fifteenth chapter, those two chapters primarily, he talked about sending the comforter, the Holy Ghost. And of course in Luke 24 he says go to Jerusalem and be endued with power from on high. And that's what he was teaching about. Jesus said to teach everything that I have taught you. Isn't that what he said. Jesus taught healing, did you know that? So, if Jesus taught healing, I better teach healing, and it says that in John 14:12.

Besides the fact that Paul said that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever before the law, after the law and now forever. His nature never changes. God is immutable, did you know that? He cannot change. But it says, "He that believeth in me, the works that I do he shall do also." Now notice that he didn't say, you shall do also, talking to his apostles. He said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do he shall do also; and greater works because I go to the Father." Now that's what Jesus said. And I'd rather believe Jesus. Now those works, if you want to look it up in the Greek, is miracle works. Look it up. I challenge you. A lot of times, different Greek words for works, are you know like employment, labor, this work is a different kind of work. I looked it up. It's mighty works, miraculous works. They attest that Jesus Christ is divine; that the word of Jesus Christ is truth; that the gospel is alive and well on planet earth. Contrary to the opinion of most people today.

I mean we think that today things are getting so bad that we might as well just pack in; we got this rapture mentality. You know, let's fly away — Oh, glory. I'll tell you, the glory of God wants to be manifested in the camp of the church, the congregation of the saints. Because the Bible says he gave gifts unto men.

Now, turn with me to I Corinthians 12 real quick. But before we get to I Corinthians 12, I got to read to you what it says in I Corinthians 1. After all, we have to take the twelfth

chapter in context.

A lot of time we like to take verses in context, like read a couple of verses before and a couple of verses after. But in order to get whole idea of the book of I Corinthians, you have to read the whole book. And you have got to start out with the first chapter. First Corinthians chapter one verse six, "Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you; so that you come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Isn't that interesting. Now the word gift there is charisma, the same gift that he's talking about in I Corinthians 12. And I've got a lot of commentaries that will prove the same thing — that say the same thing. If you look it up in the Greek, it's charisma. The same miraculous gifts that he's talking about, and then he said that this Corinthian church came behind in no gift. And that they were to continue until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now has Jesus come back yet? Absolutely not! Are miracles for today? Absolutely, without a doubt. Sing and shout, cast them out, do not pout because otherwise you'll do without. I say that about every day of my life. I answer the phone that way. And that word waiting does not mean — waiting, oh, you know, looking up at the sky, can't wait for him to come back. No, waiting there, the Greek word is a double emphasis of waiting — like waiting on tables, serving until he comes back.

Remember in Acts chapter one and verse 11? Jesus goes up into heaven and he says that Jesus will come back in like manner. Then the angels came back and said, "Hen, what are you guys doing, standing around, man; you got work to do. Get to work." He gave the gifts of the Spirit so that we would be able to continue the mountainous task of advancing the Kingdom of God on the earth, which Daniel said, was an everlasting kingdom, and it's dominion was an everlasting dominion unto every generation. Praise God.

Now, let's move over to I Corinthians twelve. Let's not do that. This whole book is referring to the last days. Not last days of the sense of the last days like we're living in the last days. Last days started when Jesus came out of the grave — Hebrews chapter one. But he refers to what were to be doing until we get to that last and final day — the day of our Lord. And he uses that word a lot in this book, did you notice that? Like in the third chapter, verse eleven he says, "No other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold,

silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it." What day are we talking about? "Because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." So, he's talking about you better shape up because there's a day of judgment, the judgment seat of Christ as it's known, also, found in second Corinthians chapter 10 verse five, that you're going to be judged for every work whether it be good or bad in the flesh.

Ok, in the fifth chapter, he rebukes the Corinthian church for allowing the sin to continue, this cancer that's going on in the church. So, he says to deliver this one dude, who was guilty of incest. "Such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord." So the theme is riveted all the way through, this whole I Corinthians. The fourteenth chapter is prophetic. The fifteenth chapter, the whole fifteenth chapter is talking about the resurrection of Jesus Christ when we put on a glorified body. It's all talking about future events. It's a prophecy. And that prophecy hasn't been fulfilled; so, how in the world can prophecy have failed already. I mean, after all, I Corinthians 15 hasn't come to pass yet, has it. The day of the Lord hasn't come to pass yet. So that's a prophecy. So that prophecy hasn't failed yet; it hasn't come to its fruition; it hasn't been fulfilled yet so it doesn't have to be done away yet until he comes back. And when he comes back the prophecies will all cease, will all end, will all be over with.

Well wait till I get to the word perfect. I'm going to set you up on that. I'm not even going to let you know that at this time.

The eleventh chapter, the communion chapter, now isn't that interesting, the communion chapter? In the epistles you never find, you never hear anything more about communion except in the eleventh chapter — a little bit in the tenth chapter, excuse me. But no other book do you hear about communion. Yet the whole church practices communion. But you hear a whole lot more in the Bible about tongues, and you hear a whole lot about prophecy and miracles like in Romans 12 — he talked about gifts of the Spirit and in many other passages in the epistles he said, "Despise not prophecying." — I Thessalonians 5, "Quench not the Spirit." Verse twenty-six, chapter eleven he says, "As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come." "Till he come." You're to do this till he comes.

Just like in I Corinthians 1, you're to practice and operate in the gifts of the Spirit till he comes or at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, I didn't get a chance to go through every verse that brother Perry got into, but hopefully we'll cover more ground later — Romans 1:11 and so forth, that's a real good one. So, I guess my time is up for right now.

CHAPTER 3

PERRY B. COTHAM

AFFIRMATIVE REBUTTAL

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, ceased at the close of the Apostolic age.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm happy to have the privilege of coming before you again to reply to some of the things that have been mentioned in Peter's last talk and also, to continue with the affirmation that miracles have ceased.

I closed with the idea of not giving medicine and medical attention even to innocent children today, because there are those who believe that miracles do take place and often they die. And I feel like that is sad. He made no reply to that in any way whatsoever. Then too, I was interested in his answering the questions that I had submitted to him. He referred to the first one. And went on then and talked about other things and never did return to them.

Let's just see those questions one more time, real briefly (Chart 3:1). "Can you perform the miracles done by Christ and his apostles?" And he said, "Well, I don't need to; it's not necessary." Well, I think it is. If he claims to have that power and preaching that individuals have that power today, he ought to be able to do that. And, "If so, have you done any of them?" And he didn't say yes or no. If so, "Have you seen anyone perform any of these miracles and which one and where?" Then, "Is the Bible complete? Or do we have continuous revelations?"

Men with miraculous power were giving the truths of the Lord. The apostles were to be guided into all truth and miracles to confirm their message as being the truth of the Lord. If you have miracles today, you have continuous revelation today. And this New Testament isn't complete. We need to add some modern things to it, you see. And we

Chart 3.1

QUESTIONS

1. Can you perform the miracles as done by Christ and the apostles?
2. If so, have you ever done any of these?
3. If no, have you ever seen anyone perform any of these miracles? which ones? where?
4. Is the Bible complete? Do we have continuous revelation?
5. What verse of scripture teaches that miracles would be permanent — that they would continue beyond the apostolic age to the end of time?

need a loose-leaf notebook New Testament so we can add these modern revelations that are being given and confirmed by the miracles. And we need to have Peter's explanations and all added to the New Testament. "And what verse of scripture teaches that miracles would be permanent; and that they would continue beyond the apostolic age to the end of time?" And the best I can remember from what he gave is I Corinthians 1:7 where Paul said to the Corinthians, "You come behind in nothing, no gift; waiting for the coming of the Lord." Well certainly they had those gifts back then, that's not the point; and certainly they were waiting for the coming of the Lord, but the issue tonight is: do people today have those gifts. And I say no, and that there is no demonstration of them. And he is not willing to perform any of them — didn't say he would. And he talked about the Lord having the power and the apostles having the power, but we've got a power shortage tonight. No question about that.

Let me see the issue, one more time please (Chart 3.2); that the individuals might me aware of that. The scriptures teach (these or my words about it) that miracles such as healing the sick, speaking in tongues, raising the dead, as done by the power of the Holy Spirit in the early days of the church by the apostles and others on whom they laid hands, continue in church today. Not once were — certainly, not God's power, but his plan.

Chart 3.2

THE ISSUE

'THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT MIRACLES (such as healing the sick, speaking in tongues, raising the dead, as done by the power of the Holy Spirit in the early days of the church) CONTINUE IN THE CHURCH *TODAY*.'

1. NOT - ONCE WERE
2. NOT - GOD'S POWER (HIS PLAN)
3. A PERSON DOES NOT HAVE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM BECAUSE
 - A. HE CLAIMS IT
 - B. HE SPEAKS LOUD; JUMPS, CLAPS HANDS, ETC.
 - C. OTHERS THINK HE HAS IT
 - D. TESTIMONIES
4. WHERE IS THIS PASSAGE?

"MIRACLES (Holy Spirit Baptism) WILL NOT CEASE UNTIL JESUS COMES AGAIN."

A person does not have Holy Spirit baptism or miraculous power because he claims it or because he speaks loud and jumps and claps his hands, and they have a hand clapping service. No, that isn't proof of it; or that others think he has it or some have it. It isn't because of testimony. He says he has books of testimonies of people being raised from the dead. Well, we want the proof. Not something that happened somewhere else way over yonder some where — but the proof.

Individuals saw our Lord raise Lazarus from the dead. There were those that saw the lame man, Acts 3, healed immediately. We want to see the proof. Not some testimonies somewhere else. And where is the passage that teaches miracles or Holy Spirit baptism will not cease until Jesus comes again? We want to put it in the block.

All right, let's pass from that. I closed with the thought of the miraculous power ending and so let's go to that chart or diagram (Chart 3.3) next in regard to the matter. More or less as a summary. Signs Following — Do you have this power today. Why did they follow? And, how long did they follow? And, no need for miraculous gifts today. They have ceased. And I again say, he will not perform a miracle.

Chart 3.3

SIGNS FOLLOWING BELIEVERS

Do these signs follow today? Not question of *power* but of *fact*.

1. How follow (given)? By hands of Apostles.

Stephen & Philip — Acts 6:5,6,8; 8:6,13

Samaritans — Acts 8:14-21

Ephesians — Acts 19:2,6

Timothy — II Tim. 1:6

Romans — Rom. 1:11

Not by "praying"

No Apostle living today to impart gifts

Second man did not impart gifts

2. Why follow? To help, reveal, confirm, and record word of God — Eph. 3:3-5; Accomplished - Heb. 2:3-4; Mk. 16:20

3. How long follow? Gifts to cease when perfect will of God comes — I Cor. 13:8-10; Js. 1:25. Till the unity of the faith — Eph. 4:11-13, Jude 3.

No need for miraculous gifts today!

All have ceased!

****OBSERVE****

He will *not* perform one miracle!

Let's take another one please. Another diagram. This will be all right (see Chart 3.4). And then I have one later, you know, of the summary. All right, Signs Follow — Does this apply today? Not that they one time did. He makes out like it applies today. Are you a believer and can you do those signs?

And here's how they follow. Do you practice this. And he says, well, he doesn't have to prove that he can or that he does. Well, why don't you prove you have what you claim you have by doing it the way the apostles did? They proved it. Paul said, "The sign of an apostle were wrought among you."

Chart 3.4

"...SIGNS FOLLOW"
(MARK 16:17,18)

CAST OUT DEVILS - TONGUES - SERPENTS
DEADLY THING - SICK

1. DOES THIS APPLY TODAY?
2. ARE YOU A BELIEVER?
3. SIGNS:
 - A. DID FOLLOW - ACTS 8:6
 - B. HOW FOLLOW? - ACTS 6:6-8
 - C. WHY FOLLOW? - MK 16:20; HEB. 2:3,4
 - D. HOW LONG? - 1 COR. 13:10; EPH. 4:11-13

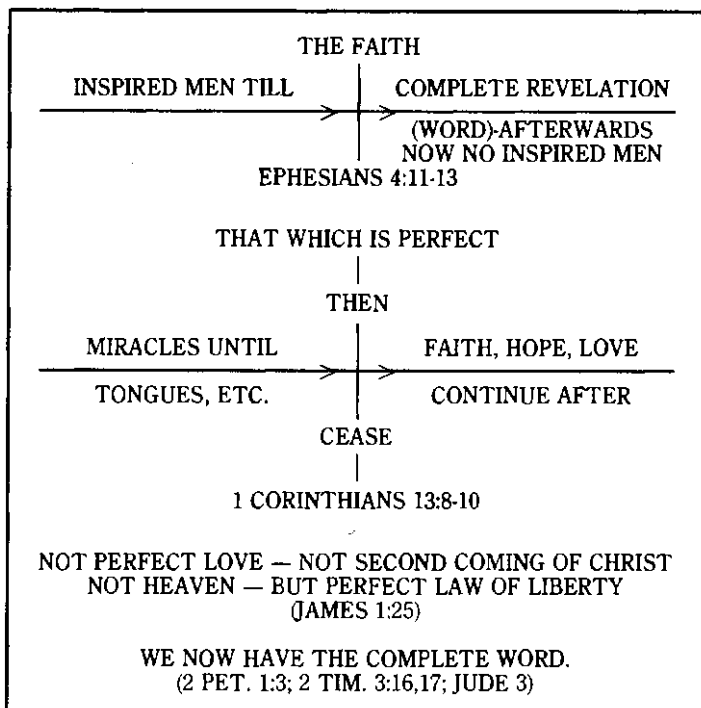
DO YOU PRACTICE THIS?

A man who does not *practice* what he *believes* is —
a hypocrite!

"WHY DON'T YOU ***PROVE*** YOU HAVE WHAT
YOU ***CLAIM*** YOU HAVE BY DOING IT THE
WAY THE ***APOSTLES*** DID?"

All right, let's continue (see Chart 3.5). I've given these two verses of scripture. Inspired men, until the revealing of the faith, the complete revelation, the word of the Lord. Now we have, not inspired men living, we have the inspired book, that is the book; given *until*. All right, that which is perfect, complete word of God — he says he's going to explain that later; wait for it. All right, we are waiting, but remember when a house is under construction, the carpenters use the aids, the ladder and things like that, but when the building is complete, they remove the scaffolding. And so, inspired men were necessary in the writing of the New Testament books. Now once it is given and recorded and confirmed; no need of these miraculous gifted men, because we have the complete book. And so they ceased, and that is exactly what Paul said.

Chart 3.5



And he mentioned the fact that faith, hope and love would continue after that. We have faith and hope here in this life, but after this life is over we won't have faith. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. We'll see our Lord face to face. And hope that is seen or realized, really isn't hope. We hope for that which we will receive. So, they ceased. It isn't perfect love. It isn't the second coming of Christ. It isn't heaven. It's the perfect law of liberty as James would speak of it. And now we have the complete word of God. He has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. The word of God is able to furnish us completely unto every good work, and we must earnestly contend for the faith.

All right, now I'm going to review a few things that he said. He read the first question and said, "We want to go to Matthew 12:38 in regard to some in the Savior's day, asking for a sign. And called them "a wicked and adulterous generation..no sign to be given, but that of Jonah the

prophet. . . in the belly of the whale for three days and nights," concerning the resurrection or the burial and resurrection of Christ. But the point is, that if you read that whole chapter, Jesus had already performed miracles to show that he was the Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah. And he was dealing with people who did not want to believe. They wanted something different — asked for something, or as we read in Matthew 16, a sign from heaven. Jesus knew their dishonesty, and so that's the reason why. Nothing different would I have been doing except this which will come and that had to do with his own burial and resurrection. And so, we want to see just one sign, just one. That will be enough, just one raised from the dead. We haven't seen even one. And we'd like to see at least one.

Well, he talked about the anointing. Certainly there were those in the early church who had miraculous gifts. We pointed that out. And the evangelist, he said, "Had the miraculous gifts. Are there no more evangelists today?" There are no more inspired evangelists today, no. We are to preach the word of the Lord. Certainly, there are evangelists, but no more inspired evangelists. They ought to read the book and study and learn God's will and preach the word of the Lord.

Well, he talked about Christ coming to heal the broken hearted and do things like that. And he said well, that's a miracle too. No, no. Comforting people and healing the brokenhearted is not raising one from the dead; it is not restoring sight to the blind; it is not giving wholeness to the cripple. Not at all.

Then he said he has many testimonies concerning those that have been raised from the dead in his books, and I have mentioned that. Then he says well, "How do we know that Lazarus came from the grave?" Peter, listen, John said in John 20:30 and 31, "Many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that ye might believe." I believe what has been written. That is how I come to believe in that. Because the Holy Spirit has recorded this and confirmed it and "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God," Romans 10:17. That's how. Exactly how.

Yes, then he goes to Matthew 13:58 in regard to Jesus in Nazareth not healing many because of their unbelief. Well, that's right they didn't bring them to him. But he did say that he healed some. Not many, but some. And it would be all

right if we didn't see many; we'd just like to see a few tonight. Wouldn't you? Just a few. Certainly we believe what has been recorded in the Bible.

And in Matthew 28:20 that Jesus said in the commission — go preach and teach and baptize "and, lo, I am with you always," certainly with you in the teaching, but he didn't say that miracles would continue always. If so, then you have a contradiction in the word of God. Miracles are going to continue always and yet, the apostle Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit said no, they're going to cease when the complete word of God has been given. Now, which one is right? Now such teaching like that causes people to have less faith in the word of God.

All right, what do we do today? Why, we follow Paul's instructions to Timothy, for an example. Second Timothy 2:2 he said, you "commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." And then he said to Timothy at the close, Timothy, you "preach the word," 2 Timothy chapter four, "be instant in season, and out of season." Don't have to demonstrate any of the miracles, well, if you have the power you ought to be willing to do that because we'd like to see it.

And then he talked about the works of the flesh and casting out devils or demons would be some of the work done. And he talked about an individual being on drugs and being cured of that. Well, listen, individuals were converted in the days of the apostles by the power of the gospel of Christ. In Romans 1:16, Paul said, "I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation." Conversion to Christ is never spoken of as a miracle in the New Testament. And they sometimes talk about talking to people and teaching them and they make a change in their lives and that's a miracle. No, that's not a miracle. That's not raising one from the dead, not at all; that's not giving sight to the blind, as Jesus did; that's not curing the cripple man, Acts 3 as done by Peter. Certainly, Paul went to Corinth — "many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized," Acts 18, and were saved. But their conversion to Christ was not spoken of as a miracle.

Paul performed miracles to confirm his message as being the word of God. He had the power to lay hands on others, being an apostle, to bestow miraculous gifts. And so he said, "the signs of an apostle were wrought among you." No, I recorded them in a book, and I said you could read them in a book; they took place way over yonder at Jerusalem or

somewhere else. No, he said they were wrought among you. And, we want some wrought among us.

And so, in Acts 2, he talked about the apostles receiving the power and speaking in different tongues. Exactly right, but you don't have that power today; you're not an apostle today. This was to the apostles and for their work to reveal the truth and confirm the truth and to record the truth. And so one does not have the power of an apostle.

How sad it is to take the language that Jesus gave to the apostles and make out like that this applies to people today. Why, not at all. Not at all. Can't you "rightly divide the word of God," 2 Timothy 2:15? God told Noah to go out, cut down the trees and build an ark, didn't he? Does that apply to us today? Not at all. And what was said to the apostles about their work, does not apply to us today. And it's sad indeed to apply it.

And then he goes on to make the bold statement that to talk about this would be blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. No, that's not blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. I'll tell you what is blaspheming against the Holy Spirit, if you want to know in regard to this discussion, and that is not to believe what the Bible teaches concerning the end of miracles. That is blaspheming the word of God as it has been stated in the Bible by inspired men — and verily thou art the man.

All right in John 7 he talked about rivers of living water are given to the believer. Well, certainly so and this was during the personal ministry of Christ. And John adds in parenthesis that he was speaking of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit was not then given because Christ was not glorified. Well, when was Christ glorified? Well, Luke 24, he entered into his glory when he ascended. Then he sent the Holy Spirit to the apostles, and the apostles went forth, guided by the Holy Spirit, to preach the truth. And people learned the gospel, and they were blessed. And they laid hands on individuals, and they received miraculous powers or gifts of the Spirit to assist and to help in the teaching and the preaching in the spread of the gospel. Yes, that's when that was fulfilled, and that does not apply unto us today. The miraculous has ceased.

Well, he mentioned there are miracles in the Old Testament. Of course so, but always to confirm the word of the Lord. But we're talking about the miracles that confirmed Christ and his public ministry and the apostles in the setting up of the church and the giving of New Testament

Christianity and the teaching of the word of the Lord.

He mentioned that Jesus said to the apostles that he would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit; that's right; and that is to the apostles. And I again say it's wrong to take passages of scripture that apply to the apostles in regard to their work and make them applicable unto people today. Not at all applying to us today.

