

HILLSBORO CHURCH OF CHRIST **BULLETIN ARTICLE**

“HAYES’ HOORAH!”

“WHAT’S WITH ALL THE COMMOTION?”

If you tune into any of the religious T.V. programs today, you are likely to see an extravaganza of emotional frenzies. If anyone is new to this religious scene they may be asking themselves a few questions: **“Was that a genuine miracle?”**; **“What are they saying when they talk like that?”**; **“What does it mean to speak in tongues?”**; **“Was that individual really healed?”**; **“When I got goose-bumps, was that really the Holy Spirit?”** A lot of times a statement is made after seeing these events: “I am confused.” Friends is God the Author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33)? How does one come to the correct conclusion on the subject of the miraculous? Can we know the truth (John 8:32), as to whether miracles do or do not occur today? The answer is YES. One of the areas of the Bible that has been embraced by so many, yet taken out of its context is **“the baptism of the Holy Spirit.”** Does it occur today (Eph. 4:5)? Well, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is only found occurring two times in the N.T. (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44, 45; 11:15-18). The purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was to give the apostles of Jesus Christ the ability to be witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection and to confirm the Word they spoke by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; Mark 16:17-20; Heb. 2:1-4; John 16:13). The purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon the house of Cornelius was to show the Jews that God had “granted repentance unto life unto the Gentile” (Acts 11:15-18). The one baptism (Eph. 4:5), which is commanded today, is water baptism (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 10:48). Holy Spirit baptism was never commanded but promised (Acts 1:1-5). What about miracles, in general, have they ceased? (I Cor. 13:8-13), shows us, miracles were the scaffolding for the incomplete, but once the incomplete became complete, there was no more need for the

scaffolding. "But when that which is perfect or complete is come than that which is impart, or imperfect shall be done away with." There is no more need for miraculous knowledge or revelation, for the complete inspired revelation of God was revealed in the first century (John 16:13; Jude 3; II Tim. 3:16, 17), and it was confirmed by the apostles (Heb. 2:1-4). Another reason we know miracles have ceased is the fact that there are no living apostles of Jesus Christ on earth today (Acts 1:21-22). It was only through the laying on of the apostle's hands that miraculous gifts were distributed to the first century church (Acts 8:18, 19; Rom. 1:11).

CONCLUSION:

I know we have been told: "IF YOU SAY THAT MIRACLES DON'T HAPPEN TODAY, YOU ARE SAYING GOD DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO DO MIRACLES." Well, God created man from the dust of the ground, if I say that God is not doing that today, am I saying He does not have the power to do so? Friends, God had the power to destroy the earth yesterday, but He didn't. Just because God has the power to do something does not mean He will do what He has the power to do. We do believe in the providence of God and consequently, we pray believing He answers our prayers according to His will. Miracles served their purpose, and "now abideth, faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love" (I Cor. 13:8-13). The power to produce faith in the human heart is in the Word of the Living God not in the miraculous (Rom. 10:17; John 20:30, 31; Luke 16:27-31).