

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

WEEK 4: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES RELATED TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

- **Romans 12:6** ~ “Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;”
- **1 Corinthians 12:7** ~ “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
- **1 Peter 4:10** ~ “As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

NOTE: Over the years MBC has taught on Spiritual Gifts, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, The Confusion of Tongues Usage, Tenets of Charismatic Theology, etc. Search for other great resources at www.mbcmi.org

REVIEW: THE GIFTS

- Spiritual gifts are the gracious way the Holy Spirit gives each believer the ability to serve and edify the rest of the body of Christ. As each person ministers within the church, using human talents, personality, and skills, God brings growth and fruit to his church. God gives you the ability, you minister in the church, and others grow because of it!
- James Stitzinger: “A spiritual gift, then, is any ability and accompanying spiritual ministry and effect that God, through Christ, enables a believer to use, or motivates him to use, for His glory, in the body of Christ, through the energizing work of the Spirit.”¹
- Spiritual gifts are diverse and distinct among individuals, yet they all contain gracious provision, a spiritual ministry, and most important, an effect or activity.²
- Healthy members of a church will work at using their gifts so that it blesses, edifies, and lifts up others.
- The Spirit distributes according to his will (1 Cor 12:11), to believers, at conversion, for the **edification of the church and the glory of God** (1 Cor 12:7; 14:26; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

TWO WAYS OF VIEWING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- This class has mainly taken into consideration the view that the revelation and sign gifts have ceased when the New Testament was completed and the church was established.

¹ James F. Stitzinger, “Spiritual Gifts: Definitions and Kinds”, TMSJ 14/2 (Fall 2003) 161.

² Stitzinger, 161.

- Logos published an article in which the degree in cessationism is determined by the level of condemnation of the charismatic movement.³



Cessationism/ Non-Continuationism:

- Those who agree that not all of the gifts are still in operation today (revelatory/sign).
- There are two groups of gifts: those that were in operation from Pentecost until the establishment of the NT, and those that remain in operation until Christ's return.
- In the way that continuationists view the continued work of the Holy Spirit in these revelatory and sign gifts, cessationism is a CLOSED view. Meaning, they are closed to the belief that empowerment to work miracles, signs, wonders, and give new revelation are in operation today.
- Cessationists would never claim they are closed to God working in the world today, but they would simply claim that God planned to use the church:
 - for his glory and for the edification of the body (all gifts) from Pentecost until rapture⁴ and for his glory, for the writing of the NT, and the foundation of His church (rev/sign gifts).
- The Holy Spirit no longer empowers individuals to speak the divine word of the Lord, work wonders and miracles with instantaneous and effective power, or at will speak in any kind of language other than his own (foreign language or "unknown heavenly language").
- Cessationists would never claim God ceased to do the miraculous or can't/ won't heal people. God is still powerful and benevolent, able to heal, able to save, able to sovereignly direct, but God no longer enables people to "on-command" heal, perform miracles, or communicate new revelation, etc.
- Cessationists aren't anti-Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is powerfully at work in every believer:
 1. Christ *baptizes* the believer with the Spirit into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).
 2. The Father *seals* the believer with the Holy Spirit as a show of ownership and a guarantee of one's salvation (Eph. 1:13).
 3. The Spirit *indwells* the believer (1 Cor. 3:16).
 4. The Spirit *fills/controls* the believer (Eph. 5:18).
 5. The Spirit *produces* spiritual fruit in the believer's life (Gal. 5:22-23).
 6. The Spirit *gifts* the believer for service in the church (1 Cor. 12:4).⁵

³ <https://www.logos.com/grow/hall-cessationist-or-continuationist/>

⁴ See Revelation 11:3-11 for miraculous and prophetic gifts returning during the tribulation period.

⁵ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 353.