And then he goes with John 14:12 where Jesus said to them you'll do greater works than I have done because I go to the Father. Well, there wouldn't be anything greater than raising one from the dead as he raised Lazarus. What did Jesus have in mind when he went to the Father and they were empowered by the Holy Spirit to go and to preach the gospel and to establish New Testament Christianity in congregations? That was a great work. "Greater work" in that sense that they were able to do by the power of the Holy Spirit; and they did that. But that doesn't apply to us today. We are to study and preach the word of the Lord.

And then he quoted from Hebrews 13, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Well, that has to do with the character of Jesus Christ the Lord. That doesn't mean that people can do today what the apostles did. There is a difference in the character of the Lord, (and Malachi speaks of God not changing), and the works that they did. Now look at it, "He's the same yesterday, today, and forever." Well, forever in heaven? will Christ be performing miracles in heaven? will he be healing the sick in heaven? Think about that. He says today, well that applies today to us, but what about forever in heaven? I want to know, will Christ be healing in heaven? Now that is talking about the character of the Lord. He doesn't know the difference between the character of the Lord and the method or the plan of the Lord. During the personal ministry, Jesus said don't go to the Gentiles but you confine your work to the lost sheep of the household of Israel. Then after his resurrection, before he ascended, he said go and teach all nations — change of plans, didn't he. There's a difference in the character — Jesus remaining the same — and the plan.

Now then, the Lord's plan was to have miraculous power given to them to confirm the word with signs and wonders and miracles. Yes, a miracle was a sign, a sign of divine power and approval of the Lord. Then, they were to go and to preach. All right. And he's going to talk about perfect later.

Well, he gives us several things about I Corinthians that -

don't have a thing on earth to do with our subject tonight. And talks about the Lord's supper and things like that. So that completes his speech.

And I want to go to some other charts; let's just take them one by one as we have them here and for a few moments I want to show you some things from the Bible. As quickly as we can, we'll go to these charts in regard to miracles.

Chart 3.6

NOTES

1. SINCE THE PURPOSE OF MIRACULOUS GIFTS HAS BEEN FULFILLED, TO **REVEAL** AND **CONFIRM** THE TRUTH, THESE GIFTS HAVE CEASED. (MK. 16:20; HEB. 2:3,4; JUDE 3; EPH. 3:3-5; JOHN 16:13)

THE TRUTH ONCE CONFIRMED IS CONFIRMED FOREVER.

WE HAVE THE WRITTEN INSPIRED WORD TO MAKE BELIEVERS. (JOHN 20:30,31)

2. **THE MEANS OF OBTAINING MIRACULOUS GIFTS HAS CEASED.** NO APOSTLES ARE LIVING TODAY TO PERFORM THESE SIGNS, OR TO IMPART THESE GIFTS; AND NO HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM TODAY. (EPH. 4:5)

AND NO ONE LIVING TODAY WHO RECEIVED A MIRACULOUS GIFT FROM AN APOSTLE.

3. SO WHEN THE LAST APOSTLE DIED AND THE LAST PERSON UPON WHOM THE APOSTLES LAID HANDS DIED THERE WAS NO ONE WHO COULD PERFORM MIRACLES!
4. CLAIMERS WERE TO BE TESTED. (1 JOHN 4:1; REV. 2:2)

Since the purpose of miraculous gifts has been fulfilled, that is to reveal and confirm the truth, these gifts have ceased. There are the scriptures that I have given. And the apostles were guided into all truth, were they not? Truth once confirmed is confirmed forever. Do we have the written inspired word of God now to make believers? "These are written that we might believe," I quoted that.

All right, the means of obtaining the miraculous gifts has ceased. No apostles are living today to perform these signs and no one living today received a gift from an apostle so no apostle to impart these gifts, and no Holy Spirit baptism today. In Ephesians 4:5, Paul said, there was one baptism and that one baptism is water baptism — baptism in water for the remission of sins. So no one is living today who has received a miraculous gift from an apostle. So, when the last apostle died and the last person upon whom the apostle laid his hands died there was no one who could perform miracles. And that's when miracles ceased. And we live far on this side of the days of the apostles.

Now, let me advance something else, claimers were to be tested. In I John 4:1, John said, "Beloved, don't believe every spirit, but try the spirits," or test the spirits, "because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Put them to the test. They don't like to be put to the test, but that's what the Bible says to do.

Then in Revelation 2:2, the Lord through John in writing the letter to the church at Ephesus commends the brethren for trying those that came and said "we are apostles" and "found them to be liars." Why in the early days, there were those who said, "We are apostles." So, how do you know? Can you do what the apostles did? Oh, I don't have to perform a miracle. Put them to the test. You tried them; you put them to the test, and you found them to be L I A R S — liars. It is right to put them to the test; it's right to ask them to do it.

They can't perform a miracle. He'll not raise one from the dead. In fact, he didn't even answer the suggestion I made, how bad it was not to give little innocent children and babies medicine when they are sick. And sometimes they die as a result of it. How sad for parents to act that way, it's a misunderstanding of the scriptures.

Let's go to another one (see Chart 3.7). Put them to a test; try the spirits. Oh, I want you to see a few things about Holy Spirit baptism and water baptism. The element — water, by

Chart 3.7

| HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM vs. WATER BAPTISM | |
|---|---|
| 1. Spirit — element Acts 1:5 | 1. Water-element Acts 8:36,38 Jn 3:23 |
| 2. By Christ Jn 1:33,16:7 | 2. By men (Disciples) Mt 28:19 Acts 8:38 |
| 3. A promise received Lk 24:49; Acts 2:1-4 | 3. Command to be obeyed. Acts 2:38; 10:48 |
| 4. To reveal, confirm truth — Jn 16:13 Heb 2:3,4; Mk 16:20 | 4. For remission of sins — Acts 2:38 Mk 16:16 1 Pet. 3:21 |
| 5. In no name Mt 3:11 | 5. Into name of Father, Son & Holy Spirit Mt 28:19 Acts 2:38 |
| 6. Not buried and raised in. Acts 2:1-4 | 6. Buried and raised in Rom. 6:3,4 |
| 7. Figurative Lk 24:49; Acts 2:4; 10:45 | 7. Literal Acts 8:38 |
| 8. No longer needed Jn 16:13; Jude 3 | 8. So long as need salvation 2 Tim 2:10; Mk 16:16 Gal 3:27 |
| 9. Ceased by A.D. 64 Eph. 4:5 | 9. Continues — end of world Mt 28:19,20 |
| <hr/> <p style="margin: 0;">WATER BAPTISM IS THE <i>ONE</i> BAPTISM TODAY!</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Two</i> at Pentecost — 30 A.D.</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Two</i> at Caesarea — 40 A.D.</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>One</i> by 64 A.D.!</p> <p style="margin: 0;">HOW MANY BAPTISMS TODAY?</p> | |

Christ. John said, He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. You shall receive the Holy Spirit, but men are to go and teach and baptize. A promise to be received. Afterward the Apostles received on the day of Pentecost, but all are commanded to be baptised for the remission of sin. To reveal the truth, confirm the truth, for the remission of sins,

in no name but in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in water baptism. Not buried and raised up in that sense in the Holy Spirit but they are buried and raised up in water. So, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is figurative — received with power; you shall receive power, and you shall receive power (Acts 1:8). Over here it's a literal immersion. But Holy Spirit baptism is no longer needed, the truth has been given and revealed. So we need water baptism as long as individuals will hear the gospel and need to receive remission of sins. So, by the time Paul wrote the Ephesian letter, by A.D. 64, he said there was one baptism. Now, water baptism, yes. Holy Spirit baptism has been to Cornelius and to the apostles on the day of Pentecost, but one

Chart 3.8

| WHAT IS THE ONE BAPTISM TODAY? HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM vs. WATER BAPTISM | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A PROMISE Acts 2:33 2. ADMINISTERED BY CHRIST - Matt 3:11 3. APPLIED TO THEM TO WHOM PROMISED Acts 2; Acts 10 4. ADMINISTERED FROM HEAVEN - Acts 2:2 5. NOT FOR REMISSION OF SINS - J n 16:13 6. NOT ADMINISTERED IN THE NAME OF FATHER, SON & HOLY SPIRIT 7. TEMPORARY - AS WITH ALL SUPER-NATURAL GIFTS John 14:26 (all thing revealed - 2 Pet 1:3) 8. TWO CASES - APOSTLES CORNELIUS & HOUSEHOLD Acts 2 & 10 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A COMMAND Acts 10:48 2. ADMINISTERED BY MAN - Mt 28:18,19 3. APPLIES TO ALL MEN MK 16:15,16 4. ADMINISTERED ON EARTH - Acts 8 5. ADMINISTERED FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS - Acts 2:38 6. ADMINISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON & HOLY SPIRIT - Matt. 28:19 7. PERMANENT - UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD - Matt 28:18-20 8. MANY EXAMPLES IN ACTS - Acts 18:8 |
| HE ASSUMES HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR TODAY! | |

now. Water baptism is the one baptism today. Two at Pentecost, two at the house of Cornelius, one by A.D. 64. How many baptisms today? One! Let's take another one, please.

And, what is the one baptism today? (See Chart 3.8.) Holy Spirit baptism versus water baptism — I've gone through that. One was temporary and the other, permanent. Let's pull it up for just a moment. He assumes Holy Spirit baptism for people today. The Bible does not teach it. Let's take another one. Let's just take the next one, please.

Abilities of men who were baptized by the Holy Spirit (see Chart 3.9). They had total knowledge and recall, they were guided into all of the truth. Do you study and read the Bible? You don't need to if you have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you can write the Bible. You know everything that's in the Bible — guided into all truth. And in Matthew 10:19, he told the apostles — no preparation, no study, no — words have been given. Did you study for this debate? Do you make notes in preaching and do you make notes? And not to meditate, he says in Luke.

Chart 3.9

ABILITIES IN MEN BAPTIZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. ***Total Knowledge and Recall.***
John 14:26
2. ***Guided into All Truth.***
John 16:13
3. ***No Preparation; Words Given.***
Matthew 10:19
4. ***Not to Meditate.***
Luke 21:14, 15; 12:11,12
5. ***Work Miracles.***
Acts 2:43; 5:12

And then they will have the power to work miracles; many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. Not only miracles but total recall — knowing all the truths of the New Testament. Let's take another one. In order will be just fine.

I want to present this to them — Holy Spirit, Miracles, Signs Then and Now (see Chart 3.10). Genuine miracles before Chart 3.10 the people. They healed the lame man, they caused people to die — Acts 5 you read about Peter, Ananias and Sapphira. Talk about healing sometimes, what about that? And they conferred miraculous power, that is the apostles did by the laying on of hands. They raised the dead, Acts 9 and Acts 20. They caused the blind or people to become blind for a season, Paul did it to an individual who was withstanding his teaching. And Paul used handkerchiefs and aprons, Acts 19. A viper bites him on his hand and no harm came — of course a snake. And many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Chart 3.10

| HOLY SPIRIT - MIRACLES - SIGNS | |
|--|---|
| THEN VS. NOW | |
| <i>Genuine Miracles Before People</i> | <i>Nothing But Mere Claims Only Words</i> |
| 1. Healed Lame Man Acts 3:11 | 1. ? |
| 2. Caused People to Die Acts 5:1-11 | 2. ? |
| 3. Conferred Miraculous Power Acts 8:17 | 3. ? |
| 4. Raised the Dead Acts 9:36-42; Acts 20:10 | 4. ? |
| 5. Blinded People Acts 13:11 | 5. ? |
| 6. Used Handkerchiefs & Aprons Acts 19:12 | 6. ? |
| 7. Viper Bite — No Harm Acts 28:3-6 | 7. ? |
| 8. Many Wonders & Signs Acts 2:43; 5:12 | 8. ? |

Now then, let's come over here to today; what do we have? Nothing but mere claims. Nothing but testimony that has been given in a book somewhere. Where do we find the lame being healed instantly? We have some blind tonight who are in this audience that could be healed. They would like to be healed. Or do we have anyone being caused to die? You read

sometimes that we are going to have a healing service. Well, I don't know if the apostles ever announced they were going to have a healing service and take up a collection — they always want a collection. But they caused people to die. Did you ever hear about a dying service, where we are going to strike people dead? All right, and we are going to make loaves and fishes and feed the hungry. You don't have a service like that do you? well Jesus did, and confer miraculous power and raise the dead? I again say we have no demonstrations.

They had demonstrations — Paul did in Thessalonica but no demonstrations today. You never have seen a real Bible miracle — just one, no not one. You never have seen one. That isn't all. You never will. You never will. Oh, you will have claims, and you will have words said. But you will never see a real Bible miracle. This man doesn't have the power to do it. There is no man in this state, in any other state, in this country, or any other country that can do it because the Bible doesn't teach it. He can't prove it. Let's take another one.

All right, Holy Spirit Baptism (see Chart 3.11). The apostles had it, and the apostles proved it. How? By signs — they raised the dead, they healed the lame man instantly, they spoke in languages that they had not learned — in tongues, and they struck people blind — Paul did as I mentioned, they had inspiration, they confirmed the word, they laid hands on individuals and conferred miraculous gifts. I ask Peter, where are your signs that you have the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Where is your power? Where is your practice? Where is your proof? I again say he cannot prove it in any way whatsoever. He never has performed a miracle, and he never will as long as he lives.

The apostle Paul warned about lying wonders in 2 Thessalonians 2, beloved. "Of Satan...and many be deceived and believe a lie and be damned." Jesus warned about it as we read in Matthew 24:24 — claiming to do miracles even to deceive the very elect if at all possible. "Beware of the false prophet," Jesus said. Here is the danger, and how sad it is when people all over the country spend a lot of money to go to so called healers to be healed or miracles to be performed. They cannot do it. And think of the money that has been given to some of these. You've read about them in the paper — millions of dollars to maintain their TV programs to teach false doctrine and to deceive people. Why, you have that in Samaria in the long ago on the part of Simon the sorcerer.

Chart 3.11

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

1. APOSTLES HAD - (Acts 1:5, 8; 2:1-4)
2. APOSTLES **PROVED** IT - WITH **SIGNS**
(2 Cor. 12:12; 1 Cor. 2:4; Acts 2:43; 1 Thess. 1:5)
 - A. RAISED THE DEAD
Acts 9:37-42; Acts 20:9, 10
 - B. HEALED
Acts 3:1-10; 5:15; 19:11
 - C. SPAKE IN TONGUES
Acts 2:4, 6; 1 Cor. 14:15
 - D. STRUCK BLIND
Acts 13:6
 - E. INSPIRATION
John 16:13; Mt. 10:19, 20;
1 Cor. 14:37; Eph. 3:3-5
 - F. CONFIRMED THE WORD
Mark 16:20; Heb. 2:3, 4
 - G. LAID HANDS ON - CONFERRED THE
GIFTS Acts 6:6, 8; 8:6; 19:6; 2 Tim. 1:6;
Rom. 1:11

WHERE ARE **YOUR** SIGNS?

POWER? PRACTICE?

CANNOT PROVE IT!!

My, wouldn't he have done something great if he'd had a TV program and be on the network where he could talk about his great powers and miracles that he'd performed and the testimonies! But he didn't do them. Not at all. He couldn't, and he realized it, finally.

Beloved, think seriously, may God help us to believe the Bible and follow the teaching of the word of God — this has been given, it is confirmed, and it is the truth. And there are no contradictions in the word of God when rightly divided and understood. Thank you so very much for your kind attention tonight.

CHAPTER 4

PETER JOHN NEGATIVE REBUTTAL

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, ceased at the close of the Apostolic age.

Jesus is wonderful. You know why I believe in miracles? I believe in Jesus. He's the same yesterday, today and forever. He's the bright and morning star. That day star is going to rise in our hearts, and the miracle working of God will be performed in your very midst. All you got to do is believe. That's the only prerequisite. Then of course if you find any ought in your heart, like Jesus said, and you don't forgive your brother, well, don't expect you're going to receive anything from the Lord. He even said that in James 1:5, he says if you doubt after you ask, don't expect to receive anything from the Lord. The Bible says in Psalm 66:18 if a man regards iniquity in his heart, the Lord won't even hear you. And the Bible says if you despise the law, Proverbs 28, he says even your prayer is an abomination unto the Lord. So, there's a lot of conditions before a miracle can take place, folks.

And it wasn't limited just to the apostles, and it wasn't limited just to the prophets. Now, you know there's really not enough time in a debate like this to answer every point—to bring up and be able to answer, with clarity, each and every individual point. We only have a half hour so time doesn't permit.

Well, let's go back to the word *dunamis* as it relates to the miraculous power of God. Specifically, it is the power of performing miracles that you find out in Acts 6:8; which was Stephen performing those miracles. But I might say that to answer his question of whether I can perform a miracle or whether Stephen could have performed a miracle, he's right,

I can't perform any miracles. Did you know that? Peter didn't perform any miracles, I don't read about Peter performing any miracles; in fact, Peter says just the opposite. He says, like, let's turn to Acts 3, real quick. I might mention before I get into Acts 3, that I didn't finish my 1 Corinthians survey yet because I didn't get to the twelfth chapter, and I certainly didn't cover the thirteenth chapter yet to answer all the questions in order to respond to that. And I will respond to no medical attention for babies. And I didn't say for question one in his question, in fact, I'd like for you to put on the screen real quick, the Signs Follow diagram. If you could find the Signs Follow diagram, I would like to answer some of those points. [Editor's note: Peter John proceeds to deal with Questions chart rather than the Signs Follow chart, so that is inserted at this point. See Chart 4.1] I didn't say I wouldn't respond to question one — Can you perform the miracles as done by Christ and the apostles. I said I didn't have to because Jesus didn't have to. He says only a wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign. And folks, that's what we got today is a wicked and adulterous generation.

Chart 4.1

QUESTIONS

1. Can you perform the miracles as done by Christ and the apostles?
2. If so, have you ever done any of these?
3. If no, have you ever seen anyone perform any of these miracles? which ones? where?
4. Is the Bible complete? Do we have continuous revelation?
5. What verse of scripture teaches that miracles would be permanent — that they would continue beyond the apostolic age to the end of time?

I want to tell you something. Miracles don't need to happen if you don't need them. Isn't that right? Miracles won't happen if you don't want them. But you know what? One of the reasons why we hear about all these great stories like in Mexico, you know the instantaneous healings on a regular

basis, why you can go to the Soviet Union and you hear about Christians, now this is a miracle, this is a New Testament Biblical miracle, where you find out where Christians in the Soviet Union who are persecuted for their faith are stripped of their clothes and thrown out into the ice at twenty below zero and those little group of Christians go out and sing hymns unto the Lord and the miraculous power of God keeps them warm all night long. And the soldiers, the guards rip their hair out, screaming mad wondering how come these people aren't dead yet — aren't frozen to death. Oh, God doesn't do any miracles today? That's documented folks. That is documented time and time again.

Mel Tower can tell you about miracles that will put goose bumps on your goose bumps. And if he isn't a present day apostle, I don't know who is. But to answer the question, yes, I've seen miracles happen. By my laying on of hands, sure, I've seen it. Have I seen it every time that I've done it? No, I'll be perfectly honest with you. But do miracles happen? If one miracle happens, just one, blows the whole argument. Doesn't matter how often they happen. Like I mentioned in the Old Testament, there were many periods of times where miracles didn't happen. Now I don't want to get ahead of myself because we've got a lot of territory to cover here.

And in question number two it says, if so have you ever done any of these. Well, I've already answered that. The reason I can perform a miracle, except I can't do it in and of myself because like Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me . . .", is that it is Christ who doeth the work. Just like Jesus said. It's not me doing the work it's the Father who does it. And he says, I don't do anything unless I see what my Father does and all miracles happen as he wills, not as I will. I can't just go up there and lay hands on somebody and bang, and get them healed unless you are going to take the whole word of God. Now I believe it.

If you receive it, in fact, in almost every case where there was a miracle, except raising the dead, it took Jesus' faith, Peter's faith, Paul's faith. The twentieth chapter of Acts, the ninth chapter of Acts where Peter raised Dorcas from the dead, it took his faith coupled with God to raise the dead. The same Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in you and will quicken your mortal body, Romans 8:11. Now isn't that what the Bible says?

You see this whole debate is based on what the scriptures

teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the apostles ceased. See, if there were no miracles performed today, it wouldn't matter to me because the scriptures don't teach that they have ceased. The problem isn't with God's ability or God's willingness to perform miracles, the problem is on the receiving end. Us. If miracles aren't happening in your life it isn't because God doesn't want them to happen. God wants to do a lot of things for you.

There was a lot of things that Jesus wanted to do, and he wept over Jerusalem, hoping that they would respond to the gospel. But what did they keep doing all of the time? They kept slaying the prophets and eventually they slayed Jesus. They couldn't stand what he had to say and what he stood for. You mean to tell me that you are saying that you are G o d . . . that's absolutely right folks. God manifested in the flesh. Isn't that what Paul said? "Great is the controversy of godliness, the mystery of godliness: for God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached out amongst the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." That's the gospel folks, 1 Timothy 3:16.

