

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
*Speaker, Robert Emerson*  
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM  
*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

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*“The signs of a true  
 apostle were  
 performed among you  
 with all perseverance,  
 by signs and wonders  
 and miracles.”*

— 2 Corinthians 12:12

**Servants during January:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (2), Larry (9),  
 David (16), Peter (23), Stanley (30)

**Reading:** Robert

**Announcements:** Marty

**Table:** Larry, Peter, David, Stanley

**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (5), Kris (12),  
 Larry (19), Stanley (26)

**Area Meetings:**

**Singing River,** singing, 1/21, 7pm;

**Gooch Lane,** singing, 1/28, 7pm;

**Jordan Park,** singing, 2/18, 7pm;

**Market Street,** singing, 2/25, 7pm

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

*“Examine everything carefully...” –1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB*

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## Miraculous Gifts

*By Robert F. Turner*

Surely no Bible believing student doubts that various “signs and wonders” (miraculous gifts) were manifested by members of the early church. Nor can such a believer doubt that God has the **power** to give such gifts today. The question is, does He?

It is ridiculous to argue He must, or be a respecter of persons. Not all early Christians had the same gifts, 1 Cor 12:4-11. He made Paul an apostle, not me. Nor is our lack of faith the answer. The apostle’s hands seem to have been required in usual cases of spiritual gifts, even for believers, Acts 8:12-18; 19:2-6; Rom 1:11.

Some say God has **promised** such powers, Mk 16:17,18. If this verse refers to all believers in all ages, it certainly raises questions about those who do not manifest such powers. But if not all believers are included, then who are

intended, and **why**? For a starter, notice the immediate context of the citation. The **apostles** “went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.” For special reasons (the “why?”) only special ones (the “who?”) had miraculous gifts and powers. Even Jesus said, “That ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins...” and then healed, Mk 2:5-12

A lady once told me she was “tarrying for the Spirit,” Lk 24:49, and was embarrassed when I pointed out she must “tarry... in Jerusalem” not in Urbana, Illinois. We must not appropriate to ourselves promises made to others. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the **apostles** as another (G243 ἄλλος allos, “similar to Himself,” Trench) Advocate. He had been their teacher, but now the Spirit of Truth

would guide them, Jn 14:16-17,26; 16:12,13. Inspiration would stand by their side when they were brought to trial, Lk 21:12-15. Attention to context would remove many so-called promises of Holy Spirit functions claimed for today.

The apostles **confirmed** the word with signs following. Bagster says confirm means “establish, render constant and unwavering; to establish by arguments or proofs, ratify.” Notice its use in Hebrews 2:3-4, “confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders,” etc. The Holy Spirit miraculously delivered truth, and miraculously proved its divine origin (compare “signs of an apostle,” 2 Cor 12:12). Will charismatics of today claim apostolic powers?

A distinctive outpouring of the Spirit (“as on us at the beginning”) marked the bringing of the gospel to Gentiles, Acts 11:15ff, and there is no evidence of a repetition of this. Do those who claim current miraculous spiritual powers believe new divine revelations are being given, or that the New Testament needs reconfirming?

The apostles were accompanied in their work of delivering the New Covenant by others, called Prophets, (compare Eph 2:20; 3:5); and it seems spiritual gifts served the same purpose with them. Stephen, Acts 6:8-10, and Philip,

Acts 8:6,26-39, are examples of men who, in the absence of the written New Testament, were directly aided by the Spirit to deliver truth.

The use of spiritual gifts could be abused by early saints, for “The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets,” 1 Cor 14:32. Remember that when you are told “The Spirit is moving me; I can’t help myself.” Peter acted hypocritically, Gal 2:11-13, and Paul had to buffet his body lest he be rejected, 1 Cor 9:27. But the message which the Spirit gave, using the earthen vessels as a mouth piece, was inerrant and unified. The case of Baalam, Num 22:20, is an OT example; and 1 Cor 14 is an account of NT saints who could misuse their gifts, but through whom a unified truth was presented. This emphasizes the true purpose of such gifts.

The message was the thing. Paul could say, “I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue,” 1 Cor 14:19. He told the Corinthians, “I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied [taught, rt] for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying,” 1 Cor 14:5.


The unification of the message

is apparent in that Paul could say, “If any man think himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord,” 1 Cor 14:37. The testing of one who claimed to have the Spirit was done by comparing his message with that of John and other inspired men, 1 Jn 4:1-6. So-called “miracles” were also tested by the message, or content of teaching, cf Deut 13:1-3; 2 Thess 2:9-12.

Further study of 1 Cor 12-14 shows us that although Paul wanted the Corinthians to have and use spiritual gifts, he recognized their transient nature. Note, “Covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way,” 1 Cor 12:31. The more excellent way was not a new or different way (love was intended for all saints) but it was an **enduring way** as opposed to spiritual gifts that would serve their purpose, and they cease. Miraculous prophecies, tongues, and knowledge were to cease; for “we know in part, and we prophesy in part [i.e., piece by

piece, rt] but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away,” 1 Cor 13:8-10. Some say this refers to Christ’s coming at the end of time, but “that which” is not “He who”. Marshall’s interlinear translates, “When the perfect thing comes, the thing in part will be abolished.” The perfect (mature, full-grown) **thing** is the **complete revelation**. Miraculous gifts served, in the “child” or developmental stage of New Testament revelation, but when the job was done, the scaffold—the trappings of development—would have accomplished its purpose, and cease.

The Holy Spirit did His work well, delivering through chosen messengers a confirmed and established standard of truth for all men and all time. We believe the WHO? WHY? and WHEN? study of miraculous spiritual gifts will make clear this truth. Current ecstatic “gifts” (?) do not conform to NT teaching, hence are not of God.

—via Plain Talk, Sept 1976 

## *Remember in Prayer*

Our brother, **Tim** seemed to be recovering from Covid, but passed away suddenly this morning. **His father, Norman**, is recovering at home; and **Dot** was unaffected by the virus. **Buddy** was hospitalized

due to liver related issues. **Betty and Robert** also have health issues; **Cindy P’s husband, Dwight** still needs prayer. Please continue to pray for **Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis**, and **Joyce Smith**. 