Continuationism/ Non-Cessationism:

- Those who hold this position would say that the gifts mentioned in the Bible are therefore also valid today and the church can and should seek to practice all of them.
- These churches have varying degrees of understanding of the authority and sufficiency of scripture, the way that each of the gifts are still practiced, and what the purpose is for these gifts.
- The word for “gifts” in 1 Corinthians 12 is *charismata*, so cessationists are also known as Charismatics, though Pentecostal churches are far more chaotic and experiential/emotional.
- Generally, they fall into three groups.
 - OPEN. All gifts can and should be sought and practiced.
 - Open, but cautious. Greater biblical discernment.
 - Cautious but open. Some might say they are *closed*, but open to the possibilities. These better fit in the continuationist group. While they mean well, their understanding of God’s working versus people’s gifted enablement are often confused. Their understanding of how to interpret scripture is often pliable to fit what will work.⁶
- Continuationists are open to the work of the Holy Spirit regarding the revelation and/or sign gifts.
- They generally over-emphasize the role of the Holy Spirit over and above the Father or the Son (The Spirit always gives glory to Christ, and point people to Christ)

John 15:26 ~ “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify about Me.**”

- History:
 - First wave: Pentecostal Movement in 1906 when William Seymour preached that speaking in tongues was the first biblical evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit. There was a following and then a movement.
 - Second wave: Neo Pentecostal Movement in 1960 when the tenets of Pentecostalism spread among many denominations, even in the Roman Catholic Church.
 - Third wave: The Vineyard Movement (then Kansas City Prophets) from the 80’s on began when Fuller Theological Seminary began to teach the charismatic tenets. Emphases were power, evangelism, reconstructionism (i.e. taking back the world for Christ), a restoration of kingdom theology, and a focus on signs and wonders.
- Charismatic churches don’t all advertise their stance on almost any issue the same way. A million people’s experience will result in a million different interpretations.
- Corinth:

1 Corinthians 1:4-8 ~ “I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that **you are not**

⁶ Narrative-based interpretation, Community-based interpretation, tradition-based interpretation, and mediating-based interpretation (mixed) are the four examples of revisionist hermeneutics within the noncessationist camp laid out in Robert Thomas, “The Hermeneutics of Noncessationism,” *MSJ* 29/1 (Spring 2018) 45-67.

lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Corinth had all the spiritual gifts! They lacked none of them. But they were spiritually lacking the basics of love for one another (1 Cor 13) and had just about every spiritual problem possible.⁷

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE?

- TBN and other Word of Faith healers claim special healing ability and promise blessing, friend tell us that they speak in tongues in their prayer closets, missionaries say they received a vision and it means they need to move cities... And yet there is still pervasive sickness in churches, Christians are generally among the poor, and persecution remains.
- The believer has a choice to make when it comes to what is true.

2 Timothy 3:16–17~ “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

- Do we find that our Bible contains all the divine words necessary for God’s glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, either directly or indirectly laid out in Scripture?⁸ No new revelation is needed and nothing needs to be changed or taken away for us to live holy lives, edify the church, and glorify God.⁹

2 Peter 1:2-3~ “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”

- What about charismatics that have experienced these things? “We cannot interpret the Bible by what we experience, we must interpret our experiences by the Bible. No matter how real an experience may seem, if it is not plum with God’s word, we have done what Paul said not to do in 1 Corinthians 4:6. He says ‘do not exceed what is written.’ When we exceed what is written, when we exceed Biblical parameters, we are opening ourselves up to demonic influence and demonic suggestion.”¹⁰

Acts 17:11 ~ “The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

⁷ John MacArthur, *Charismatic Chaos* (Grand Rapids, Zondervan) 308.

⁸ Westminster Confession of Faith 1.6. regarding the sufficiency of Scripture

⁹ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 105–106.

¹⁰ Justin Peters, “Clouds Without Water Conference” at MBC May 1, 2019.

In the following sections we will examine common questions that arise today with spiritual gifts, along with the Bible's response.

DOES GOD SPEAK TO ME? DREAMS?