Well, if no. Have you seen anyone perform any of these miracles? Well, my answer to that is yes, cause I've seen it. And I've seen other brothers in the Lord perform miracles on a regular basis. Just to give you an example, this book right here, T. M. Osborn. He is definitely with out a doubt a New Testament, Biblical evangelist. He has been doing this for almost 40 years. Where he'll see regularly, in his meetings across the world, between forty or fifty blind people healed instantaneously as a result of preaching the gospel.

Now, you might not believe that. And I don't care if you do. Because it's true. It's been accounted for; it's been documented over and over again. What I do care is that you believe the word of God and take it for your own and go out of here believing what Jesus said and what the word of God has to say. Don't believe what T.M. Osborn has to say, even though it's all documented. I believe it. I've seen it with my own eyes, so, I can't disbelieve it. Because it is in the Bible. And the Bible never said it went away — the miracles are still here to operate in the church and to advance the kingdom and to promote the gospel: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the greatest miracle.

And miracles are always, as Brother Perry very plainly pointed out and which is absolutely right, they are always to confirm the word, to confirm the gospel, to attest that what

you're saying is true. When I preach on holiness, I expect to see holiness follow. When I preach on love, I expect to see the love of God manifested. When I preach on miracles and healing, I expect to see miracles and healing: whatever it is you're preaching on.

Jesus said preach the gospel. Then, he said heal the sick. And healing is for us today, because he said in James 5:16 since miracles and healing go hand in hand. He says that if you are sick, he says call for the doctors and they will lay hands on you and open you up. Is that what James said? No, he says anoint him with oil, pray the prayer of faith, if there is any sin (see that is one of the problems of why people don't get healed they don't confess their sin) and he says, then the Lord will raise him up. Call for the elders of the church.

Well, isn't it interesting that in Mark chapter six, Jesus says the same thing in verse twelve, "And they went out and preached that men should repent . . .", well, we should throw that out too because that is no longer for us today. That is one of the problems in the church; we need a real spirit of repentance. We need to repent of our spirit of unbelief. It is a sin; that is what it is. Unbelief is a sin. And because of the sin of unbelief, is the reason why we are not seeing them in the way that maybe he would like to see them — just to see one. But I've seen them. And I've seen people healed in the meeting sitting in their seats just as a result of the preaching of the word — with no hands laid on them. Because the diversity of the gifts and the administration of the Spirit operates as he wills severally, according to the need. Miracles.

If you shove God out, God's a gentleman, he's not going to break your barn door down of your heart to come in. No, you have to repent first before you can get saved. Did you know that? You've got to repent before you can get water baptized. Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Verse thirty-nine is kind of interesting because verse thirty-nine says, and "this is the promise unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." That means it's for ever and ever and ever. The baptism, the Holy Ghost — he is talking directly in relationship to Acts 2:4 when he says that they will speak in tongues as a result of receiving the Holy Ghost. And every person, everyone of them received tongues as an evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost: Acts 2, Acts 8, Acts 10, and Acts 19. In every single situation in the book

of Acts and in the rest of the New Testament where people actually received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, they spoke in tongues, without exception. The Bible is uniform on that fact. And the Bible says that Jesus said these signs will follow them that believe.

Do I pray in tongues? Absolutely. So, there's a miracle. Do I have to pray in tongues right now in order to make you believe that I do? No.

Let's go on to question, well, Mark, I want to finish Mark chapter 6:12-13. "And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them." See, they even anointed with oil. That was just like they did in James 5:16. And in verse four, let's go over that one more time the same chapter, "But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them." I don't have any doubt in my mind that if somebody is sick and they want to be healed; they believe they can be healed, then they can be healed tonight. I have no doubt about that whatsoever. But there is a prerequisite — you've got to believe it.

And if you don't think that they're for us today, and if there is a doubt in your heart whether or not God can do it, he won't. That's simple. But there were enough people there, even in his home town, that believed, in order to answer that point of why there were a few healed. But not as many as he would have liked. There were other cases where the Bible says, twenty-three times it is mentioned in the gospel, that Jesus healed them all. And in Acts 5:16 it says that they laid the lame, the sick, those that were vexed with unclean spirits down at the apostles feet and they were healed every one. I desire to see that.

But I tell you, it is awful hard in America with all of our sophisticated thinking and all of our medical technology. You know we lean upon everything but Jesus. We go to everything but Jesus. We try everything first but Jesus. And then if everything failed, then when you're on your deathbed, then we try and call out to God. That's the American gospel. And it's teaching like we've heard tonight that has propagated all the doubt and unbelief that is in the church. And that's why you are seeing a dearth of miracles. I'll be the first to admit there is a dearth of miracles. But it isn't God's plan, and it isn't God's way. God's way is to do what he wants to do and

when he wants to do it. And I've got a lot of scriptures to back that up.

But I want to finish 1 Corinthians, but wait a minute, I've got to finish these questions here. Is the Bible complete? Or do we have continuous revelation. Well, is not the Holy Spirit forever and ever? Absolutely. John 16:13, as brother Perry quoted, let's read that one more time, got your Bible? "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." Now put that right along with chapter 14:16, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." Now when did that ever come to an end? I didn't know forever was going to cease. That means the Holy Spirit is still speaking. The Bible says that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God — ever continuing, progressive, on going.

Is the law or the word of God complete? It is as complete as it is perfect. The Bible is perfect. Every word of God is perfect. Isn't that what David said? It is sure, it is pure, it is perfect, convicting the soul. The Bible — every word of it is true, every word of it is true. Turn with me to Deuteronomy 31:24, as another response to this doctrine of men. The Bible says "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Col. 2:8). The Bible says in the last days, speaketh the Spirit of God, and notice he says the Spirit of God, 1 Timothy 4:1. "The Spirit speaketh expressly." The Spirit speaketh. Now don't say, "Well, the apostles and prophets were the only ones who could have put that down." Well, not if you're a prophet. And I'm going to prove to you that there are still prophets today. Moses was a prophet; the Bible says that — 31:24, Deuteronomy. I want to finish 1 Timothy 4:1, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter days some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons."

Now he started talking about 2 Thessalonians 2:9 about, you know, there will be lying wonders and miracles and so forth, and then in Matthew 24, the same thing, false prophets going around with "miracles, signs and wonders deceiving the very elect if possible." Hey, I'll be the first to tell you, there's counterfeits out there. But just by the fact that there are counterfeits must mean there must be a real thing in the

world. Isn't that right? Cause, you can't have a counterfeit without having a genuine. We give more power to the devil and glory to him, when you hear about these metaphysical healers and these miracle wonder-workers and various other charlatans. There's a lot of them out there.

Have you ever heard of the Right Reverend Roosevelt Franklin, the Georgia prophet? I mean the guy's a scam artist. There's a lot of them, I'll be the first one to admit it. That in the church, there's deception; it's apostasy, it's heresy, absolutely. But for every counterfeit, there's a genuine. That's just the way it is.

Look at Deuteronomy 31:24. "And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levities, which bare the ark of the covenant. . . ." Now, you know, Moses could have said, "Well, there it is folks, there's the law, there's the Decalogue, there's all,700 rules and regulations concerning the Ten Commandments." "It's all completed now; all you need to do is read from it." "No one there to instruct you; we don't need the priests anymore." "By the way, Joshua, don't worry about crossing the Jordan, going over on dry ground, and don't worry about the wall of Jericho miracle, because, after all, you got the Bible." "The law's been written and finished; it's done with, it's over." "All you need is the Bible to get along." Well, I'm glad Moses didn't say that.

It says in Deuteronomy 12:32, hook this with Revelation chapter 20,21 I mean or 22, about adding to the word. It says, "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it (Deut. 12:32). Deuteronomy 4:2, "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." Now turn to Proverbs 30:5 and 6. This sums it up for me. "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." So does that mean that everything from Deuteronomy on, has been added to the word of God? Does that mean, everything from Proverbs on, we added to the word of God? That's not what he's talking about at all. In fact, Revelation limits itself to this book, this book, in regards to taking away from it or adding to it. Let the plagues come upon you and so forth and so on.

And then he has in question five, "What verse of scripture teaches that miracles will be permanent, that they will continue beyond the apostolic age and to the end." I've already answered that, Matthew 28:20, 1 Corinthians 1:6-8.

Now, I've answered all the questions. Now, regarding 1 Corinthians 12, I want to run through this real quick, as I haven't got much time. Boy, this is. I like to be like Paul, you know, preach till midnight then raise the dead. But you know they fall asleep, right there, that would be fun, but you've got to have a church that believes that. You've got to have a people that believe that.

OK, it says in chapter 12 it talks about the gifts of the Spirit all the way through, as you know. "Now concerning spiritual gifts . . ." verse four, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." "And there are diversities of administrations, but the same Lord." "There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all." "The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." See, God does it through different people through different times because we are a many membered body. He does a lot of different things. And he sums the whole chapter up with the various ministry gifts as well as the individual gifts of the Spirit. Verse 8, "For one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

So there, I don't have to prove anything. God will do it when he wants to do it. When there is a need for a miracle. Verse 28, "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers. . ." does that mean we don't have a need for teachers anymore? I mean if you are going to be consistent you've got to throw them out too. After that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." "Are all apostles?" The obvious answer to all of these questions, by the way, is what? No. "Are all prophets?" No. I don't claim to be an apostle; I don't claim to be a prophet. "Are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?" No. "Have all the gifts of healing?" No. "Do all speak with tongues?" No. "Do all interpret?" No. "But covet earnestly the best gifts . . ." He's telling us to covet them—

to earnestly to go after them. Seek to receive them and operate in them. I mean, if they cease in the the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, why did he go at such length in the fourteenth chapter to explain how they operate in the church if they were soon to end? Why would he go to such an extent to explain all that? I mean it would be total nonsense. Now, how much time do I got?

Monitor: You've got just three minutes.

Peter John: I wanted to answer the no medical attention. Maybe we will get to that tomorrow night. Signs follow diagram, I didn't get to that. Ah, "You say you believe what is written?" Well, it wasn't all written either. Because if it was all written John said that there wouldn't be enough books to contain it all. What happened?

In Luke chapter 10:1, I just want to show you that it just wasn't the apostles and prophets that went around doing miracles. Now, in the ninth chapter, he talked about the apostles that he gave them, "verse one, he gave them power over all unclean spirits and over every sickness and every disease. But in the tenth chapter verse one, he talks about the seventy; he sent them out two by two. Then in the ninth verse he said to them to preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick that are therein. It all goes hand in hand. I mean, he was talking about disciples. Stephen and Philip were not apostles: they were evangelists. Philip was the only evangelist that's described in the Bible, besides Timothy, that was called to do the work of an evangelist. But Timothy was not called an evangelist. In Acts 21:8, Philip is described as the evangelist. And he was one of the seven. And you find out that miracles, signs, and wonders out of one of the seven, all seven of them operated in miracles, signs, and wonders, so that the apostles could be given more time to prayer and the ministry of the word.

And in Hebrews 2, let's look at that real quick, and I will get to 1 Corinthians 13:10 but I don't have time. I've only got one minute, but I will get to that tomorrow in my opening arguments. 1 Corinthians 13:10, "When that which is perfect is come . . ." what that all means in the Greek. And just about every theologian that I've read agrees with the same thing. Almost every commentary, from John Calvin right on down to Barnes' Notes to Matthew Henry commentary, you name it, they all agree with the same points. And when you look at the Greek word, what it actually means, that ends my

argument. But I'll save that for later.

Ah, Hebrews 2:3-4, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" Once again, you don't just drum it up, it just doesn't happen. It happens according to what the purpose of the plan of God in every situation. Because no miracle was the same. You can't put a pattern on Jesus. He did everything differently. One time he cast a devil, a deafness out of a man's eye, ears. One time he put his finger in his ears and the guy was healed. One time he spit in a guy's eye and he was healed. One time he slapped mud up against a guy's eye and it was healed. And another time he told him to go down by the pool of Siloam and wash his eyes out.

Moderator: Time.

Peter John: So, he operates as he wills. And my time is up. The Lord bless you all; and we will cover more of these things tomorrow.

CHAPTER 5

PETER JOHN

AFFIRMATIVE SPEECH

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, continue in the Church today.

Greetings, Praise you Jesus. I want to pray a minute before I get started. Heavenly Father, I come before you in the precious, matchless name of Jesus. That name is above every name that is named in this age and that which is to come. Father, I pray that your glory will be in this place. I pray that your supernatural, divine energy of God would move in every aisle. And that you would do miracles, signs and wonders in our hearts and in our lives. And change us by the glory of God, even by the Spirit, until the coming day of Jesus Christ. And I pray that every word will be by the unction of the Holy One of Israel and that it will remove every doubt, all fear, and unbelief in this place. And I pray that in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

I want to start out by defining a few terms. But I want to make a recitation to what the debate is all about first. The scriptures teach, I want to emphasize, the scriptures teach that miracles, such as were performed by Christ and the apostles, continue in the church today. Now I'm on the affirmative. I believe that absolutely, without a doubt, sing and shout, as I said last night, that miracles happen today. Because Jesus is alive today. The reason I believe in miracles, is because I believe in Jesus. He said, "I am the resurrection and life, whosoever believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." That's what the Bible says.

Now let's look at a few terms from Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of the English language. Now, if you really want to understand the King James, you've got to go back to Webster, the old English, to find out what these

words mean. The word miracle or miracles, as it is used in the plural, means literally a wonder or wonderful but appropriately in theology, an event or effect contrary to the established constitution to the course of things or a deviation to the known laws of nature — a supernatural event. Miracles can be only wrought by Almighty God as when Christ healed lepers. Say, isn't interesting that in this dictionary you'll find scripture in almost every word that is defined. You don't find that in the Noah Webster's American Dictionary you find today. And he uses the scripture, "I will, be thou clean." as one of the miracles when Christ healed lepers, saying that. In another time when he calmed the tempest, "Peace, be still." "They considered not the miracles of the loaves" in Mark 6. There once again is doubt and unbelief, because right after seeing the miracles of the loaves, just like the manna that came down from heaven, a miracle in the Old Testament, we find out that they forgot about that when they were out in the tempest as the roaring waves were coming over to capsize the boat and Jesus just got up and spoke, "Peace, be still." like he couldn't perform anymore miracles cause of their doubt and unbelief as they were wavering in that boat. A man approved of God by miracles and signs, as we talked about last night, Acts 2:22.

I want to look at not only what Webster has to say, but let's look at what the Greek has to say. If you take your ***Strong's Concordance and Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament***, you'll find out that miracles are two Greek words in the New Testament. There is *dunamis* and *semeion*. *Dunamis* is the strength, the ability, or the power of God, and *semeion* is a sign, a mark, or a token. We've already pretty well discussed what signs and wonders are, so there is no sense going through that and the word works.

But I want to go over *charisma* one more time and the word *saved*. What does it mean to be saved? *Charisma* denotes extra ordinary powers, distinguishing certain Christians, enabling them to serve the Christ or the church of Christ. The reception of which is due to the power of divine grace, operating in their souls by the Holy Spirit. *Sozo*, is the Greek word for saved. Now that's an interesting word. To save means just that, to be whole, to be saved to keep sound — safe and sound, to rescue from danger of destruction, to make well, heal, restore, to help. It's the same meaning for the word *salvation* as in Mark 3:34. But he doesn't use the word *saved* there, he uses the word *whole*. By

faith, you are made whole, you are saved. It's the same Greek word. And it's also found in Matthew 9:22 in relation to healing. And in Romans 10:9, which we quote all the time, for people to be saved, it talks about believing in your heart that God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead and you confess with your mouth thou shalt be saved, healed, delivered, rescued, in safety. It means all those things.

That's what we get when we get saved. And I'm going to break that down a little bit later on, and you are going to see how healing and miracles are synonymous to being saved. Synonymous with the atonement of Jesus Christ and what what he came to bring us. It wasn't just to deliver us from sin, folks, it was also to deliver us from sickness and disease. And we've already very well brought this out, brother Perry's brought this out as well, that miracles are not defined to just moving the weather or dividing the Red Sea as did Moses, but it also is into healing and the casting out of devils. God anointed Jesus Christ of Nazareth who went about doing good, healing all those who were oppressed of the devil.

So sickness and disease did not just come of bad health as it relates to working too much or eating the wrong foods or coming out with a strange diseases. Disease and sickness also have their origins and their roots in the devil. The devil came to kill, to rob, and to destroy — Jesus said, "But I have come to give you life, and to give it more abundantly." John 10:10. Now, we are going to get into that a little more. But what I want to do, and I would like brother Perry to refute me on this, and I don't think he did a very good job last night with 1 Corinthians 1, as related to charisma or the gift as we already read — defining the word in the Greek that these are supernatural gifts that were given to the church — 1 Corinthians 12. But before we can get to 1 Corinthians 13, which I would like to discuss and which I would like him to refute me on, regarding the word perfect which I said I would deliver to you this night. On the last night, because I saved the best till last.

I Corinthians 1, we've got to read 1 Corinthians chapter one to take the whole book of Corinthians in its entirety. Now we don't have much time to delve into this: I wish I had about three weeks to break down just 1 Corinthians 13, for you because I took every Greek word in almost every verse from verse 8 all the way to verse 13 so that you could have an absolute full understanding and complete knowledge of what

he is talking about in 1 Corinthians 13. Which, basically, all I heard yesterday really there wasn't too much concrete evidence from the scriptures to say anything, to say anything about the miracles ceased at the age of the apostles when it was over. But I gave numerous passages and quoted them, I heard a lot of references but I didn't hear too much quoting or going over explaining these scriptures. I want to hear what the scriptures have to say and I want to hear a rendering of it and an explanation of it.

1 Corinthians 1:6 says, "Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that you come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." So there it plainly reveals, that the same charisma, the same gifts of the Holy Ghost, and power, glory be to Jesus forever, continue until he comes back. I mean what could be plainer? I don't have to go into the Greek, folks, it's right there in black and white. And after all, every word of God is true. Is it not? It's all by inspiration of God. The Bible, in its entirety, is perfect. I have no doubt about that. I have no argument over that issue because it's the "perfect law of liberty." And the word perfect that's found in James 1:25 is a different Greek word than the word that's used in 1 Corinthians 13:10, "But when that which is perfect is come."

And I refer to you that the day of the Lord was mentioned in many other passages and it's kind of a theme that is riveted all the way through 1 Corinthians 3:11-13; 1 Cor. 5:5, "delivering the man up to the destruction of the flesh," I haven't seen that too much lately, "so that the spirit might be saved in the day of the Lord."; 1 Cor. 11:26, we are to practice holy communion, "As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup you do show the Lord's death until he come." You're to do that until he come. And it is interesting that communion is only mentioned one time as far as an ordinance of the church, to be carried out in the church in the whole Bible. But gifts are mentioned numerous times; miracles are mentioned — you know how many scriptures were quoted yesterday by brother Perry on miracles. I wish you could believe in them with all the scriptures he quoted with all the miracles. I mean if it is in the Bible it's got to be true just by the fact that it's in the Bible. Cause there isn't one verse, there isn't one bit of evidence in the scriptures that indicates that miracles have ceased.

Now how they operate is a different thing, how they are administered through the body, not one person has all the gifts. It was almost, basically, inferred that I'm suppose to operate in all the gifts and I'm suppose to do miracles. Paul says, "Do all perform miracles?" He says no, absolutely not. "Are all prophets," no, "are all apostles," no.

All right, let's get right into 1 Corinthians 13. Oh, by the way, if you take the body and the blood of Christ unworthily, the scripture says, you reap damnation to yourself, the Bible says. And that's why many are sick among you and that's why some die prematurely or are asleep. Isn't that right? You're not discerning the Lord's body and what he came to bring us. And if you don't discern the Lord's body in communion correctly, you're walking on some pretty rough ground.

I Corinthians 13 is basically the meat of the sandwich between the twelfth and the fourteenth chapter of I Corinthians. Basically it's the love chapter. We love to put it on the walls. Very few of us actually live by it. But it is a nice token of our appreciation of what we are suppose to operate in, which is the love of God. You can't operate the gifts of the Spirit without the love of God. That's what he's talking about. Now, let's go right into verse 8, "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is love or charity."

I think it is quite obvious by taking a look at verse 12, it basically interprets itself of what he is talking about in verse 10. The word prophecy in verse 8, as it is related to, saying that it will pass, is a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purpose of God whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked or comforting the afflicted or revealing things hidden especially by foretelling future events. So it doesn't mean only foretelling future events. Now as it relates to this particular verse, it's talking about the gifts and utterances of these prophets —

propheteia. Now if you look at another word, as it relates to prophecy, it's to be a prophet — to speak forth by divine inspiration, to predict. But that isn't how that word is used here. That's how it's used in verse 9, as it relates to being under the like prompting: to teach, to refute, to reprove, to admonish, and to comfort others. That's how it is used in verse 9: to teach, to refute, to reprove, to admonish, to comfort others. It's an entirely different Greek word.

Once you see all these Greek words, you'll see exactly what I'm talking about. And I don't have time to sit here and explain each and every individual one as it relates to the verse, but I hope you can see what I'm saying as we go through this. As it relates to 2 Peter 1:19, proceeding from a prophet or prophetic.

