
BIBLE TALK

This week the topic is: **5 things Holy Spirit baptism and miracles will not do.**

Many, many people today claim to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and claim they have seen miracles, can work miracles and have experienced miracles. If you listen to these people here's what you end up thinking:

- You think you will never get sick or hurt.
- If you do get sick or hurt, you will be healed miraculously.
- Holy Spirit baptism saves you.
- Holy Spirit baptism will enable you to know what to do in any given situation.
- Miracles and Holy Spirit baptism will protect you from evil and from being lost.

Now, having explained the popular beliefs about miracles and Holy Spirit baptism, let me share with you five things that Holy Spirit baptism and miracles will **not** do for you.

1) Holy Spirit baptism will not save you.

It was not designed for this. The apostles were already saved from their sins when Jesus promised Holy Spirit baptism to them (Acts 1:4-5).

Instead, the blood of Christ is what saves people from their sins. Furthermore, the blood of Jesus is applied and washes away sins at the moment a person is baptized in water – not when they are baptized with the Holy Spirit (Gal 3:26-27; Acts 2:38; Acts 16:22).

2) Holy Spirit baptism will not make you spiritually minded.

Think about this for a moment. The Corinthian church had miraculous powers according to 1 Cor 12-14. In fact, according to those three chapters, they had all available powers. They lacked nothing. Yet the apostle Paul said he *"could not speak to them as to spiritual, but as to carnal"* (1 Cor 3:1).

So Holy Spirit baptism and miracles will not make you spiritually minded. This brings up the next point:

3) Holy Spirit baptism will not solve all church problems.

The Corinthians, which we just mentioned, were not only fleshly minded, they had all sorts of problems in the congregation. One of them was committing fornication with his father's wife (ch 5). They were taking each other to court and suing one another (ch 6). Some were eating sacrifices to idols (ch 8-10). When they gathered for worship, it was total chaos (ch 14). They believed false doctrine about the resurrection (ch 15). They had many, many problems – even though they had miraculous powers.

This tells me that even if Holy Spirit baptism were available today and possible today, it would not solve all the church problems we see about us.

4) Holy Spirit baptism will not keep you from getting sick.

If Holy Spirit baptism and miracles were available today, Christians would still get sick. They would still die. The NT scriptures plainly teach, *"it is appointed unto men to die once and after this the judgment"* (Heb 9:27).

Not all Christians in the NT were healed from their diseases and handicaps. Paul told Timothy to *"drink a little wine"* as medicine (1 Tim 5:23). You don't need medicine if you can be healed miraculously. Another Christian named Trophimus was left behind sick (2 Tim 4:20).

Miraculous power was never given simply to make life more bearable for Christians. Holy Spirit baptism was not designed to heal Christians so they would never get sick or die. Miraculous power was for the purpose of convincing unbelievers about the truth of the gospel in the days when the gospel was being newly revealed (Mk 16:20; 1 Cor 14:22).

5) Holy Spirit baptism will not reveal new truth to people today.

This is because all truth which God was ever going to reveal was revealed to the apostles (Jn 16:13). After it was revealed, they wrote it down (Jn 20:30-31; Eph 3:3-5). Their writings were providentially protected by God (1 Pet 1:24-25). This revealing process was done once for all time (Jude 3). God intends that His people would be guided by the written scriptures until Jesus returns again (2 Tim 3:16-17).

In conclusion, the scriptures plainly teach that Holy Spirit baptism and miracles would end at the close of the apostolic age (1 Cor 13:8-10). The apostles were the guides of the church in its infancy (Acts 2:42), but they wrote down their teachings so that future generations could know

how to live and serve God acceptably. Miracles are no longer possible. Holy Spirit baptism does not occur. No matter what people think they have seen or experienced, the Bible teaches God's people to "*walk by faith, not by sight*" (2 Cor 5:7) and "*faith comes by hearing the word of God*" (Rom 10:17).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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