- Jack Deere is a historically well-known Charismatic author who argues for contemporary prophecy and supernatural revelation. He claims that the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture is of the devil. “In order to fulfill God’s highest purposes for our lives we must be able to hear His voice both in the written word and in the Word freshly spoken from heaven... Satan understands the strategic importance of Christians hearing God’s voice so he has launched various attacks against us in this area... **Ultimately this doctrine [the sufficiency of scripture] is demonic even [though] Christian theologians have been used to perfect it.**”¹¹

Isaiah 40:8 ~ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the **word of our God stands forever.**”

- The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to convict, teach, guide, lead, and glorify the Son (John 14:26; 15:26; 1 John 4:6). The Spirit leads us according to his Word and testifies according to the truth.
- Closed Canon – The last book written and a warning of judgement to disobey the addition:

Revelation 22:18-19 ~ “I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.”

- “God’s completed revelation in his written Word is so powerful and glorious that it **no longer needs miraculous confirmation**. As Peter explains, the prophetic word is **even more sure** than the most extraordinary of eyewitness experiences (2 Pet. 1:16–21). In the all-sufficient Scriptures, God’s truth is self-attesting and self-evident, as the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit confirms (Heb. 4:12). Consequently, the signs and wonders of the apostolic age are no longer necessary. The Bible is all that is needed to validate the message of those who claim to be God’s spokesmen.”¹²

2 Peter 1:19 ~ “So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place...”

- Modern “prophets” make many mistakes and can only claim partial accuracy some of the time.

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 ~ “But the **prophet who speaks a word presumptuously** in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, **that prophet shall die.**”

“You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’

¹¹ Jack Deere, cited in Mark Thomason, “Spiritual Warfare: What Happens When I Contradict Myself,” *The Briefing* (April 24, 1990), 11.

¹² John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., [*Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 805.

“When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if **the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously**; you shall not be afraid of him.”

Matthew 7:15 ~ “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

- Why not just proclaim the truth of Scripture??
- This does not deny the full use of God’s creation for God’s good uses. God can use ordinary means to move his people to action.
 - EX. A dream might bring to mind a friend to pray for, a sin to correct, or a scripture to meditate on, but the dream is not new revelation.
 - EX. You may be driven by the Lord to be an evangelistic witness because you saw the needs of intercity kids on a documentary, you saw some college students walking down the road, the grocery clerk looked discouraged, or your daily Bible reading was Romans 10:17 that morning. God didn’t speak to you, but he wasn’t inactive in your life either!
- God uses ordinary means (providence). “Providence is God’s use of his power and his authority to bring about an ultimate purpose for the universe that cannot fail.”¹³

SO CALLED BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT¹⁴

- Continuationists claim that there is a second experience of grace given to those who ask to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit after regeneration, resulting in higher power and the ability to speak in tongues (a prayer language). All have the opportunity to receive it, and those who do reach higher levels of spirituality and can speak in tongues, access more of God.
- They are saved and receive the Holy Spirit in a limited sense, and then must seek earnestly to receive the Holy Spirit in this second empowerment.
- Scripture teaches that there are no second works of God necessary for all that God has promised:

Romans 8:5-9, 11, 14, 16 ~ For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the **Spirit of God dwells in you**. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him...11 But if the **Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you**, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **His Spirit who dwells in you**....14 For **all who are being led by the Spirit of God**, these are sons of God...16 **The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God**

Ephesians 2:18 ~ for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

¹³ John Piper, <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-difference-does-providence-make>

¹⁴ See the Wednesday Night Theology teaching on this topic for a fuller discussion at www.mbcmi.org.
<https://www.mbcmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/13-Baptism-Filling-of-the-Holy-Spirit.pdf>

Ephesians 4:4 ~ “one Lord, one faith, one baptism”

Colossians 2:12 ~ having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

1 Corinthians 12:13 ~ “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free- and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

- That’s it. It happened once, we receive the Spirit, The Spirit continues to work in us, produce fruit, fill us, convict us, guide us, enable us to serve others, etc.
- There is one class of Spiritual Christians with equal access to God!
- We have sufficient power and enablement to grow in Christ and build up the body.