Now let's deal with the tongues issue, as it relates to Acts 2:11. Obviously we know what happened on the day of Pentecost — there were supernatural tongues. It's not just a member of the tongue, it could be used that way but that's not how it was used there. It's the language used by a particular people in distinction from that of other nations. And in Mark 16:17, which it says, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;" it is used this way — to speak with new tongues which the speaker has not learned previously. And that's exactly the same way it's used in 1 Corinthians 12:10. And it's exactly the same way it's used in 1 Corinthians chapter 14:14. And here's how it's used as glossa or glossalalia in the Greek in 1 Corinthians 13:8, which was just read, words spoken in a tongue. So I want you to see the various application of how these words are used.

Now, knowledge. What kind of knowledge are we talking about? Now this is very interesting. If this knowledge is passed away, I think we got serious problems. Listen to what this word means. It doesn't mean a general knowledge of the Christian religion. It means the deeper, more perfect, and enlarged knowledge of this religion, such as it belongs to the more advanced. Well man, if we think that Paul, suddenly said that all of these things were to pass away, and these things were to no longer to be, are we saying that we have more revelation than Paul? And this knowledge here talks about a more perfect or enlarged knowledge of the religion.

Now let's keep going. You're going to see how this all comes together in a minute. We know that these things are going to pass away. But the question is, when? When are

they going to pass away? It says that, in verse 9, for we know in part: now does that mean a part of the whole or a part of something or that we just have a little bit of? No, that's not what it means. It means imperfectly. I dare ask anybody here are you are you walking in perfection before the Lord Jesus Christ; are you absolutely blameless before him in your walk with him? Oh, I can say with affirmative that you'd be a liar. He says you were. That's what John said, "If you say you are without sin, you are a liar and the truth is not in you."

Now, we are going to get down to the word perfect — verse 10 — "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." The Greek word for perfect is teleos and the way it's used in James 1:25, means brought to it's end, finished, wanting nothing necessary to completeness, perfect. But here's what it means in 1 Corinthians 13:10, an entirely different meaning — it means the perfect state of all things of all things to be ushered in by the return of Christ from heaven. That's exactly what that means. If you say that knowledge has passed away, you are saying that all these stalwarts of the faith were babes in their understanding as in comparison to us.

But Paul says, as we are walking with him towards perfection, towards that day, that culmination of history when Jesus wraps this whole thing up — going into the eternal state, he says, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away those childish things." Everything we do here, in comparison with eternity, is childish. I mean the way we preach the gospel is going to be childish in comparison with what is going to happen. I ask you, are you going to be speaking English in King James when you get to heaven? Are you going to be speaking, I'm talking about tongues, are you going to be speaking in the language that you know? I doubt it. Because we are all going to have the same language. And we are all going to be speaking the same thing. In fact, I don't even know, and you don't even know, no one knows what it's going to be like. And we're flogging around here looking through a glass, darkly waiting to see face to face to answer a lot of our questions. Otherwise, we wouldn't have a need for a debate because, obviously, not all of us are seeing too clearly here tonight. And I'll amen that for myself. I'll be the first partaker of the fruit.

Now what's interesting, once you get to verse 12, "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face," here's

what the Greek word for face to face is. It doesn't mean a face of a man as it talks about in James 1:23, which was one of the arguments, James 1:23. That means the face with which one is born or the face, the anterior part of the human head. But here's what face to face means in 1 Corinthians 13:12, seeing God face to face. Seeing God face to face. So it's obvious we haven't seen God face to face yet. We're getting ready to some day, but if anybody here has seen God face to face — the Bible says no man has seen God at anytime. Isn't that what the Bible says? But you're going to see him when you put on a glorified body, and you are raised from the dead to go to be with him. I basically think that puts the nail in the coffin for this whole debate. Because basically if there's an argument, this is where it starts but I think this is where it ends.

But of course, I'm not going to stop here. That would be against my character. You know, I want to nail it down real good and tight. Now I want to read some scriptures as it relates to all this, this progression, this being changed from glory to glory, why we need all these gifts to operate. Why would Paul go at length in I Corinthians 14 and explain how the gifts of the Spirit are to operate in the church? Now he spent a whole lot more time about how they are operated in the church than he did talking about communion. But we sure spend a lot of time going to the communion table. But he spent a lot of time talking about 1 Corinthians 14 relating to the gifts and how to operate in them.

Why would he go to such a length if they were to cease right away? Because, after all, the apostolic age ended, supposedly, around 70 AD, 80 AD, 90 AD, and of course this was written in 59 AD so that would only be around ten or eleven years later. I mean, that would be totally ludicrous. It doesn't make any sense. But obviously, by what I just read to you, what the words, the words I just quoted from the Greek text, it is not ludicrous at all. It makes a lot of sense. Christian sense. I Corinthians 15 is yet future. That's prophecy; it hasn't come to pass yet. The whole chapter is prophecy. It's talking about the end times. It's talking about the eternal state, when we put on a glorified body. Flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of God. You've got to be changed. That's prophecy — it has yet to come to pass.

The Bible is referred to as prophecy, 2 Peter 1:19, 20. So obviously, the word of God hasn't passed away, hasn't failed yet. When it will fail, if you look up the Greek word for fail

and cease and vanish away, you find out that it means that it's in its fulfillment, when it comes to an end. Well obviously, when Jesus fulfilled the prophecies concerning him from the Old Testament, you're still not waiting for its fulfillment are you? No, those prophecies are done, they're over, they failed. Failed in the sense that they didn't come to completion or fulfillment, no. It means that they are fulfilled, they're done, over, complete.

Now, in Ephesians chapter three. Well, I'm going to go to chapter four. I'll have to get into that later, I don't have enough time. I wish I was like Paul when he went into the synagogue and got a chance to dispute and argue, for the sake of and concerning the kingdom of God, for three months. And then he had to get his disciples out of there, and then they went into the school of Tyrannus for two years. I wish I had that much time to really develop a lot of this.

Verse eleven of chapter four he says, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers," for what? "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Well man, if you think that you have arrived and that you have made it, you've got another thing coming. The word perfect here, in relationship to 1 Corinthians 13:10 — until we rise to the same level of knowledge which we ascribe to a full grown man until we can be likened unto a full grown man, has nothing to do with the Bible. And notice that all the Greek words that I talked about in the word perfect had nothing to do with script, words, but had to do with spiritual knowledge, a relationship of coming in, to be able to embody and know the fullness of Jesus Christ. That is what he is talking about just by its very context.

But now, let's look at the word unity. The word unity means one or agreement. It doesn't mean a system of beliefs. Because they had a system of beliefs in Acts chapter two — they were steadfast in the apostles doctrine, fellowship, and in prayers.

Now look at the word age. I'm going to by-pass knowledge, that's a different Greek word. Listen to what this means. The age in which we are fitted to receive the fullness of Christ. The age, stature, the age of the fullness of Christ. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith." Till we all come

to the age of the fullness of Christ, or that full grown man where you put on your glorified body. That's what he is talking about. So these ministry gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are still operating in the church today. But because of our doubt and unbelief in the doctrines that we preach, we hinder the work of God and his Spirit from operating in the church the way he is supposed to as it numerates in 1 Corinthians 12:14.

In Philippians 3, Paul is talking about basically the same thing and he has a view to the things of the end. Verse 12, chapter three, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." And he wraps up the chapter in verse 21, he says, "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." So he has a view of the future and says, "I haven't even arrived yet." And no one had more revelation and knowledge, the word of God, the plan of God, the will of God, and the purpose of God than Paul. And If you think you have arrived because we now have the full complete cannon of scriptures, you've got another thing coming. I mean that is totally ludicrous, you are saying you are above the apostle Paul. That doesn't make any sense. What it means is that you are full of doubt and unbelief concerning the word of God. And what we need to do is to find out what thus sayeth the Lord is concerning what is written so we can move ahead and advance the kingdom of God instead of holding back and limiting the Holy One of Israel as Israel did in Psalm 78:41 because of doubt and unbelief. And they couldn't enter into the promise land because of it.

Moderator: You have two minute.

Peter John: Now I want to read what the word perfect from one of the commentaries that we have all come to love and know. In fact brother Evans has this whole set of commentaries, Matthew Henry's, right in his office. I read Barnes' Notes, he agrees with this; I read Wycliffe's notes, he agrees with this. John Calvin agrees with it. All the great

theologians in the church agrees with this. Listen to this, verse 9, 1 Corinthians 13:9, boy I haven't really covered, scratched the surface of this thing. "He hints that these gifts are adapted only to a state of imperfection. We know in part, we prophesy in part, our best knowledge and our greatest abilities are at present like our condition — narrow and temporary. Even the knowledge they had by inspiration was but in part. How little a portion of God in the unseen world was heard even by apostles and inspired men. How much do others come of them. But these gifts were fitted to the present, imperfect state of the church, valuable in themselves but not to be compared with love. Because they were to vanish with the imperfections of the church, nay and long before, whereas love was to last forever. He takes this occasion to show how much better it will be with the church hereafter than it can be here. A state of perfection is in view. When that which is perfect shall come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When the end is once attained then the means, will of course, be abolished. There will be no need of tongues and prophecy and inspired knowledge in a future life, because then the church will be in a state of perfection, complete both in knowledge and holiness. God will be known then clearly and in a manner by intuition and as perfectly as the capacity of glorified minds will allow not by such transient glimpses and little portions as here."

I've got thirty seconds. Well, we'll pick up on that a little bit later and we'll finish our discussion.

CHAPTER 6

PERRY B. COTHAM NEGATIVE SPEECH

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, continue in the Church today.

Gentleman moderators, Peter John, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is certainly good to have the opportunity to be with you again tonight. I appreciate the presence of all and especially those who have driven the long distance in order to be with us this evening. A good many are back who were here last night, but some have come who were not here last night. We will not repeat so much that was said last night, only just a very brief review. I think you understand clearly the issue and that is that miracles such as were done by Christ and the apostles during the early days of the church continue today. And I appreciate Peter so very much in giving his effort, as weak as it was. But he has a good attitude, and we appreciate his willingness to engage in this public discussion. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to make reply to some of the things that have been said tonight by him.

Last night's speech was his final speech concerning what I had to say that miracles did cease with the end of the apostolic age. And we want to emphasize again that miracles had to do with the beginning, the creation. God created Adam and then gave the law of reproduction. And so God inspired certain individuals, enabled them to perform miracles to confirm the word and to record the word. Now we have the complete word. There are no apostles living today who can perform miracles. There are none living today who received the gift from an apostle. So when the last apostle died, and the last one died on whom an apostle had laid hands, that brought to a close the apostolic age.

But all the truth had been given because they were to be

guided into all truth. Peter said in II Peter 1:3, "...hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness." Also, that the scriptures are able to furnish us completely unto every good work, as Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16,17. We are to try the spirits as John said in 1 John 4:1. Also, the church at Ephesus was commended for trying those that said we are apostles, who claimed to have the power of the apostles when they did not. The Lord commended the church at Ephesus and said you found them to be liars.

He stressed last night that individuals have the baptism of the Holy Spirit today. And he quoted Acts 2:38,39 as proof of it. Which is not true, of course, and I want to show that a little later. He claims to believe in Mark 16:17, 18, which I explained that the powers, the signs, the miracles did follow during the apostolic age. I believe that he would say that he is a believer, although that was one of the questions that I asked and you recognize the fact that he believes that. And he has those gifts, those powers he says, but he will not demonstrate in anyway whatsoever. He has nothing for proof.

He referred to a book of testimonies. Well, you can get testimonies. Mary Baker Eddy put out testimonies. People can get testimonies for Hadacal. You can get testimonies. But that doesn't prove anything, we want to have the demonstration of it. We want to have the proof.

And I have said, repeatedly, last night that he cannot perform a real Bible miracle as Christ and the apostles. He cannot raise one from the dead. And yet Jesus said to them as we read in Matthew 10, gave them the power, verse one, and then he said, "raise the dead, cleanse the leper." I'll tell you something else, Peter, tonight I'll go with you, and I want the audience to go with me to a cemetery in town. And I'll raise one from the dead when you raise one from the dead. You just raise the first one and I'll raise the second. And if you want to raise another one, I promise that I'll raise another one. Now, that ought to be fair and I want all of you to go.

Then too in Mark 16, Jesus said, you know, "...if you drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them." Now, Peter, I brought along tonight a bottle. It's got some contents in it. And I want you to show to the audience that you do have faith and these signs shall follow them that believe. Now I promise you that it will hurt you. But there is your verse of scripture and your idea about it. And so you drink this, and I'm not promising what will take place later, but, anyway,

about your faith. We have someone tonight who is blind. This individual would like to be made to see. Prove that, please, that you can do that. All right, I'm giving him the opportunity to show his faith and his zeal.

Now then he also referred to calling for the elders of the church. And I wanted to say just a few things about that because I mentioned something along that line. In Ephesians 4, that these various miraculous powers, apostles, and prophets, pastors and teachers.. .till, and he makes that till the end of time. But anyway, when we go to James, James is talking about these inspired men as elders or pastors, as they were also called. "And if any of you be sick, call for the elders of the church." Now that doesn't necessarily say the local preacher or especially some woman. Women were not elders, you know. "Call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord," and then he said, "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick." No question about it. It's the miraculous act, a miracle, "and the Lord shall raise him up," no failure, "and if he have committed sins; they shall be forgiven him." This had to do with the miraculous age of the church. And there is no one today who has this power. And I again say it is sad for people to spend a lot of money and go to various parts of the world to get the power or rather to be healed, thinking that someone has that power. Or to withhold medicine from little children and maybe let children die because of the parents believing that people have that power today. It is a misapplication of the scriptures, entirely.

There isn't any man on the face of this earth tonight, in this state or any other state, that has the miraculous power, not at all. And the Bible doesn't teach it. Peter doesn't have it, there's no one present in this audience that has it, there is no Pentecostal preacher, charismatic preacher anywhere that has this power to raise the dead in anyway whatsoever. And I'll stick with that.

Now we want to notice some questions that I'd like for him to consider and then I'm going to go to some of the things that he has pointed out in the talk he's made a moment ago. Here are some questions (see Chart 6.1). Is more truth being revealed or being given today? The apostle Paul in Galatians 1:8, 9 warned about anyone who would add to or take from the word of God. "But though we, or an angel from heaven; preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." And John puts a

Chart 6.1

QUESTIONS

IS MORE TRUTH BEING GIVEN TODAY?
(Gal. 1:8, 9; Rev. 22:18, 19)

1. IF SO, WHERE ARE THE MIRACLES TO CONFIRM?
2. WHAT IS THAT TRUTH?
3. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT CONFIRM CONTRADICTIONARY DOCTRINES?
4. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT CONFIRM FALSE DOCTRINES?
5. ARE ALL THOSE WHO CLAIM HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM TODAY REALLY GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT?
6. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT LEAD PEOPLE INTO DIFFERENT RELIGIONS (DENOMINATIONS)?

warning at the close of the book of Revelation, verses 18 and 19, about adding to or taking from God's word.

The purpose of the divine power was to reveal the truth, to confirm that truth, and record that truth. If so, where are the miracles to confirm it? Where are the miracles to confirm it? What is that truth that is being given and confirmed today? And I again say, if so, then we need to make an addition to the New Testament.

And then here is something else that I want him to think about, and all of you. Does the Holy Spirit confirm contradictory doctrines? Now there are those who claim to have this divine power and work miracles, and they don't all teach the same doctrine. There are some who think there is only one person in the Godhead, Jesus Christ. There are others who work miracles, so they say, that believe in the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. They work miracles, so they say. Does the Holy Spirit confirm contradictory doctrines? I wouldn't think so.

And then does the Holy Spirit confirm false doctrine? When you examine these who claim to work miracles sooner

or later you are going to find that they are going to be teaching things that the New Testament doesn't teach and contrary to the New Testament. This has been confirmed and recorded, and now they are teaching things that the New Testament doesn't teach and authorize. And we can give the proof on it. There might be instrumental music in the worship, for an example, not authorized in the New Testament — going beyond the word of God. And John says in 2 John 9, "Whosoever goeth onward or transgresseth, and abideth not in the word or the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." doesn't have God's approval, "But he that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." And maybe not the Lord's supper every Lord's day. Does the Holy Spirit confirm false doctrine?

Then again number five: Are all those who claim Holy Spirit baptism today really guided by the Spirit? Do you really think they are? Just think of the different kinds, the different groups that claim to be directly guided by the Holy Spirit today. Then: Does the Holy Spirit lead people into different religious denominations not even mentioned in the New Testament in anyway whatsoever? I say when you follow the teaching of the New Testament, given by the Holy Spirit, we would be a Christian, only this and nothing more, in the Lord's church, only this and nothing more, and wearing the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's have another sheet please.

Here are some more questions for his consideration (see Chart 6.2). Are the apostles still in the church on earth today? Are any of those apostles still living today to bestow any of the miraculous gifts? Or do they have successors to the apostles, as the Mormons teach? I think he does not understand the qualification of an apostle. We turn to the closing part of Acts the first chapter when Matthias was selected to take the place of Judas Iscariot. And if you remember it was stated, "that one must be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection." And they appointed two and asked the Lord to show which one. Matthias was selected. Individuals today haven't seen the resurrected Lord. They cannot be a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. You might witness a wreck out in the street, but your great-great grandson, 75 or 100 years from now, wouldn't be a witness to the wreck. We are talking about being a witness today and being apostles. Do we have apostles on earth today, the same ones? Why do Pentecostal churches, I mean the various

Chart 6.2

QUESTIONS

1. ARE THE APOSTLES STILL IN THE CHURCH ON EARTH TODAY?
2. WHY DO "PENTECOSTAL" CHURCHES TEACH DOCTRINES THAT CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER, AND YET ALL CLAIM HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM? MIRACLE? INSPIRATION?

EX. U.P.C. says in 1914 the Holy Spirit revealed "Jesus Only" — 1 Cor. 14:33 says "God not of confusion." Is the Lord working with all these churches?

3. HAVE YOU RECEIVED BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? IF SO, CAN YOU PERFORM THE MIRACLES THE APOSTLES PERFORMED?
4. HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY OF THE MIRACULOUS "GIFTS" OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? IF SO, HOW?
5. ARE ANY MORE REVELATIONS TO GOD'S WORD BEING GIVEN TODAY? IF SO, WHAT?
6. HAS THE WORD OF GOD BEEN CONFIRMED? (Heb. 2:3, 4)
7. IS THE LORD WITH ONLY THOSE WHO CLAIM TO WORK MIRACLES TODAY?

kinds, teach doctrines that contradict one another? And they do. And yet all claim Holy Spirit baptism, all claim to work miracles, all claim to be guided by the Holy Spirit through some kind of inspiration.

Now one example. The United Pentecostal church said in 1914 the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus only. And yet we read in 1 Corinthians 14:33, God is not the author of confusion. Well if he guides one to say that there are three persons in the Godhead and guides somebody else to say there is one person

in the Godhead, it looks to me like that the Lord is confirming contradictory doctrines. Is the Lord working with all of these churches? Have you received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? If so, can you perform the miracles the apostles performed? You ought to if you have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and he claims it. Have you received any of the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit? If so, how, which apostle laid his hands upon you, Paul, John, Peter, which one? Are any more revelations to God's word being given today? If so, what are they? Has the word of God been confirmed as in Hebrews 2:3-4, which "was confirmed unto us" by signs and wonders and miracles. Is the Lord with only those who claim to work miracles today? Think about those things. Ladies and gentlemen, I want him to consider them when he comes back for his final speech tonight.

Now then, I want to pay some attention to what he has just given in his talk. The definition of a miracle, we accept that of course. And he says he believes in miracles because he believes in Jesus. Well, I don't believe in miracles because I believe in Jesus. I believe in the word of the Lord that they came to an end.

Any definition of miracle, is all right, and Christ performed miracles, Acts 2:22.1 mentioned that last night, that's good. And the term from the Greek about miracles and by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that's exactly right, no question about that. And Jesus did heal people in his personal ministry and that proved him to be the Son of God. But remember that John wrote in John 20:30, 31, "But these are written, so ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

Now then, he has been anxious to get to 1 Corinthians 13. Last night in his first speech he kind of came up to it but then he said he'd wait. In the second speech, he decided to wait and now, tonight he has given unto us 1 Corinthians 13:10, "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." All right, he has said that in regard to the word perfect in James 1:25, it's an entirely different word.

But first of all, I want us to notice some of the Greek scholars in regard to the meaning of the word teleios, as given here in 1 Corinthians 13. It has to do with entire, entire or perfect, and entire is a good word. This is from George Liddell and Robert Scott. Here's one from Abbott-Smith, "Having reached its end, finished, mature, complete, perfect." And so, those words mean or give the definition of

our word here. Then again, I have before us Walter Bauer's and here is his definition, "Having obtained the end or purpose, perfect, complete; having obtained the end or purpose." And then here is James Moulton's definition, "Having reached its end, full grown, mature." I happened to glance through one of these when he said it's all together a different word in James 1:25. And right here on this very same page in Bauer's Lexicon, he lists James 1:25. Peter, you haven't done your homework.

Now then, I'd like for us to see Thayer's definition. He wanted to refer to Thayer. And here we go to Thayer. All right, there is the Greek, and here is Thayer's definition, "Brought to its end, finished, wanting nothing necessary to completeness; or perfect." When all of the scriptures have been given; all of the word of God given, brought to its completeness, nothing wanting, nothing lacking. And look here, Oh! look here, Oh! do you see this? Do you see that? Peter, do you see that from Thayer? [Cotham pointing to the overhead of Thayer's entry listing teleion as occurring in James 1:25.]

Peter John: I have the same copy.

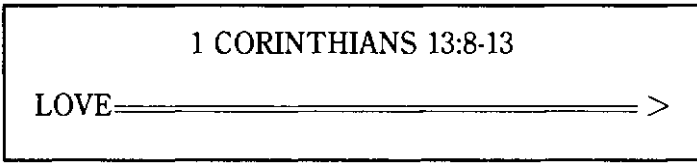
Perry Cotham: You have the same copy? Well look at it. It's right down there. There it is. Exactly so. Now then, it is true that Thayer within this did comment upon this. His idea mentioned that "the perfect state of all things, to be ushered in by the return of Christ from heaven." That's his comment as to what it means to him. Well, it might mean the same thing to Peter, but there is a difference in the definition and all, and this is my view about it. You can take for example the word baptize — baptizo-: to dip, to plunge, or immerse. Then someone says, "Well, I think that sprinkling or pouring will be all right as well as immersion." Well, that's his idea about it. He can say that if he wants to: he has that privilege but that doesn't make it right. And you might get an unabridged dictionary that gives the definition of the Greek word, baptizo- and then it might say, as used today; to immerse or to sprinkle or to pour. And that is the way it is commonly used. I wanted you to see that. And there is the page. I had it last night, but I was waiting for him to bring out the point.

Now let's go to something else (see Chart 6.4). We have some things for you to see concerning this. But there is Thayer. Love will continue. All right, "love never fails, but

τέλειος, -α, -ον, (τέλος), in classic Grk. sometimes also -ος, -ον, (cf. W. § 11, 1), fr. Hom. down, Sept. several times for בָּרָא , בָּרָא , etc.; prop. *brought to its end, finished; wanting nothing necessary to completeness; perfect: ἔργον*, Jas. i. 4; ἡ ἀγάπη, 1 Jn. iv. 18; ὁ νόμος, Jas. i. 25; [δῶρημα, Jas. i. 17]; *τελειότερα σκηνή*, a more perfect (excellent) tabernacle, Heb. ix. 11; τὸ τέλειον, substantively, *that which is perfect*: consummate human integrity and virtue, Ro. xii. 2 [al. take it here as an adj. belonging to *θέλημα*]; the perfect state of all things, to be ushered in by the return of Christ from heaven, 1 Co. xiii. 10; of men, *full-grown, adult; of full age, mature*, (Aeschyl. Ag. 1504; Plat. legg. 11 p. 929c.): Heb. v. 14; τέλ. ἀνὴρ (Xen. Cyr. 1, 2, 4 sq.; 8, 7, 6; Philo de cherub. § 32; opp. to *παιδίον νήπιον*, Polyb. 5, 29, 2; for other exx. fr. other auth. see *Bleek*, Brief a. d. Hebr. ii. 2 p. 133 sq.), μέχρι . . . εἰς ἀνδρα τέλειον, until we rise to the same level of knowledge which we ascribe to a full-grown man, until we can be likened to a full-grown man, Eph. iv. 13 (opp. to *νήπιοι*, 14); *τέλειοι ταῖς φρεσὶ* (opp. to *παιδία* and *νηπιάζοντες ταῖς φρεσὶ*), 1 Co. xiv. 20 [here A. V. *men*]; absol. *οἱ τέλειοι*, *the perfect*, i. e. the more intelligent, ready to apprehend divine things, 1 Co. ii. 6 [R.V. *msg. full-grown*] (opp. to *νήπιοι ἐν Χριστῷ*, iii. 1; in simple opp. to *νήπιος*, Philo de legg. alleg. i. § 30; for בָּרָא , opp. to *μαυθάνων*, 1 Chr. xxv. 8; [cf. Bp. Lghtft. on Col. i. 28; Phil. iii. 15]); of mind and character, one who has reached the proper height of virtue and integrity: Mt. v. 48; xix. 21; Phil. iii. 15 [cf. Bp. Lghtft. u. s.]; Jas. i. 4; in an absol. sense, of God: Mt. v. 48; τέλειος ἀνὴρ, Jas. iii. 2 (τέλ. δίκαιος, Sir. xlv. 17); as respects understanding and goodness, Col. iv. 12; τέλ. ἀνθρώπος ἐν Χριστῷ, Col. i. 28 [cf. Bp. Lghtft. u. s. SYN. see *δόκλος*, and Trench § xxii.].*

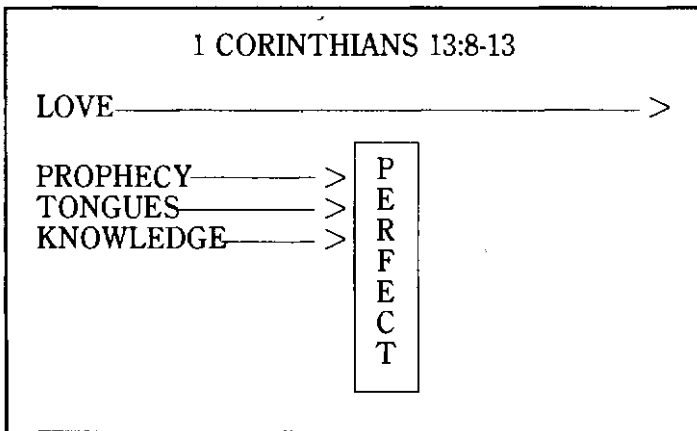
Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, p. 618

Chart 6.4



where there be tongues, they're going to cease; prophecy, it's going to end; miraculous knowledge, we already mentioned that. When? When the fullness is come, the maturity, the completeness, or the word perfect as in our King James translation. These will cease, these miraculous gifts and he uses three of them as an example (see Chart 6.5). But love will continue.

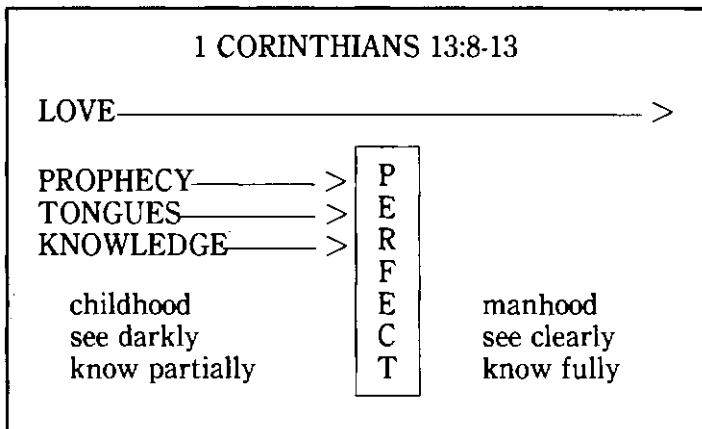
Chart 6.5



All right, let's see another one: all right, love will continue, prophecy, tongues, knowledge (see Chart 6.6). Now Paul said, let me give you an example, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I thought as a child, I understood as a child, but after I became a man, I put away childish things.

I reached manhood, the full-grown stage." Well, what are you saying, Paul? And he would reply, "I'm using that as an example." Here is the church, more or less, in the childhood stage. Truths are being given, inspired men are giving the truth, and books are being written at that time, and miracles

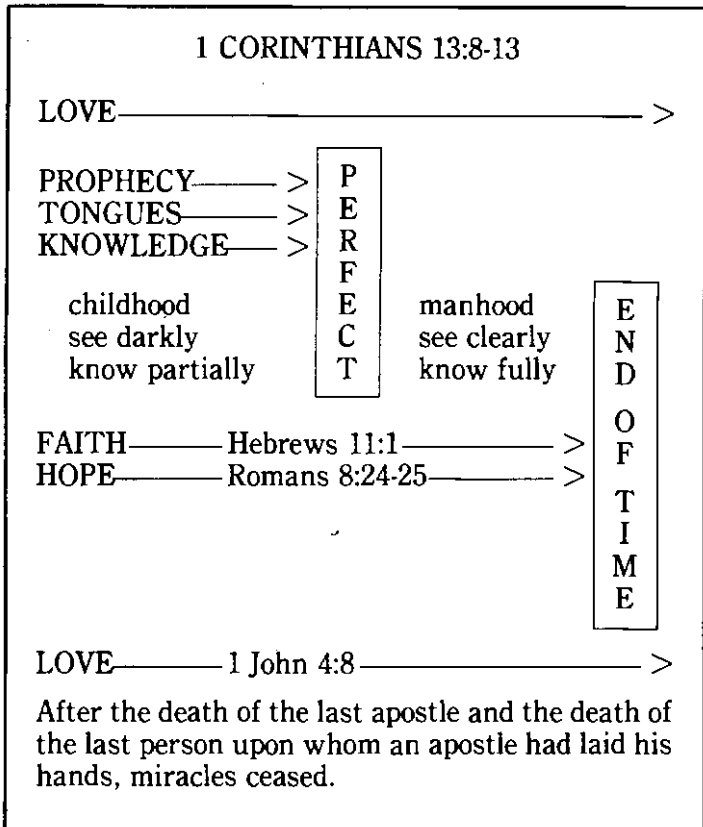
Chart 6.6



are being performed to confirm it. Some have various gifts to speak in different tongues or languages. And that's what the word means — to speak in a foreign language as we would say. And on the day of Pentecost, people heard them in their own tongue or language, wherein they were born. There were those at Corinth, and he dwelled a lot on 1 Cor. 12 on those gifts. Why, they had the gift not only the tongue but the translation or the interpretation. But after becoming a man, I put away the childish things. Well, when all the truth is given, then the church will put away these things that have to do with the revealing and the confirming and the recording of the truth. You grown men aren't wearing diapers tonight, are you? You've reached the full grown stage.

All right, then he said another idea — we see darkly or dimly. But then we'll see clearly, fully. Why, we've got the whole truth: we've got the whole New Testament tonight. All of it has been given to see clearly. And someone asked me, last night, if I would answer a couple of questions tonight. And I said, "I would be glad to." And the two questions are: "Have we reached the unity of the faith?" And I say, exactly so, from Ephesians 4. Then again, "Have you seen Christ face to face?" No, I have not and neither have you. But Paul did not say anything about seeing Christ, face to face. "After I became a man, I put away childish things (verse 12). Now we see through a glass darkly or dimly (it isn't plain or clear)." But then he said, "face to face." Then when? When

Chart 6.7



all the truth has been given. It's just like seeing a man directly, face to face, clearly, distinctly, "When all the truth has been given." "Now I know in part," part by part has been given by these prophecies but "then," then when? When all the truth has been given "shall I know even as also I am known," to be seen, to be clear, to be understood.

And now he says (see Chart 6.7), "abideth faith, hope, charity, these three;" No, that's not the way it ought to read, I suppose. Now abideth faith, hope, charity, miracles, these four; but the greatest of these is charity. It does not say that.

Faith and hope will continue and love, and the greatest of these is charity or love. We have noted, we know partially, we see darkly as in childhood, but then as in manhood — see

clearly, go forward. The end of time, what about it? Well, the end of time faith is going give way to sight, Isn't it? "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." But we are going to see the Lord. We have faith in that which we hope. We hope in that which we expect to see — Romans 8:24, 25. And God is love. So love, yes even in heaven, love will continue. After the death of the last apostle and the death of the last person upon whom an apostle had laid his hand miracles ceased. He tried to make out like that these miraculous gifts are going to continue right on to heaven. All right, then after that then we have faith and hope in heaven, after we see the Lord. Is that the idea about the matter? Now then, in 1 Corinthians 13, Paul did not say, when he, that is Christ who is perfect comes, but when that-neuter-that perfect thing, the complete revelation of God's word. When that which is perfect is come then that which is in part — what were they doing part by part? Teaching God's word by inspired men and performing miracles to confirm it. What about it then? When the completeness, the maturity, all of it comes, well then this part by part stuff will cease, it will be over. And I use the illustration that even children can understand — when a house is being built, you have the scaffolding, but when the building is finished, then that is removed.

Now he has the gifts. And he talked about tongues. I want him to use his gift of interpretation tonight. And I want a man to come to the platform, please, and use my time and for it to be on tape. And I want him to speak in tongues. And I want Peter to give the translation of the tongue and tell you good people just exactly what was said.

Dorsey Traw:

โยฮัน 3 : 16

เพราะว่าพระเจ้าทรงรักโลก , จนได้ประทานพระบุตรองค์เดียวของพระองค์

เพื่อทุกคนที่วางใจในพระบุตรนั้นจะได้ชีวิต , และมีชีวิตนิรันดร์

Perry Cotham: I don't have the gift of interpretation. I cannot translate that for you. But Peter can. I suppose he would say that. But I don't think he can. I don't think he knows. I don't think he can perform a miracle. He cannot open the eyes of the blind who are here tonight. He cannot raise the dead and he will not make an attempt to. And I have my doubts that he will drink what is in this bottle. I have my doubts about that.

Friends, it is sad indeed, I again say, sad indeed when individuals can become so deceived concerning this issue. And when many people give their hard earned money to support something like this. It is not a proper understanding of the word of the Lord. When we all get to heaven, he makes out, then these miracles will all be over and we will see face to face. Paul was not talking about heaven in the context it isn't even mentioned — the second coming of Christ is not even mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13. The whole context of chapter 12 has to do with these miraculous gifts, chapter 13 has to do with the end of these gifts, but "love will continue with faith and hope, but the greatest of these is love," or charity. Heaven, the second coming of Christ is not there.

Then in chapter 14. He asks, "Why spend so much time in chapter 14?" Because it regulates the use of these gifts while they did last and especially in regard to speaking in different tongues or languages. Because they were not conducting themselves as they should. One ought to speak at a time. And if there was no translator then, then the individuals in the audience wouldn't get any benefit out of it. You might as well keep quiet. That is the idea that Paul mentioned.

Yes, he talked about the prophecy is to come, like the resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15. Inspired men told us about the resurrection, sure it is yet in the future, but the truth has already been given by inspired men and recorded and confirmed. Well, that is the way to understand that.

Now then, he makes out like he'd like to have more time. Well, Peter, if you can't do any better than you did tonight, you don't need any more time. And he went on to say that it has nothing to do with the Bible. Oh yes, unity of the faith has to do with the Bible — the completeness, the oneness of the faith. It has to do when you put on the glorified body, he says. Oh no. That comes at the resurrection, of Jesus Christ.

Then he mentioned Philippians 3:12, that Paul's life was stretching forward and looking forward, "forgetting the things which are behind." Well, I know that is true,

concerning Paul's living, but that has nothing to do with miracles continuing on down to the end of time — to the second coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. And I want him to pay some attention to the things that I have asked tonight and to the questions you have noted and the comments you have made and why there is contradiction among those who claim to have miracles.

But I want to turn again and read the language of Jesus Christ as given in the seventh chapter of the book of Matthew concerning the judgment — 22 and 23. "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." And remember Paul's warning in 2 Thessalonians two about lying signs and wonders to deceive people. And the warning that Jesus gave in Matthew chapter 24:24. Thank you so very much.

CHAPTER 7

PETER JOHN

AFFIRMATIVE REBUTTAL

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, continue in the Church today.

Well, you heard it, and you saw it, in black and white. He had it right on the screen. I didn't even have to put it on the screen. The word perfect means the perfect state of all things, to be ushered in by the return of Christ, from heaven. No more comment.

And there it is. He quoted it himself. And tonight when he read it, he didn't deal with face to face being the face of God. If anybody wants to look at this afterward, he can look at it. I've got it all highlighted for you. If anybody's got an open mind and honest heart, he'll see exactly what the Greek word says for the word perfect and for face to face and the word knowledge.

Let's look at the word knowledge real quick. As it talked about, "when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away." Then it says, "we'll know even as we are known." The word know is different than the word known. It is a deeper word. It's an entirely different Greek word as in the knowledge of divine things or an acquaintance or to become generally abreast of the situation. But it is in verse 12 that it is to become thoroughly acquainted with: to know thoroughly, to know accurately, to know well, precise and correct knowledge.

Well, do you know Jesus as well as you would like to know him? Let me ask you that question. There isn't a person sitting in this auditorium who knows Jesus as well as they would like to know him. I want to know Jesus more and more. Paul cried out, he said, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." He says, "I wish that I could be

with the Lord." You see, he was raised up into heaven and saw revelations that were unlawful for him to speak. Paul had all the revelation if any man had it. And he said, "you're going to be judged by my gospel," he says. Not that his gospel was any different than Peter's, but he was talking about what he preached.

And he didn't receive the gospel by the laying on of hands by the other twelve apostles. In fact, if you read in Galatians chapter one, to vindicate his apostleship, he never saw the resurrected Christ in the flesh. He says, in fact, that he never went and saw the other apostles in the space of three years. You see, he received revelation by Jesus Christ himself. And in 1 Corinthians 9:1, he said, "he saw the Lord." Who did he see? He saw by revelation of the Spirit, because Jesus had already ascended into heaven. At that time and before that, what was Paul doing? He was going around persecuting and killing the Christians. That is why he didn't go back and see the apostles right away because he didn't know if they would receive him. So Paul did not receive his apostleship through the other twelve. So if there are no other apostles today then my argument would be that Paul was not an apostle. But we know that is not right. We know he was an apostle.

Now I just want to read a couple of history notes after the so called apostolic age concerning miracles, signs, and wonders concerning knowledge, prophecies, and gifts. Do you remember Irenaeus A.D. 115-202, he was a pupil of Polycarp who was a disciple of the apostle John? In *Against Heresies* in book five, he wrote, quote, "In like manner do we also hear of many brethren in the church who possess prophetic gifts and who through the Spirit speak all kinds of languages and bring mysteries of God whom also the apostles term, spiritual." And of course we know the testimony of Polycarp, even as he was burned at the stake in the second century. And the Lord audibly spoke to him just before he died.

I want to read to you a quote from Tertullian, the Latin church father from A.D. 160-220. "Let Marcion then exhibit, as gifts of his God, some prophet such as have not spoken by human sense but with the Spirit of God such as have predicted things to come and have made manifest the secrets of the heart, let him produce a psalm, a vision, a prayer only let it be by the Spirit in an ecstasy, that is in a rapture, whenever an interpretation of tongues has occurred to him." Now all these signs are forthcoming from my side without

any difficulty and they agree too with the rules, the dispensation, and the instructions with the Creator. If anyone would like to take a look at this afterwards, be my guest.

And of course, miracles and testimonies by the hundreds, by the thousands, in fact there are greater works — more miracles are being done today than ever in the history of the church because there are more people and there are more countries in order to evangelize and preach his word. These have been documented time and time again, but you always have skeptics just like in Jesus' day who don't believe in miracles. All you have to do is list off names like: Kenneth Haggen, Lester Summerall, F.F. Bosworth, William Branum, Smith Wigglesworth, Chris Panoes, H.B. Garlock — well that's a good book, *Before We Kill An Issue: Missionary in Africa*. He'll tell you about some stories. Tiel Osborn, Charles Price, John G. Lake, R. W. Shambock, several of them have raised the dead by the glory of God.

Now, I want to address head-on his challenge. Throughout this debate it was my assumption, which I just violated and that is why I did it, just to show you what I'm talking about, it was not my idea to bring up personal experience or testimonies or names of people in the present day or even to read about the gifts of the Spirit operating from our church fathers, our church historians, church theologians such as Tertullian and so forth — and Justin Martyr had many writings talking of the operations of the gifts of the Spirit in the second century and the third century. It was not my idea to bring up these testimonies, but since brother Perry here has constantly resorted in his arguments of a subjective nature, it just compelled me to do so because he always wants me to do something like drink this bottle. But he doesn't know that the scripture says, "if you drink any deadly thing," that word "if" is a very important word in its regard to the signs following. It is called tempting the Lord thy God. In all he has done both yesterday and today, so far, and I don't know what is coming up next, he has tempted not me but the Lord God Most High. That is who he is tempting. He has not tempted me.

And do you think I am just saying that off the cuff? No, I'm going to deal with objective truth. I am going to deal with what the scriptures say — the scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the apostles continue in the church today. Like I said last night, I don't care if there

were not any miracles or if I never saw a miracle or if miracles never happened — the Bible teaches it. We are not going by what man does with it. Sure there is a lot of scams out there, there's liars, there's demonic "miracles and wonders" in the earth, and basically he is already attributed anything that happens miraculous today is got to be of the devil — at least he surmised that last night. So that means the only one who can do miracles today is the devil? I think that is the height of not only hypocrisy but borderline blasphemy. Jesus is alive and well today on planet earth, folks. There is not doubt about that in my mind.