- “Spirit baptism occurs only once, at the moment of salvation, and should not be sought as a secondary, post conversion experience. That singular Spirit baptism occurs at conversion, when the believer is born again and placed into the sphere of the Spirit’s sanctifying power and indwelling presence.”¹⁵ “It belongs to the positional truth; it is a judicial transaction. It is not subjective but objective; it does not produce any conscious feelings nor effect the emotions in any way.”¹⁶

DO I NEED TO BE ANOINTED?

- Charismatics will claim there needs to be a **subsequent baptism of the Holy spirit, where one is anointed.** They claim the anointing is something all Christians “can and should be seeking...and to advise others to ‘unlock their anointing’ or ‘walk in the anointing.’ The idea is that the anointing is an outpouring of God’s power to accomplish a task through the anointed one.”¹⁷
- First, several anointings can be given for further filling, lost gifting, lost power, lost levels of spirituality. This is purely a subjective action.
- The believer’s Spirit baptism is non-experiential, by the Spirit not the believer, happens at regeneration, and has more to do with your new position in Christ .
- Second, all NT saints are already anointed.

2 Timothy 1:14 ~ “Guard, through the **Holy Spirit who dwells in us**, the **treasure** which has been **entrusted to you**”

2 Peter 1:3 ~ “**His divine power has granted** to us everything pertaining to life and godliness,”

1 John 2:20 ~ “**But you have an anointing** from the Holy One, and you all know.”

1 John 2:27 ~ “As for you, **the anointing which you received** from Him abides in you”

¹⁵ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 783.

¹⁶ Rolland McCune, *A Systematic Theology, Volume 2* (Detroit: Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2009), 326.

¹⁷ <https://www.gotquestions.org/anointed.html>

SHOULD HANDS BE LAID ON ME? CAN I LAY HANDS ON OTHERS?

- Charismatics believe they have the ability to lay hands on someone to bring down the baptism of the Holy Spirit on that individual.

Acts 19:5-6 ~ “When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had **laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them**, and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying.”

- Laying on of hands means a few things in the Bible.
 1. First, transferring the sins of Israel to a goat sacrifice (Leviticus 16:21-22).
 2. Second, transferring authority from one person *in authority* to another (Numbers 27:18-23; Deuteronomy 34:9; Acts 13:3; 1 Timothy 5:22)
 3. Third, a person in authority transferring a blessing (Gen 48:13-20; 2 Kings 13:16; Jesus blessing: Mark 6:5; 8:25; God’s blessing: Psalm 139:5)
 4. Fourth, grabbing with some force (Exodus 22:8; Matthew 26:50 ~ “Then they came and **laid hands** on Jesus and arrested Him.”)
- Moses, Elisha, Jesus, the Antioch Elders. These were people of God-given authority who transferred their authority or blessing to specific people for specific reasons in salvation history!
- Be cautious with using language about laying hands on someone outside of general arm in arm fellowship, prayer. Our prayers or words spoken don’t transfer any power from the Holy Spirit because our hands. The Holy Scripture spoken will be far more powerful.

DO PEOPLE SPEAK IN TONGUES TODAY?

- Today, many would say people can speak in tongues in a sort of babbling, are instructed how to do this by the leaders, taught to talk faster, talk like a baby at first, and even with laughter, and then God will do something with it. (This is reminiscent of the problem in Corinth with their pagan ecstatic experiences ~ 1 Corinthians 12:2).
- What is demonstrated with tongues today is:
 - Often private rather than **public** (Acts 2:9-11; 1 Corinthians 14:23, 26),
 - for everyone at once rather than **2 or 3 at time** (1 Corinthians 14:27),
 - chaotic if in the assembly rather than **orderly** (1 Corinthians 14:27-33),
 - ecstatic rather than **sober-minded** (1 Corinthians 14:13-19),
 - babbling rather than **real language** (Acts 2:9-11),
 - without interpretation rather than **with interpretation** (1 Cor 14:5, 13, 26-28), and
 - selfish rather than **edifying** the church (1 Corinthians 14:5, 12, 17, 26).
- Some churches teach that **all believers** should be able to speak in tongues. Therefore, “if you are not speaking in tongues, then you must not be saved.”
- It is not true that everyone has any one of the gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:29-30 ~ “All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they? All do not have gifts of healings, do they? **All do not speak with tongues, do they?** All do not interpret, do they?”