Now, we're dealing with subjective truth versus objective truth; experience versus the scriptures. The Bible says, "let every man be a liar, but let God be true." "Nothing can be done against the truth, but only for the truth," Paul said in 2 Corinthians 13: which I constantly referred to the word for every statement I make. Nothing can be done against the truth, but only for the truth. "Can I perform miracles," he asked me. He doesn't go to the Bible, he asks me what I can do. He asked, "What about babies dying from no medical attention?" He says he has never seen a miracle; so you'll never see one. Well, that's an opinion, lots of opinions, spurious arguments, in fact. He has nothing to base that on — pure, unadulterated myth. He has nothing to back it up. He even read what the word perfect means, just to give you an example what I'm talking about, from Thayer's, the exact copy that I've got. If you want to read it, we can match notes with it.

Now, lots of opinions and scriptures referred to but no accurate explanation of what they mean. I didn't get any explanation to the word stature or knowledge as it related to Ephesians 4:13. He says it's the system of beliefs. Well, the Bible says in the same chapter just before that "there's one Lord, one faith, and one baptism." They already had a system of beliefs. And then he talked about "til they come" to the unity of the faith. He was talking about a body, the church coming unified under the head of Jesus Christ. The word unity there is the only time it is ever used in the Bible.

Now, he quoted a lot of scriptures concerning miracles or referred to them, I should say, that happen. And they did just that — they happened. You would think that would make evangelist Perry Cotham a believer. The reason I say evangelist is because that is what he's got on his card — evangelist. He told me last night that there are not any

inspired evangelists. Well, I sure wouldn't want an uninspired one, would you?

But by the way, if apostles and prophets have ceased, then evangelists have ceased. I mean, let's be consistent in our theology. Then that means there's no more pastors; there's no more teachers. Just hand out Bibles. The Bible's complete; everybody can understand it, after all, we've got the full revelation, right? I mean that is ludicrous. We need everybody in the body of Christ. He says, "Can you perform miracles; do I have the gift of interpretation to interpret that." The Bible says, "do all have the gift of interpretation?" No, some people are endowed with different gifts. I don't have all the gifts; I don't operate in all the gifts. And besides, the gifts don't operate except as he wills, as I have explained time and time again, and I have heard no response to that. I've quoted scriptures. I am not quoting experience or testimony. And by the way it says in Revelation 19:10, "that the testimony of Jesus Christ" is what? "the spirit of prophecy." The spirit of prophecy — the same Greek word that is used in 1 Cor. 13. Do you testify about your faith in Jesus Christ? Well, that's the spirit of prophecy the Bible says. So what I've got to do is ask the challenging question to brother Perry, our evangelist. And the Bible says that the only evangelist that is described in the Bible is Philip and miracles, signs, and wonders in the eighth chapter of Acts followed his ministry. So if you're an evangelist, you had better have miracles, signs, and wonders since after all, he is always telling me to drink poison, do miracles, and raise the dead. He constantly harps on raising the dead bit. I'm going to explain that one in a minute.

So my question is to him would he believe in miracles if he saw one? Take me down to the cemetery like raising the dead. According to John 9, and I'll let you read it, the blind man that was healed, he was blind from birth, he was interrogated by the Pharisees of old, and they even had to go to his parents and then eventually they kicked him out of the synagogue. According to John 9, I doubt seriously if brother Perry Cotham would believe in miracles if one was performed this night in front of his very eyes. Just like Jesus did constantly, the Pharisees saw it but still didn't believe it.

Now the next thing I would have to say is that according to scriptures with his present perspective on miracles Jesus won't do any for him anyway. So let's turn to Mark 8, since I already quoted Matthew 12:38,39 in regards to tempting the Lord when they said show us a sign, show us a miracle and

Jesus reared back and said, "only a wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign." Jesus didn't do any signs; he wasn't intimidated by that, and I'm not intimidated by it.

Well, let's read another reference to the same thing. Let's find out what the attitude has got to be in order to create miracles if we want a miracle to happen. What type of atmosphere has to be there in the presence of God in order for a miracle to happen? We have to examine all the scriptures to "show ourselves approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth, so we are thoroughly furnished unto every good work." After all the Bible is inspired — isn't that right? — for reproof, correction, and teaching and for instruction. That is what the Bible is there for — to read; not just to quote numbers on an overhead projector.

Let's go into the scriptures. Mark 8, "straightway," verse ten, "he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha." "And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him." See, he did nothing but tempt me, just like the Pharisees of old. But he didn't tempt me, he tempted the Lord. He's going to have to deal with the Lord not me. And the Lord is big enough to take care of this whole situation.

Now, it says in verse 12, Jesus, "And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, 'Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.' And he left them, and entering into the ship . . ." He didn't perform any miracles for them; he didn't want to; he didn't have to, and I don't have to because, after all, if God wants to do it then I'll let him do it because I can't perform any miracles anyway. As you are going to find out as we breeze through the book of Acts, we are going to find passage after passage that we're going to read not just enumerate. We are going to read them. Ok?

Now, Matthew 4, it wasn't only the Pharisees that tempted Jesus it was the devil that tempted Jesus with the same scenario — exactly the same thing. So I ask, is he speaking by the mouth of the Lord or by the mouth of a Pharisee or of the devil? Oh, that's a pretty hard word, but the Bible says in 2 Timothy, "putting on a form of godliness and denying the power thereof: from such withdraw thyself." In Matthew chapter four, Jesus is on a fast coming out of the desert, and he is hungry, which I think we'd all be a little

hungry, don't you think? I'll drink water instead of poison. [Peter John takes a sip from a water glass.] Hallelujah. The water that giveth life, and you'll never thirst again and that's Jesus. And he said, hey, you're the Son of God. Why don't you change this stone here into a loaf of bread? And he said, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Ever going on, ever proceeding, constantly revealing himself, his character and his nature to man and to the church. He always gave them the word: he didn't give them a sign — he didn't do it. He says Jesus, why don't you throw yourself off this cliff. After all it says in Psalm 91 that he will bear you up on angel's wings, isn't that right? Yes. He said, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." He came back with more of the word. Then of course finally he said, why don't you come up to the highest part of the temple here and look over the surroundings and the world. I'll give it to you if you fall down and worship me. Then he said, "You are to worship only the Lord thy God" — the first commandment. Then he left him. The devil left him. He didn't perform any miracles when you've got an attitude like that. No attitude like that will get a miracle from God. That's pure unadulterated unbelief, and it's cynical, it's contempt, that's what it was.

Now, if you've an attitude like in Mark 5:22, brother Perry, I'll go to the cemetery with you anytime, any place, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Do you want to raise the dead? You get the attitude of Jairus, I'll be glad to go raise the dead with you. "And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name;" now this guy was a Pharisee, he was a ruler of the synagogue, "Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live." Now that's the kind of attitude we need to raise the dead. That will get the job done, folks. But not this arrogant, puffed up thing — well, let me see what you got man, let me see if you got the goods. That isn't how you approach Jesus. You approach him with humility and love; believing him for his tender mercies and loving-kindness. That is how you approach Jesus. You come boldly before the throne of grace to accept that in the time of need. I mean that is what we are talking about. And of course you know the rest of the story. But that's the kind of attitude you've got to have. And of course I want to just make mention that they

laughed him to scorn when he said she just sleeps, and then he threw everybody out. Jesus threw all the unbelievers, all the scoffers, all the mockers, threw them all out. The only ones he allowed in were the parents, Peter, James, and John — those that believed and he raised the little girl from the grave, not from the grave but from death. "And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment." That will raise the dead. That will work. But the attitude of showing contempt will never work; that will never produce a miracle. It always takes faith in order to get the job done. Miracles just don't take place, they don't just happen because you want them to, per se, just to show off. This is not a parade; this is not Entertainment Tonight. That is not the purpose of miracles — it is to testify about Jesus and who he is; to confirm the gospel and the power of the resurrection.

The Bible says in 1 John 3:8, here is the purpose of Jesus Christ's coming, "For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, to destroy the works of the devil" and that includes sickness and disease. That was his purpose. Are there devils in the world today? Absolutely. You see him manifesting his work constantly in society today. Bring it up to date. Does that mean we aren't to cast out devils anymore or just get them saved? How do you know they're saved? Galatians 3:13, "Jesus hath redeemed us from the curse of the law . . ." all of them: read about them, they are in Deuteronomy 28. For he was "made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree . . ." All the curses that are listed in Deuteronomy 28, he has redeemed us from them all. Jesus is not only the Messiah, he is the redeemer of sin and of sickness and of the power of the devil. He blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that were against us, that were contrary to us; putting it all away, nailing it to his cross and having spoiled principalities and powers made a show over them, triumphing over them in it. Glory be to Jesus.

He has thoroughly annihilated the power of hell. That is why it says he has the keys of death and hell. "Children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also took part of the same that he might destroy him that has the power of death, that is the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." (Heb. 2:14) That's the work of Jesus. I serve a mighty God; I serve the same Jesus

that crossed the Red Sea and split the waters, and they went up as a heap and they walked through on dry ground. That's the God that I serve; not a weak, back-boneless jellyfish, spineless little wimpy Jesus — plastic that I got on my car. I serve a living Christ for the glory of God and anything less is not Jesus.

Acts 10:38, I've already quoted it, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Galatians 3, we are going to find out what it takes to produce miracles. Paul tells us what it takes; what type of attitude you've got to have; what are the conditions to see a miracle. Galatians 3, of course he starts out with, "O you foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched y o u . . ." you're involved in witchcraft in your legalisms, "that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" How do you receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost? — by faith. "Are you so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are you now made perfect by the flesh? Have you suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" That's how it's done. It's not done any other way. It's always faith that takes the cake. It is faith, the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Without faith it is impossible to please God; you have to believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. The Bible says without faith it is sin. Romans 14:23, "that which is not of faith is sin." That's what the Bible says.

I'm going to quote you the word. Acts 2:22, Jesus was approved by miracles and if Jesus needed approval by miracles, I hope to God I think we need some of them too. After all, he didn't need miracles, he was already God. He didn't have to prove anything. "Ye men of Israel," Peter used it in his sermon on the day of Pentecost, "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved by God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:" to attest of it.

What is the prerequisite to get water baptized? The same thing it takes to get a miracle — you got to repent and believe

the gospel. The gospel is eternal. The sacrifice of Jesus is eternal. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." (Heb. 9:12) It's eternal, it doesn't cease, your salvation goes on for ever and ever and ever — that is what eternal life is: it's eternal. They were pricked in their hearts and said, well what shall we do to be saved, Peter. And he said, "Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38) What Holy Ghost? The same experience in Acts 2:4 when they spoke in tongues. And it says that everyone of them spoke in tongues. Verse 39, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." How far off is it? Until he comes back. He says all of your children, every generation, all of them: that is what he is talking about. And here is the condition, after they saw that, they received his word, "and with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul; any many wonders and signs were done by the apostles."

There was unity in the Spirit. There was no contention about these things. That was the type of thing that was taught to produce miracles — it doesn't just happen. Miracles don't just happen, there has to be a unity of the faith with the body of Christ — with the church, with all of its members; not just solo programs going out and doing your own thing. That is not what it is about. We need everybody in the body of Christ in order to get the job done. That is what 1 Corinthians 12 is all about.

Next, Acts 3:12, real quick we are going to fly through this. After the man at the beautiful gate was healed, "And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this?" what's the big deal, "or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?" It wasn't by what he did, it was by faith in his name — that is what he is talking about. Verse 16, "And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom you see and know: yea, the

faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." It was faith in his name that produced the miracle not by the fact that Peter got up and said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." so he walked away and so he got healed. No, this man believed what Peter was telling him. He says the same thing in the testimony before the scribes again in the fourth chapter verse 10, "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of God, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doeth this man stand here before you whole." Miracles do not just happen, verse 23, they had a prayer meeting after that, a big prayer meeting, "And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests . . ." and as they were praying, they prayed this, "And now Lord," verse 29, "behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled. . ." They had a prayer meeting to produce miracles.

Act 6:8, Stephen, "Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people." Full of faith and power, that is how it gets done. Acts 8:4, and I love this story. We talked about the evangelist, Philip here he is, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where," (after the persecution, after Stephen had been murdered, Paul was there) "preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in the city." I love it, "There was great joy in the city." Oh, he flew away too in verse 39 and 40: he had an air-trip out. Brother Perry probably came in by airplane but he got out supernaturally — that's the New Testament evangelist.

Acts 12, Peter was delivered from jail by a prayer meeting and the angel of the Lord. Act 14:3, shows faith once again. Eight through fifteen, Paul perceived that the man had faith

and was lifted up. But he just didn't walk up to him, bang, there he was, no, he perceived that he had faith. Acts 16:6-10, here he is on the way to Asia, why? He sees a big need, he sees a huge need. So what does he say?

Moderator: Time.

Peter John: The time? All right.

CHAPTER 8

PERRY B. COTHAM

NEGATIVE REBUTTAL

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, continue in the Church today.

Ladies and Gentleman. I am happy to come before you again, for the final speech of this very interesting discussion concerning miracles continuing today. And I would like to say just a few words of appreciation to not only to Peter who has been willing to come and to present his side of the proposition, but especially to this good congregation, that has made possible this spacious building in order for us to have the discussion here. It has been some expense to them with the air-conditioning, and you have been so good to help along that line, and they appreciate it very much. Also, Russell Holden and Lee Groendal have worked with the local preacher here in a very fine way. We appreciate brother N. L. Evans and the congregation here and the other congregations. We appreciate the congregations in the area who have had a part in helping bear some of the expenses of this discussion. I hope that it has been profitable to you and that you will study your Bibles and that you will abide by the teaching of the Lord.

The last few minutes of the talk had to do with miracles being performed by Christ and the apostles. Well, we agree with that. No need to take up all that time and go through all of that. That isn't the point at all. The point has to do, does he have that power tonight to do that? And the answer is no. And nobody knows it any better than he does. And he knows that we know that he doesn't have it. And that isn't all, he's not going to receive it because the word of the Lord has been given and confirmed and recorded. He talked about this is what it takes to work miracles. No, no. It takes the power of

the Lord. He talked about having the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and we want to get to that in just a moment. And certainly Stephen and Philip and others performed miracles, but we are talking about that being done today.

But I want to just give a brief statement again concerning 1 Corinthians 13.1 read from these Greek scholars in regard to reaching maturity or completeness and the meaning of the word also perfect. They did not give the idea that it refers to heaven in any way whatsoever. So he more or less left it violently alone. Friends, Paul was talking about the gifts that we now have — the truth of the Lord being given, part by part. Moffatt I think puts it "bit by bit." The idea is that just like a child finally reaching maturity and then these things will pass. And we see kind of dimly, not clearly but then it will be just like seeing the person face to face. It doesn't have a thing on earth to do with seeing Christ in heaven. And the man puts away childish things when he comes to maturity, so the church will go from the idea of inspired men and miracles in recording the scriptures, when it has all been given.

Now we know this part by part. Know what? The knowledge of God's word and this knowledge is miraculous knowledge as given back over here in chapter 12 as one of the gifts. But then we'll have all the teaching of the Lord. And what will continue? Faith, hope, and love or charity and the greatest of these is charity. Well, so much for that.

He didn't give us the interpretation of that foreign language, did he? Brother Dorsey Traw has spent twenty eight years in Thailand, he knows the Thai language. He quoted John 3:16 in the Thai language and that's all on earth it was. But he didn't know what it was, you didn't know what it was because you didn't know the Thai language. But the Lord enabled the apostles to speak in languages or tongues that they didn't know in that early day to get the gospel to the various parts of the world. Why is it that the Pentecostal missionaries today have to study the languages in these foreign countries to speak to them? Now isn't that amazing? They go over there claiming to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit and things like that and they have got to go to school. And Dorsey has told me this week that he has sat in the class with those people studying the Thai language to learn how to talk to the people. Now why do they do that?

Do you see the inconsistency, the foolishness, the

ridiculousness of this kind of doctrine? And isn't it amazing that intelligent people in the closing part of the 20th century will take up for this and spend a lot of money for TV programs and radio programs to promote this idea. And many times let little innocent children go without medical attention and even die as a result of it. And also that sometimes older ones will quit taking their medicine thinking that they have been cured or healed and then later die as a result of it. It would be good for you to read Dr. Nolan's book, *In Search For A Miracle* from the doctor's standpoint. They have investigated. Certainly, there are people who have more or less psychological conditions or illnesses, and they can help them in making them feel better and they're cured and all like that. So I guess in a real sense, they've got some real cures for imaginary diseases. But they've got imaginary cures for real diseases — no question about that.

Well, I want to review a few things that he had to say and then go to Acts 2:38-39 in regard to miracles and receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is so important. Not only did he mention that last night in his speech but he referred to it again a few moments ago.

Let's have some diagrams before the times goes by (see Chart 8.1). All right, the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now, Peter

Chart 8.1

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1. ACTS 2:38</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Repent B. Baptized C. Remission of sins D. Gift of H.S. | <p>2. ACTS 3:19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Repent B. Be Converted C. Sins blotted out D. Times of refresh, from Lord | <p>3. 1 Cor. 12:13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Hearing Believed Baptized Acts 18:8 B. Bapt. into one body Eph 1:22,23 C. Saved added to church Acts 2:47 D. drink into one Spirit |
|---|---|---|

GIFT OF HS//REFRESH.FROM LORD//DRINK INTO 1 SPIRIT

ALL MEAN THE SAME - PARALLEL

SO, SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION.

"ALL" SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST-

Eph 1:3; Rom 8:16; Rom 6:23; Mk 10:30; Rev 2:10

did not say you will receive the Holy Spirit. He said you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now, the TEV — Today's English Version, a one man's translation, But "you will receive God's gift," comma, "the Holy Spirit." The forty-seven scholars of the King James version put it, "you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." The one hundred and one scholars of the American Standard translation put it, "you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." We've emphasized that the Holy Spirit is a divine person of the Godhead. Personality characteristics are spoken concerning the Holy Spirit — a given individual, as a person. Well, Peter might say, "you come to my house and I will give you so and so." And you get this — and this would be the gift of Peter John. It wouldn't be Peter John as the gift.

All right, the gift of the Holy Spirit — repent, be baptized for the remission of sins, gift of the Holy Spirit — Acts 3:19. Exactly a parallel statement given by the apostle Peter some days later — repent, be converted or Revised Version-turn again which is in baptism, your sins be blotted out, the same thing as remission of sins. And then it says times of refreshing from the Lord — the spiritual blessings from the Lord, that's parallel. In 1 Corinthians 12:13, "by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body . . ." well the Corinthians heard, believed and were baptized, Acts 18:8. They were baptized into the one body as in Ephesians 1:22-23 where it speaks of the church as being the body of Christ and Christ is the head of the body. And in Acts 2:47 it says the saved are added by the Lord to the church but then Paul said, "drink into one Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:13) Well, that's a figurative expression — drink into the blessings provided by the Holy Spirit into this spiritual kingdom, into the Lord's church. The gift of the Holy Spirit, refreshing from the Lord, drink into one Spirit all mean the same in meaning because they are parallel thoughts. So, the spiritual blessings that accompany salvation is what we receive today.

There is no verse of scripture that says people today receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a promise, and I showed you that in charts last night and how the examples on the day of Pentecost, the apostles and then the implication the apostle Paul and then at the household of Cornelius, Acts 10, and reviewed with Peter, Acts 11 — these are the only examples in all the book of Acts. And when Peter referred to it he said, the Holy Spirit fell on them, the Gentiles as on us, us Jews, us apostles, at

the beginning, not as it's been doing all along, since the church was established. Paul said there is one baptism, Ephesians 4:5, after that and that is water baptism in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit for the remission of sins. In Ephesians 1:3, Paul says all spiritual blessings are in Christ and you are in Christ when you are baptized in water for the remission of sins and added by the Lord, your spiritual Father, to the church.

And you have assurance of salvation because the Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. How? Through the word of the Lord — by assuring us of remission of sin. If you are faithful to the end of your life's journey then heaven will be our home and the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, Romans 6:23. And Jesus said in the end you will receive eternal life. And the Lord said to John, Revelation 2:10, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give unto thee the crown of life." Now, it doesn't say anything about receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit or any of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit.

The gift of the Holy Spirit: and manifestations or the measures of the Holy Spirit in John 3:34 (see Chart 8.2). Jesus had the Spirit without measure, that implies others to have the Spirit by measure — various portions of power which the Holy Spirit, a person, has exercised through those endowed — not certainly various amounts of the Spirit himself. Christ received the Spirit without measure. To others the Spirit was given by measure. All right, what do we have? We have the baptismal measure of the Spirit. "But ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence." said Jesus to the apostles just before he ascended. "And you'll receive power, when the Holy Spirit comes" verse 8 and then Acts 2:4 the Holy Spirit came and they were filled with the Spirit and received the power of the Spirit — the Spirit poured out, endued with power from on high. All the idea is the same thing — Luke 24:49.

Now some of the early Christians had various miraculous gifts of the Spirit by the bestowing of these powers through the hands of the apostles. They had that power, and in Romans 1:11 Paul says, "For I long to come to Rome, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift." And then mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12, and they referred to by Christ in Mark 16, the example in Acts 8:6 of Philip and exactly so and Paul in the city of Ephesus laid hands on them. And then all Christians receive the gift of the Holy Spirit which is

Chart 8.2

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MANIFESTATIONS OR MEASURES OF THE SPIRIT-JN 3:34

VARYING PORTIONS OF POWER WHICH HOLY SPIRIT EXERCISED THROUGH THOSE ENDOWED - NOT VARYING AMOUNTS OF THE SPIRIT HIMSELF. CHRIST RECEIVED WITHOUT MEASURE, TO OTHERS SPIRIT GIVEN BY MEASURE.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Baptism (Miraculous) Apostles Acts 1:5, 8 Acts 2:4 Lk 24:49-power Acts 10:45,47 Acts 11:17 | 2. Sp Gifts (Miraculous) Some early Christians Rom 1:11 1 Cor 12 Mk 16:17,18 Acts 8:6,13,18 Acts 19:6 | 3. Ordinary (Non-miraculous) All Christians Acts 2:38 Not Bap or Mir Gifts Not "God's gift, the Holy Spirit" |
|---|--|--|

FIGURE OF SPEECH: METONYMY AS LK 11:13 - GIVER FOR THE GIFTS, MT 7:11.

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS NOT EXERCISED THE SAME INFLUENCE IN ALL CASES.

NOTE: GIFT OF GOD-JN 4:10; ROM 6:23; GIFT OF CHRIST - EPH 4:7; GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-ACTS 2:38

THE MIRACULOUS HAS CEASED. TODAY ALL INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE HUMAN MIND FOR A PERSON'S SALVATION IS ONLY THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD:

Ps 19:7 1 Pt 1:23 1 Pt 2:2 Rev 2:7
Rom 10:17 2 Tim 3:16,17

ALL REFERENCES TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NT ARE NOT REFERRING TO HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM!

ACTS 2:38 DOES NOT SAY HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM!

non-miraculous; these blessings from the Lord: salvation in Christ — we partake of the divine nature said Peter in 2 Peter 1, not God's gift the Holy Spirit, certainly a figure of speech, metonymy. And in Luke 11:13 giver for the gifts and paralleled in Matthew 7:11. The Holy Spirit does not exercise the same influence in all cases.

You know sometimes we have from the Lord a light shower of rain, a blessing; and then sometimes we have two or three inches; and then sometimes in Texas we get a gully-washer; but it's all rain, and so the apostles have more power than these who had miraculous gifts, because they could not hand it on down to somebody else.

But today no one has any miraculous gifts of the Spirit. And so, how long were these to be? Well, until the truth was given and then confirmed. We read in Ephesians 4:7, the gift of Christ and also in John 4:10, the gift of God. Not God as a gift, not Christ as a gift, but what the Lord gives; and so "the gift of the Holy Spirit." The miraculous has ceased. Now notice, today all influence of the Holy Spirit upon the human mind for a person's salvation is only through the word of God. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. Born again by the word and we grow by the word of the Lord, desiring the sincere milk of the word. Rev. 2:7, "Hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." when John closed the letter. Everyone of those letters, "hear what the Spirit says to the churches." How was the Spirit saying those things to the churches? In the letters — "by these words." Rom. 10:17, Faith comes by hearing God's word. So Paul could say, all scripture is given by inspiration of God — profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works — all that we need. We don't need the baptism of the Holy Spirit today. We have the truth of the Lord. We don't need any of these miraculous gifts today — and no one has them. We have the complete message of the Lord: we can read it and study it and believe it and obey it.

All references to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament are not referring to Holy Spirit baptism. Every time they read about the Holy Spirit, that is Holy Spirit baptism in their minds. They cannot see anything else. In Acts 2:38, does not say Holy Spirit baptism and Acts 2:39 does not say Holy Spirit baptism. The promise, what promise?, the promise included in the blessing that I have explained to you and your children — your descendants and to all that are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call.

All right, let's go to another chart (see Chart 8.3). There are only two ways, since the Lord's church as been established, that people have been directed by the Holy Spirit: in the miraculous, extra-ordinary ways, baptism of the Holy Spirit — and no one possesses this today — and by the laying on of hands of the apostles — and no one possesses this today. So the influence of the Holy Spirit today comes upon people in what we could call ordinary or non-miraculous, by or through the influence of the word, or by the Spirit's message — the

Chart 8.3

THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS
IN WHICH MEN HAVE BEEN DIRECTED
BY THE HOLY SPIRIT!

1. MIRACULOUS - (EXTRAORDINARY).
 - A. BY BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
(No one possesses this today!)
 - B. BY LAYING ON OF THE APOSTLES'
HANDS. (No one possesses this today!)
2. NON-MIRACULOUS - (ORDINARY).
BY (THROUGH) THE WORD THE SPIRIT
HAS GIVEN.

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THE HOLY SPIRIT
OPERATES ON MAN FOR HIS SALVATION!

Spirit has given the word, confirmed the word, influences today through the reading of the word of the Lord. This is the only way the Holy Spirit operates on the heart of man today for his salvation.

Let's go to another one (see Chart 8.4). Well he mentioned, "I don't have to prove that I can perform miracles." Well, Paul did. In 1 Corinthians 2:4, Paul's was in demonstration of the Spirit and power. And he mentioned also, in chapter one, as you know, that you've come behind in no gift; waiting for the Lord. But that doesn't mean that the miracles will continue until the Lord comes — you have these gifts, now you're waiting. Well, certainly they were back then — we are waiting for the Lord's coming now, but we do not have those gifts. The very idea, trying to put a meaning like that. Paul said prove all things and hold fast to that which is good (1 Thess. 5:21). That's what I'd like to do, but he won't drink the bottle, and he doesn't want to go to the cemetery. He finally did say, well if you get humble, so on and so forth, then I'll go. Well, the very idea, He knows he can find some way to get out of it. Jesus was approved by miracles, wonders and signs, and they saw him do those things (Acts 2:22). And

Chart 8.4

"I DON'T HAVE TO PROVE
I CAN PERFORM MIRACLES."

1 Cor 2:4 — Paul's preaching was in demonstration
of the Spirit's power.

1 Thess 5:21 — Prove all things

Acts 2:22 — Jesus approved by miracles

Acts 2:43 — Apostles wrought miracles, signs

Acts 5:12 — Apostles-many signs and wonders

Rom 15:18-19 — mighty signs, wonders, power of
God, to make Gentiles obedient

"BUT I'LL BE TESTING GOD."

Paul, Jesus, Elijah, etc. did not so claim.

2 Cor 12:12 — signs wrought among you

Prov 25:14 — "He who boasts himself of a false
gift, is like clouds and wind with-
out rain."

Acts 2:43, the apostles wrought wonders and signs, and they saw them. Acts 5:12, the apostles wrought many signs and wonders. And through mighty signs and wonders and power of the Spirit of God to make the Gentiles obedient, said the apostle Paul (Rom. 15:18,19).

Well, sometimes they say: "Why, you'll be testing God, putting Him to a test." What about Paul, did he say that? So he could refuse to perform miracles? What about Jesus — you'll be putting me to a test? In regard to the temptation of Christ — the Lord had a reason for not yielding to the devil, upon that occasion. But Jesus did perform many miracles after that. In fact, he took the loaves and the fishes and multiplied them and fed the 5,000 men, didn't he? Elijah performed miracles and did not so claim that it would be testing God. Second Corinthians 12:12, Paul said that he had wrought "many signs among you." The signs were "wrought among you." The signs of an apostle were written in a book of what happened way over yonder in India or somewhere

else and I can read it to you? No, he said they were wrought among you. You never have seen a miracle and that's not all; you never will. Proverbs 25:14, "He who boasts himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain." Nothing to it.

Let's go to another one (see Chart 8.5). I'm sorry to say, but that's exactly his condition. Now, I want you to see very quickly how the Holy Spirit operates. Things are said about the Spirit of God, and things are said about the Word of God. The Holy Spirit uses the word, and the Holy Spirit works through the word today. We are born of the Spirit, but that's not Holy Spirit baptism though. But by the Spirit's message we are begotten by the Spirit, born of the word of God — we receive faith by the word of the Lord. The Holy Spirit quickens. And "you have been quickened," said Paul to the Ephesians, but how? The word of God quickens. "And when they heard this," on the day of Pentecost, "they were pricked in their heart" (Acts 2:37). And "the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7). Jesus said the Holy Spirit when he comes will convict of sin, reprove sin (John 16:18). Paul said the word of God will reprove (2 Timothy 3:16). And then to the Thessalonians and to the Corinthians he talks about being cleansed by or sanctified by the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:13, 1 Corinthians 6:11). But Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). See, same thing, not the Holy Spirit does it, and then sometimes the word does it, but the Holy Spirit does it through the word or by means of the word. Then the Holy Spirit gives strength, strengthens the inner man by the Spirit (Ephesians 3:16). But "desire the sincere milk of the word, so that you may grow (and get stronger) thereby" (1 Peter 2:2). "I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up . . ." said Paul (Acts 20:32). The Galatians bring forth the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23), but in Colossians 1:5,6, Paul talks about the fruit being born by the word of the Lord. And in Romans 8:14, the Spirit leads, guides, or directs, but David says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105,130). "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory" (Psalm 73:24). No baptism of the Holy Spirit. No miraculous gifts of the Spirit.

All right, the Spirit of the Lord in-dwells in us — "be filled with the Spirit" is a command, and the Spirit dwells within us (Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19). But how? Be filled with the word of God; "let the word of Christ dwell in you

Chart 8.5

| HOLY SPIRIT | HOW? | THE WRITTEN WORD |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. John 3:5 (Not H.S. Baptism!) | THEIR WORK BORN OF | 1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18; 1 Cor 4:15 1 John 5:1 Romans 10:17 |
| 2. John 6:63 Ephesians 2:1 | QUICKENS | Ps 119:50, 93; Acts 2:37; Psalm 19:7 |
| 3. John 16:18 | CONVICTS OF SIN (same as REPROVE!) | 2 Timothy 3:16 |
| 4. 2 Thess 2:13 1 Cor 6:11 | SANCTIFIES | John 17:17 |
| 5. Eph 3:16 | GIVES STRENGTH | Acts 20:32; 1 Peter 2:2 |
| 6. Gal 5:22,23 | BRINGS FRUIT | Col 1:5, 6 |
| 7. Rom 8:14 | LEADS (GUIDES) | Psa 119:105, 130 73:24 |
| 8. Eph 5:18 1 Cor 6:19 | INDWELLS Eph 3:17 | Col 3:16; |
| 9. Acts 9:31 | COMFORTS | Rom 10:17; 15:4 1 Thess 4:18 |
| NOTE: THERE ARE NO SPECIAL, DIRECT INFLUENCES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON ANY PERSON FOR HIS SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION! Romans 1:16 | | |

richly" (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 3:17). And that's a teaching of the Bible. Then again the word of God comforts. And we all get comfort from the Spirit (Acts 9:31). Yes, but Paul said, "comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18) Again, there are no special, direct influences of the Holy Spirit on any person for his salvation and sanctification. No wonder then Paul could say, "I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth" (Romans 1:16).

Now, let's go to another (see Chart 8.6). God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit in-dwell today. God dwells in us, Christ dwells in us: "Christ may dwell in your heart." But how? "By faith," Eph. 3:17. How does faith come? "By hearing God's word," Rom. 10:17. "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). The Holy Spirit dwells in us. Certainly so, but how? Through obedience to the word, when we love this

Chart 8.6

GOD - CHRIST - HOLY SPIRIT INDWELL

1. GOD - 1 Jn 4:12, 13, 15, 16; 2 Cor 6:16
2. CHRIST - Col 1:27; Jn 14:23; Eph 3:17;
Rom 10:17
3. HOLY SPIRIT - 1 Cor 6:18; 3:16; Rom 8:9,11

HOW?

THROUGH OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD!

Parallel < Eph 5:18,19 "filled with Spirit"
Col 3:16 "word dwell in you"

ALL THREE DWELL IN A CHRISTIAN THE SAME WAY:

By faith — as we cherish in our minds the words of Christ.

QUESTION

What does the Holy Spirit do in a Christian that is not done by the Spirit through the word?

word, obey this word, and follow the teachings of the Holy Spirit's message as given, then the Holy Spirit is leading and guiding and directing us — it's not some direct way — anyway what-so-ever. These are parallel, "be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18, 19) and "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col. 3:16). All three — God, Christ, the Holy Spirit dwell in Christians the same way. The Godhead indwells through our obedience to the Lord, or as Paul explains in Eph. 3:17, through faith, and faith comes by hearing God's word. So as we cherish in our minds the word of Christ and obey the Lord. Here is a question: What does the Holy Spirit do in a Christian today that is not done by the Spirit through the word in leading and guiding and directing him? It is through the word.

Let's have another one (see Chart 8.7). I want you to see how many baptisms today. Two baptisms at Pentecost. Apostles were baptized of the Holy Spirit, and Peter demanded

Chart 8.7

HOW MANY BAPTISMS TODAY?

1. Two baptisms at Pentecost — A.D. 33, apostles baptized of the Holy Spirit [Acts 1:4,5; 2:1-4 (Jews)]

People commanded to be baptized in water for remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

2. Two baptisms at Caesarea — A.D. 41, Cornelius and his household baptized with the Holy Spirit [Acts 10:44, 45; Acts 11:15,16 (Gentiles)]

Peter commanded them to be baptized in water for salvation (Acts 10:47, 48; 11:14).

3. By A.D. 62, "One Baptism" (Eph 4:5).

4. "All Flesh" - Joel 2:28 - fulfilled. Jews & Gentiles. No Holy Spirit baptism today.

5. Christ the administrator of the Holy Spirit baptism (Matt 3:11).

Man of water baptism (Matt. 28:19).

But on the day of Pentecost did all those who were baptized with the Holy Spirit also get baptized with fire?

The fire will come at the day of judgment (Matt 25:46; 3:12; Acts 1:5; Rev 20:10,15).

people to be baptized in water for the remission of sin. Two baptisms in Caesarea at the household of Cornelius, baptized of the Holy Spirit, and then he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. All right, about A.D. 62, one baptism. This is water baptism unto the end of time. Go and teach and baptize. Yes, Joel said he will pour out his Spirit upon all flesh — that is both Jew and Gentile. But not Holy Spirit baptism today. Peter on Pentecost said, "this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel."

All right, Christ is the administrator of Holy Spirit baptism, "he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." But man teaches and immerses. You go, you teach, you baptize in the

name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. But on the day of Pentecost, did all of those who were baptized with the Holy Spirit also get baptized with fire? Of course not. The fire will come at the end of time, at the day of judgment, when the wicked will be cast into everlasting punishment. That's when the fire is going to come, and I don't want that.

All right, let's go to something else (see Chart 8.8). Now, here is a brief outline concerning tongue speaking — miraculous power of the Holy Spirit to speak in a human language. But some people knew. They know Thai in Thailand, but we don't know it over here. But, if I had the baptism of the Holy Spirit I could go over there and speak the Thai language without ever having to study it and learn it. And if I had the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I could give the translation of the Thai language into English, but I can't do either one. Now the language is not unknown to anyone. Look at those verses in Acts 2:6-8, "every man heard them speak in his own tongue, his own language, wherein he was born" — the language known and understood by the hearers — not jabbering. It was not gibberishness, not at all, and not unintelligible sound or jabber. Today you can prove it. A good place to go would be the United Nations assembly in New York. You could just be a translator. Here are the facts concerning speaking in tongues from Mark 16:17, from Acts 2:4,6,8, and also, Cornelius in Acts 10, Paul laying hands on some in Acts 19, and then the statements given by Paul in 1 Cor. 12. These are to cease when the perfect, the perfect thing that thing, not Christ, not heaven, the truth of the Lord. Chapter 14, How do you use them while they last. The translation was to be understood in order that the people might understand in the prayers and the singing and the teaching. In Thailand if we have several English people, we have a song, we tell them what it is in English; we have a prayer, someone translates the prayer; we have a sermon and if Dorsey doesn't come to the pulpit, the local Thai preacher comes to the pulpit; he translates for me. I'll say a few words and he gives the translation. Well, I can understand that. It's not unknown in the sense that nobody anywhere knows it. It's not a special prayer language of the Lord. It's a man's language and intended to be understood by men. And when people could do that without studying the language, that was a sign to the unbeliever of miraculous power. But no one has this miraculous gift today — the ability to speak in a foreign language without studying it. Men today cannot speak in

Chart 8.8

TONGUE SPEAKING

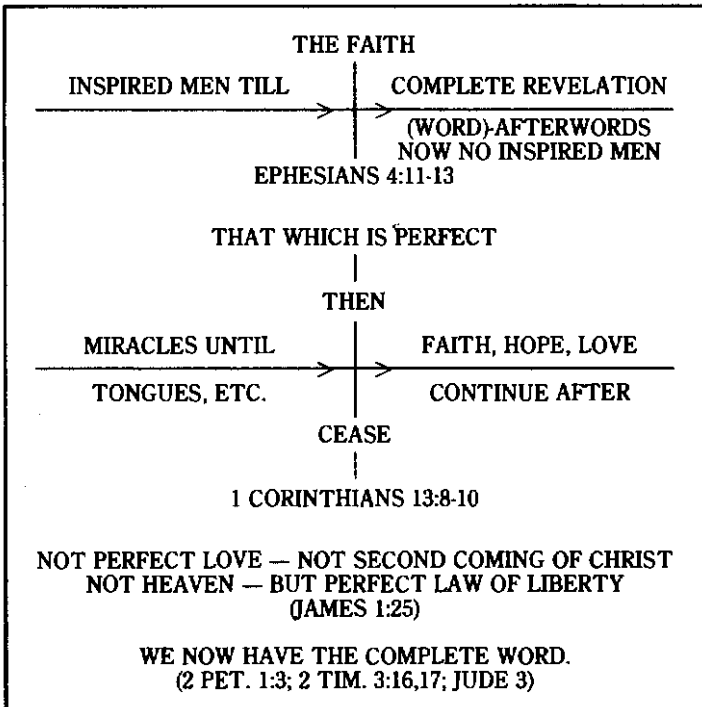
1. Miraculous power of the Holy Spirit
Tongue (glossa): 1) Physical organ
2) Human language
Not a language unknown to anyone. Acts 2:4,6,8
2. A language known and understood by the hearer, but unknown by the speaker — never known or spoken before.
3. *Not* unintelligent sounds, jabber.
4. If today — *Prove* it! Go to the United Nations Assembly in N.Y.
5. Texts:
 - *Mark 16:17—Speak new tongues
 - *Acts 2:4,6,8—other tongues, languages (Apostles)
 - *Acts 10:44-46—Speak in tongues (Gentiles)
 - *Acts 19:6—Spake with tongues (Paul, hands)
 - *1 Cor 12:10—Kinds of tongues; Interpretation
 - *1 Cor 13:8—To cease; perfect *thing*
 - *1 Cor 14—How to use while last
6. Translation so people could understand in public service.
1 Cor 14:27, 28 prayers-singing-teaching
7. "Unknown" tongue — foreign language
1 Cor 14:2 *To* man and intended to be *understood* by men v. 9.
8. A *Sign* - v. 22; Heb. 2:3, 4
9. No one has this miraculous gift — miraculous ability to speak a foreign language.

MEN TODAY *CANNOT* SPEAK IN "*TONGUES*"
AS WAS DONE IN THE EARLY CHURCH!
MIRACLES HAVE CEASED!

tongues as was done by the early church and the apostles. Miracles have ceased — all of them and this one included.

Let's get another one here (see Chart 8.9). All right, right here again. This diagram — Inspired men until the completeness of the faith, and remember the word here means mature, complete, lacking in nothing, full in every way. Now there are no inspired men, but we have the inspired word; that's what it says. Again, miracles — tongues, miraculous knowledge, so forth. "So when that which is perfect comes then," what about it? "these things will cease." Faith, hope, and love will continue after that for now we have the complete word of God. Not perfect love, not the second coming of Christ, not heaven, not seeing Jesus, but perfect law of liberty. And remember now that Thayer gives (James 1:25) as one of the references in regard to perfect. We now have the complete word of God, 2 Peter 1:3, "all things that pertain unto life and godliness," and the word of God "is able to furnish us completely unto every good work," "contend

Chart 8.9



earnestly" then for "the faith which has been once, once for all delivered unto the saints."

Since the purpose of miracles or miraculous gifts has been fulfilled to reveal and confirm the truth, these gifts have ceased (see Chart 8.10). The truth, once confirmed, is confirmed forever. We have the written inspired word to make believers today.