1 Corinthians 13:8 ~ “Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are tongues*, they will cease; if *there is knowledge*, it will be done away.”

BINDING OF DEMONS, EXORCISMS, AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- Rebuking and binding of Satan is not Biblical.
- The two extreme errors in our time are that too much blame is placed on Satan and demons and the counter extreme is that no attention is given to Satan and demons.

James 4:7 ~ “**Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.”

Ephesians 6 is a much better game plan for your life than taking on the demonic realm alone.

Michael didn't (Jude 9).

ARE THERE STILL APOSTLES TODAY?

- Apostles were those who were men, eyewitnesses of Christ, called by Christ, enabled with the gifts, tasked with establishing the NT and the church with Christ's authority.
- They were given the ability to speak the very words of God and confirm they were of God by signs and wonders, miracles and healings.
- Paul called himself the last of the apostles.
- Anyone who is fraudulently an apostle is in the company of Satan.

1 Corinthians 11:13 ~ “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

2 Corinthians 12:12 ~ “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”

CAN PEOPLE GET HEALED?

- Healings today are largely speculative or leading people to see something they wish to see.
- Many sick or permanently disabled people would tell you they have attempted to go to healers or Word-of-Faith events only to be very disappointed.
- Often there is a slight-of-hand with healing promised at a later service which would be dependent of the faith of the people or the generous giving of the people.
- God does use the natural world to heal people for his glory, sometimes in extraordinary and surprising degrees! But healings of Jesus were “on demand” (Mark 1:42; 10:52) and during Jesus time nearly everyone in Palestine had been healed by Jesus, his apostles, and other disciples.
- Healings in that era were done to confirm God's glory and the authority of Jesus () and his apostles.

- Where is the person with the gift of healing who can heal the sick, heal the lame, cure the diseased...? Gifts are for the edification of the church just as the gift of teaching, so if the apostolic gifts were for today, all of them should be in action, on command, to completion.
- Why could not even Paul heal himself (Gal 4:13) and why were there no healers in Philippi or Ephesus to heal his dear friends (Philippians 2:27; 1 Timothy 5:23, 2 Timothy 4:20).
- Scripture makes it clear that we cannot reverse the curse and that there will be troubles.

Matthew 28:19 ~ “Go into all the world and ~~banish disease~~ **preach the gospel.**”

Hebrews 9:27 ~ “it is **appointed for men to die** once and after this *comes* judgment”

2 Cor 4:16 ~ “though our **outer man is decaying**, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.”

James 5:15 ~ prayer for healing, God can heal!

DOES GOD STILL WORK MIRACLES?

- God really only worked enabled men to exercise great and powerful miracles at three times in history. At the time of Moses, Elijah/Elisha, Jesus/Apostles.
- Even Jesus never did a single miracle before he turned the water into wine!

John 2:11 ~ “**This beginning of His signs** Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.”

- The Gospel of John was written with many signs shown. WHY?

John 20:30-31 ~ “Therefore **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but **these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.**”

Again, we are not limiting God’s ability, power, desire, will, or actual performance of the miraculous.

Acts 2:22 (see also **2:43; 5:12**) ~ Men of Israel, listen to these words: **Jesus the Nazarene**, a man **attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know**

Acts 4:29-30 ~ **And** now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may **speak Your word** with all confidence, **while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place** through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.

Acts 14:3-4 ~ Therefore they spent a long time there **speaking boldly** with reliance upon the Lord, who was **testifying to the word** of His grace, granting that **signs and wonders be done** by their hands. But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles

Romans 15:18-19 ~ For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles **by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit;** so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ

Hebrews 2:3-4 ~ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the **first spoken through the Lord**, it was **confirmed to us by those who heard**, God also **testifying** with them, **both by signs and wonders and by various miracles** and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Luke 16:31 ~ “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.”

- Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:1-8 Consider the greatest miracle of all, when God raises to life spiritually dead sinners!