Chart 8.10

NOTES

1. SINCE THE PURPOSE OF MIRACULOUS GIFTS HAS BEEN FULFILLED, TO **REVEAL** AND **CONFIRM** THE TRUTH, THESE GIFTS HAVE CEASED. (MK. 16:20; HEB. 2:3,4; JUDE 3; EPH. 3:3-5; JOHN 16:13)

THE TRUTH ONCE CONFIRMED IS CONFIRMED FOREVER.

WE HAVE THE WRITTEN INSPIRED WORD TO MAKE BELIEVERS. (JOHN 20:30,31)

2. **THE MEANS OF OBTAINING MIRACULOUS GIFTS HAS CEASED.** NO APOSTLES ARE LIVING TODAY TO PERFORM THESE SIGNS, OR TO IMPART THESE GIFTS; AND NO HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM TODAY. (EPH. 4:5)

AND NO ONE LIVING TODAY WHO RECEIVED A MIRACULOUS GIFT FROM AN APOSTLE.

3. SO WHEN THE LAST APOSTLE DIED AND THE LAST PERSON UPON WHOM THE APOSTLES LAID HANDS DIED THERE WAS NO ONE WHO COULD PERFORM MIRACLES!
4. CLAIMERS WERE TO BE TESTED. (1 JOHN 4:1; REV. 2:2)

Number two, the means of obtaining miraculous gifts has ceased. No apostles are living today to perform these signs or to impart various miraculous gifts to people and no Holy Spirit baptism today. And no one living today who has received a miraculous gift from an apostle. So, when the last apostle died and the last person upon whom the apostles laid

Chart 8.11

| HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM vs. WATER BAPTISM | |
|---|---|
| 1. Spirit — element Acts 15 | 1. Water-element Acts 8:36,38 Jn 3:23 |
| 2. By Christ Jn 1:33,16:7 | 2. By men (Disciples) Mt 28:19 Acts 8:38 |
| 3. A promise received Lk 24:49; Acts 2:1-4 | 3. Command to be obeyed. Acts 2:38; 10:48 |
| 4. To reveal, confirm truth — Jn 16:13 Heb 2:3,4; Mk 16:20 | 4. For remission of sins — Acts 2:38 Mk 16:16 1 Pet. 3:21 |
| 5. In no name Mt 3:11 | 5. Into name of Father, Son & Holy Spirit Mt 28:19 Acts 2:38 |
| 6. Not buried and raised in. Acts 2:1-4 | 6. Buried and raised in Rom. 6:3,4 |
| 7. Figurative Lk 24:49; Acts 2:4; 10:45 | 7. Literal Acts 8:38 |
| 8. No longer needed Jn 16:13; Jude 3 | 8. So long as need salvation 2 Tim 2:10; Mk 16:16 Gal 3:27 |
| 9. Ceased by A.D. 64 Eph. 4:5 | 9. Continues — end of world Mt 28:19,20 |
| <p>WATER BAPTISM IS THE ONE BAPTISM TODAY! <i>Two</i> at Pentecost — 30 A.D. <i>Two</i> at Caesarea — 40 A.D. <i>One</i> by 64 A.D.!</p> <p>HOW MANY BAPTISMS TODAY?</p> | |

hands died, there was no one who could perform miracles. They ceased. Paul said they will cease; they have ceased. And remember the Holy Spirit said you test, you try those that claim, don't believe every spirit, but try the spirits because many false prophets have gone out into the world. Remember that Jesus said through John, you tried those that said, "we are apostles," and found them to be liars (Rev. 2:2).

Let's have another (see Chart 8.11). This is very important — Holy Spirit baptism versus water baptism. A brief outline that was given last night, for the benefit of those who were not here last night, we have the two by contrast. Holy Spirit baptism is a promise of the Lord to reveal, confirm the truth. In contrast, water baptism is commanded for remission of sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Water baptism is the one baptism today.

Let's go to another one if we have time (see Chart 8.12). Holy Spirit, Miracles, Signs, Then and Now. The lame man and all like that. He talked about those things. The point is,

Chart 8.12

| HOLY SPIRIT - MIRACLES — SIGNS | |
|---|--|
| THEN VS. NOW | |
| <i>Genuine Miracles</i> Before People | <i>Nothing But Mere Claims</i> Only Words |
| 1. Healed Lame Man Acts 3:11 | 1. ? |
| 2. Caused People to Die Acts 5:1-11 | 2. ? |
| 3. Conferred Miraculous Power Acts 8:17 | 3. ? |
| 4. Raised the Dead Acts 9:36-42; Acts 20:10 | 4. ? <i>No Demonstrations</i> 1 Cor. 2:4 |
| 5. Blinded People Acts 13:11 | 5. ? 2 Cor. 12:12 1 Thess. 1:5 |
| 6. Used Handkerchiefs & Aprons Acts 19:12 | 6. ? **NEVER SEEN** **JUST ONE?* |
| 7. Viper Bite — No Harm Acts 28:3-6 | 7. ? |
| 8. Many Wonders & Signs Acts 2:43; 5:12 | 8. ? |

he has nothing but words; no demonstrations. You've never seen one. And we want just one. We believe they happened, but we do not believe there are so called miracles today. And the Lord warned against it. And **I** again say 2 Thessalonians 2.

Do we have another one? This is so important right here. This concludes then, maybe one more or two more as the time continues. Nothing left? All right, thank you. **I** want to ask of you in a kind way tonight to let us pray for these individuals who are wrapped up in this emotionalism who are so deceived and especially for the children and the young people.

Okay. Time is up. Thank you so very much.

CHAPTER 9

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Questions from the audience were submitted in writing. The questions were read by N. L. Evans of the Eastern Avenue Church of Christ and Russ Holden of the Grandville Church of Christ.

COTHAM: . . . Christians, and my mother read to me when I was just a little boy. And, I obeyed the gospel young in life. I just always wanted to preach. I want to thank brother Harris for coming all the way from Murray, Kentucky to make these tapes, you have mentioned that he has them, and Jack Crowfoot from the Portage congregation in Kalamazoo to help along that line. And these brethren have gone to a lot of trouble and expense to do that. Do you want Peter to say anything concerning that?

EVANS: No this says directed to Perry C o t h a m . . .

COTHAM: Okay, directed to me.

EVANS: Was there a calling in your life by God?

JOHN: In regards to his calling? His calling or to me?

EVANS: . . .directed to Cotham.

COTHAM: To me, okay, was I called of God? Yes, indirectly, I guess you could s a y . . . not some kind of a vision or something like that. You know Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:2 to Timothy, "You will hand down these truths to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." And so in God's providence, I would say, but not in some kind of a miraculous call.

EVANS: Would you consider this as direct, inspired revelation from God?

COTHAM: No, I would not.

HOLDEN: This one is directed to Peter. If faith was

necessary for a miracle to be performed, was it the faith of the healer, or the one healed, or both? And this is the follow up. If faith is necessary for a healing to occur, how do you explain the instances where healing took place without faith, such as the lame man in Acts 3, who expected no healing, and the occasions where there was faith but no healing — Paul's thorn in the flesh which was not removed.

JOHN: Well, that's my point that I have been making the last two days. In fact, I covered Acts 3 in my last presentation, that the man who was at the Gate of Beautiful expected to receive something. And it says in verse 16 that it was his faith in the name of Jesus that made the man whole. And then Peter referred to that again in Acts 4:10. Now in regards to the, what was the last part of that on the lack?

HOLDEN: Why were miracles performed in cases where the person upon whom the miracle performed did not necessarily have faith?

JOHN: Read the last part of that.

HOLDEN: I'll read the second one again. If faith is necessary for a healing to occur, how do you explain the instances where healing took place without faith, such as the lame man in Acts 3, who expected no healing, and the occasions where there was faith but no healing — Paul's thorn in the flesh which was not removed.

JOHN: Okay, well it's like in 2 Timothy 4:20. Trophimus was left sick there, by whom? By Paul. So, I don't know why he wasn't healed. Like the scriptures say in 1 Corinthians 12:28-31, "Do all have the gifts of healing?" No. They operate as He wills as far as the gifts are concerned. Faith is always required to receive healing.

COTHAM: I'd like to reply to that last statement which Peter made: "Faith is always required to have healing." In Mark 2, you have four men who brought a person to Jesus. The Bible says and when Christ saw their faith, he healed the individual. Nothing is said of that man's faith at all. And I wonder how much faith Lazarus had in the tomb after he had been there for four days and his body stinking, and he is brought back.

JOHN: Can I respond to that? Mark chapter 2, in fact that was a real good point, because the man did have faith, not only did he see these four men who brought him down through the hole in the roof on a stretcher, but also the first

thing that Jesus addressed concerning this man was that his sins were forgiven. He says, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." And then of course, Jesus knowing the thoughts of the Pharisees who said, "Well, how dare this man. He's a... only God can forgive sins." And then Jesus turned around to him with a word of knowledge and said, "God can forgive sins, is it any harder for me to say to this man take up your bed, rise up, and walk or to forgive him of his sins?" So obviously, he had faith. He received forgiveness of sins. He believed in Jesus. You can't have forgiveness of sins without believing in Jesus, is that not right? So obviously, he believed for his healing for the faith to be forgiven of sin is the same as it is to be healed.

COTHAM: The Bible teaches that when Christ was on earth, he had the power to forgive sins, and that is in that context, as he wanted to, okay?

EVANS: The next question is directed to both. In Samaria, please explain why Philip had not imparted the Holy Ghost on these new converts? -

COTHAM: All right, Philip did not impart the miraculous gifts on the new converts in Samaria, because he couldn't. No one who received a gift from an apostle ever did hand on down to someone else a miraculous gift. Therefore, the apostles came down from Jerusalem to do that.

JOHN: Once again there is diversities of administrations of the same Spirit. God does things the way he wants to do it, when he wants to do it. In regards to the eight chapter, Philip had his ministry as an evangelist. He was not an apostle. Sure they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. But what about in Acts 10, where Peter was just preaching the word, and while they yet heard the word, the Holy Ghost fell on them. For why, because they heard them speak with other tongues and magnify the devil. Well no. It says magnify God. And then it says . . . after that he says shall these men forbid water that they should be baptized. And notice what name they did it in — in the name of Jesus. But anyway, in Acts 2, nobody laid hands on anybody. The Holy Ghost did it all by himself — 120 of them. There were only 12 apostles. What's 120 minus 12? So there was 108 who received the Holy Ghost without the laying on of hands of the apostles.

COTHAM: None but the apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The last noun in Acts 1 is

that "Matthias was named with the eleven apostles." Then you go right on, " And when the day of Pentecost was now come, they," a pronoun must agree with its noun in person and number and gender, they meaning the apostles. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, only the apostles. You go right on it's they — the apostles. Nothing was said about the 120 receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Now in regard to Cornelius, Peter says it fell on them as on us at the beginning — that was Holy Spirit baptism. Man did not administer Holy Spirit baptism. Jesus did. John said, "He shall baptize you."

HOLDEN: This one is addressed to Peter. It is in two parts. What is the purpose of miracles today? It seems to me New Testament miracles were used to show a lot of people God's power and supremacy. If you yourself feel that you do miracles, who learns this outside the congregation who sees it, if only people who are already believers witness it?

JOHN: In John 5:20, although there are many other verses you could cross reference with this, testifies to the reason for miracles. You are going to have to read for me the last half of that question or the second question that relates to this. In verse 20, it says: "For the Lord or the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth; and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel." In verse 36 it says, "But I have greater witness than that of John; for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." That's the purpose of miracles and to confirm the word with signs following as it says in Mark 16:20. They went forth preaching the word of God and God was working with them, confirming the word with signs following. And then in Matthew 28:20, it says "lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." It is the same context, the same great commission, he says I am with you doing these things until the end of the age. Proof positive.

COTHAM: The idea of the question is why do you have the miracles today, not why Christ had them. But why do you have them today? "Lo, I am with you always" had to do with preaching and not with people continuing to work the miracles on down to the end of the age. If I understood the question correctly. Did that answer?

HOLDEN: The latter part of the question was: What purpose does it serve, if it occurs only in the assembly of believers.

JOHN: If it only occurs when?

HOLDEN: In the assembly of believers.

JOHN: Well it doesn't.

HOLDEN: You were saying last night it couldn't be done, because there wasn't enough who believed.

JOHN: No, that isn't what I said. If there is doubt and unbelief present and everyone is against it, and somebody is using like the Pharisees came before Jesus trying to prove themselves in an arrogant manner like they were, Jesus isn't going to do anything in relationship to that. Certainly not a miracle.

COTHAM: The question was what benefit would believers get out of it, because it says "tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not" (1 Cor. 14:22). So it is the unbeliever that receives the benefit from it, and not the believers.

HOLDEN: This will be our last question because of the our time limit. This one is addressed to Peter. You say the one who upon baptism will speak in tongues, is that correct?

JOHN: One that will what?

HOLDEN: That one upon baptism will speak in tongues.

JOHN: Right.

HOLDEN: If yes, who is right, the Bible or you? The Bible states not all speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 12).

JOHN: Right, in 1 Corinthians 12 he talks about the gifts as they operate within the church, the gift of tongues within the assembly. He enumerates that over and over in 1 Corinthians 14. Now, as far as all speaking in tongues, all the way through the book of Acts initially speaking, Acts chapter 2, Acts chapter 8, Acts chapter 10 and also 11 that confirms chapter 10, Acts chapter 19. In every single place in the New Testament in the book of Acts, you will always find them speaking in tongues when they receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which by the way was a good 20 to 30 years after Pentecost. It was still going on. In the book of Acts, by the way I might mention — I wanted to bring this out, is the only book in the New Testament that doesn't end with an amen.

COTHAM: Okay, I want to reply to that just a minute or two, please. In Acts 2 and Acts 10, you have the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 19, Paul laid his hands on some who spake in tongues. I had all the scriptures on the diagram.

Nothing is said about speaking in tongues in Acts 8 at all. But again, the Pentecostal manual — and I have it — says that you are baptized in water, receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the sign of it is speaking in tongues. The idea is that all those who are baptized in water and baptized in the Holy Spirit speak in tongues as an evidence of it. And yet the question was in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul asks the rhetorical question. Are all apostles? No. Do all speak in tongues? No. All didn't, no one spoke in tongues unless he had received the miraculous gift by the laying on of the apostle's hands. Now Peter, you said there's no book in the New Testament that doesn't have the word, amen, after it except Acts. I believe that's correct.

JOHN: In the New Testament.

COTHAM: In the New Testament. All right, now you pick up your New Testament, look at the end of James, and you look at the end of 3 John. Do you have a New Testament there in the pew? I'm talking about the King James translation, put out by the American Bible Society, some of you may have the American Standard translation. 3 John does not have an amen at the close.

JOHN: I stand corrected on that.

COTHAM: Now then, I taught him something. All right.

JOHN: That's one notch for you.

COTHAM: Now the book of James, here's the book of James, Peter. There's no amen there. Peter, just look at the New Testament, when you read it, please. Are there any more questions?

HOLDEN: They tell that there is a little bit more time. This question is addressed to Perry. Under the old covenant, God revealed himself as "I am the Lord who heals you" (Exodus 15:26). However in the book of Hebrews 8:6, it is written that we have a new covenant, a better covenant based on better promises. On what better promise do you base your assertion that God no longer heals? What better provision has taken its place?

COTHAM: That's a rather involved question with what better promises in the New Testament over the Old Testament. Under the Old Testament, they did not have in the sense of forgiveness of sins, but under the New Testament we do have that — and a better covenant, and it is spoken of as a better covenant, better testament. And we have a full

view of eternal life given unto us in the New Testament following the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Do you want to make a comment on that in any way?

JOHN: Well, that just proves and verifies what we have been talking about, that when Jesus went to the cross, he not only died for sin, but he also died for sickness and diseases. It says in Isaiah 53:4-5, "himself bore our griefs or our sorrows." The Hebrew word is pains and sicknesses. "Yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." In Matthew 8:16-17, it fulfills that. He says he cast out spirits by his word, and he healed all the sick that came unto him, that it might be fulfilled what was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, Himself bore out infirmities, and carried our sicknesses. And that was at the cross. And in 1 Peter 2:24, he deals with the sin and sickness question again, who says himself bare our sins in his body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes we were (past tense) healed. So it's already done at the atonement, the same as forgiveness of sins. So forgiveness of sins and healing of the body are part and parcel of salvation, and what Jesus did for us at the cross.

EVANS: Our time is up.

COTHAM: Our time is up, but I want to reply to that, just a moment please. It is true that Isaiah prophesied that by his stripes we are healed, but had to do with being saved from sin and not physical sickness. In the next verse, "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." Nothing is taught in the New Testament about the death of Christ on the cross and shedding his blood that we might be physically healed. We are under the new covenant for the healing of the soul, remission of sins. When Christ was here on this earth and healed people, that was the fulfillment of that promise in regard to his healing physically. Thank you for so very much. Thank you for waiting, that is wonderful, and we appreciate it so very much.

APPENDIX

AGREEMENT FOR THE COTHAM-JOHN DEBATE

I. LOCATION, DATES AND TIME OF THE DEBATE

The debate will be conducted at the building of the Eastern Avenue Church of Christ (658 Eastern Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI) on July 17 and 18, 1989 at 7:30 P.M. Each night's debate will consist of a thirty minute speech affirmative speech, a thirty minute negative speech, a 20 minute rebuttal by the affirmative, and a 20 minute rebuttal by the negative.

II. PROPOSITIONS AND SPEAKERS

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, ceased at the close of the Apostolic age.

Affirmative: Perry B. Cotham

Negative: Peter John

Resolved: The Scriptures teach that miracles such as were performed by Christ and the Apostles, continue in the Church today.

Affirmative: Peter John

Negative: Perry B. Cotham

III. CONDUCT OF THE DEBATE

- A. Both parties desire that the debate be conducted in a Christ-like manner. The object of any debate is the search for truth. In keeping with that, both parties will follow Hedge's Rules of Controversy as summarized in the following:

SUMMARY OF HEDGE'S RULES OF CONTROVERSY

Rule 1st. The terms in which the question in debate is

expressed and the precise point at issue, should be so clearly defined that there can be no misunderstanding respecting them.

Rule 2d. The parties should mutually consider each other as standing on a footing of equality in respect to the subject in debate, each should regard the other as possessing equal talents, knowledge and desire for the truth, with himself and that it is possible therefore that he may be in the wrong and his adversary in the right.

Rule 3d. All expressions which are unmeaning, or without effect, in regard to the subject in debate, should be strictly avoided. All expressions may be considered as unmeaning which contribute nothing to the proof of the question, such as desultory remarks, and declamatory expressions, all technical ambiguities and equivocal expressions.

Rule 4th. Personal reflections on an adversary should in no instance be indulged in. Whatever his private character, his follies are not to be named, nor alluded to in controversy. Personal reflections are not only destitute of effect in respect to the question in discussion, but are productive of real evil.

Rule 5th. No one has the right to accuse his adversary with indirect motives.

Rule 6th. The consequences of any doctrine are not to be charged on him who maintains it, unless he expressly avows them.

Rule 7th. As truth and not victory is the professed object of controversy, whatever proofs may be on either side should be examined with fairness and candor, and any attempt to ensnare an adversary by arts or sophistry, or to lessen the force of his reasoning by wit, caviling, or ridicule, is a violation of the rules of honorable controversy.

B. Other procedures for the debate include the following.

1. **Chairman.** A mutually agreed upon chairman will be selected who will have as his duties the opening and closing of the meeting, introduce the propositions and the speakers, and see that order is maintained.
2. **Moderator/Timekeeper.** Two moderators will be selected, one representing each side. They will time the speeches to keep the speeches within the agreed upon time limits. They will signal the

- speakers when they have 10 minutes, 5 minutes, and 1 minute left. Speakers will stop on the agreed upon time limit. Moderators have the right to rise to the point of order if the opposition violates the rules of controversy which have been agreed upon.
3. No demonstrations are to be allowed from the audience that would disrupt the debate. If the audience disrupts the debate, the moderator has the right to ask that the time during which the disruption occurs not be charged to the speaker's time limit.
 4. Material should not be presented on charts and then the charts be taken away so that the opposition cannot examine them.

IV. RECORDING AND DISTRIBUTION

- A. Both sides have the right to make video and audio recordings of the debate and to freely duplicate, distribute, and broadcast on television or radio such recordings with no compensation or consideration paid to the participants, Perry B. Cotham or Peter John.
- B. Both sides have the right to publish the debate in a printed form. Both Peter John and Perry B. Cotham maintain the right to examine such a transcript prior to publication to verify the accuracy of the transcript. Corrections may be made to adjust the transcript to a written style, but no changes may be made that would materially alter the argument. No royalties will be paid to Perry B. Cotham or Peter John. Any profits or losses on the publication accrue only to the party undertaking the publication. The book may be copyrighted to protect the integrity of the text and the financial commitment of the publisher.
- C. All parties may make brief quotations from the debate in a printed form such as periodicals without verifying the accuracy of the transcript with Perry B. Cotham or Peter John.

s/Perry B. Cotham
s/Peter John