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The Effecting of Miracles

12: 10a



The effecting of miracles was also a temporary sign **gift**. It refers to **God's power** in mighty deeds. A **miracle** is a supernatural intrusion into the natural world and its natural laws, explainable only by divine intervention. **ADONAI** often leads us, or warns us by working through other believers, through ordinary circumstances, or through natural laws. These are supernatural workings of providence by **God**, but they are *not* **miracles**. A **miracle** is an act of **God** that is contrary to the ordinary working and laws of nature, an act that only **He** could accomplish by overruling nature, and that could not otherwise occur through any normal circumstances.

John tells us that **Messiah's turning water into wine** was **the first of Yeshua's miraculous signs** that **He did in Cana of Galilee; He revealed His glory, and His apostles came to believe in Him (John 2:11)**. That was the purpose. The **miracle** was not to improve the party or to show off great power to the curious. Even with **Yeshua**, the working of **miracles**, just as the working of **healing (to see link click [Cn - The Gifts of Healing](#))**, was confirmation of **His** coming as the long awaited **Messiah**. Near the end of **his** gospel, **John** says: **In the presence of the talmidim Yeshua performed many other miracles which have not been recorded in this book. But these have been recorded here so that you may trust that Yeshua is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by this trust you may have [eternal] life because of who He is (John 20:30-31)**. **Yeshua**

performed miracles to prove that ADONAI was being revealed in Him. At Shavu'ot, Peter told the crowd to whom he was preaching: **Men of Isra'el! Listen to this! Yeshua of Nazareth was a man demonstrated to you to have been from God by the powerful works, miracles and signs that God performed through Him in your presence. You yourselves know this (Acts 2:22).**

Yeshua performed **miracles** and healed the sick for only about three-and-a half years of **His** ministry. Contrary to certain myths and legends that have cropped up through the centuries, the Bible indicates that **Yeshua** lived a quiet, normal life as a child and as a young man, exercising absolutely no supernatural powers until the wedding at Cana. As is clear from the quotation from **John 2:11** above, **Yeshua's miracles** began when **His** ministry began.

The apostles and a few other early leaders in the Messianic Community also performed **miracles** as confirming signs of the gospel message. In Iconium **Paul** and **Barnabas** remained for a long time, speaking boldly about the Lord, who bore witness to the message about His love and kindness enabling them to perform signs and miracles (Acts 14:3). Paul later wrote to the Corinthians, "For the signs of the apostle were performed among you in all perseverance, and in signs, and wonders, and miracles" (Second Corinthians 12:12 BLB). **Miraculous signs** were the mark of an apostle, authenticating the apostles' message and work as being of the Lord. In Hebrews we read: **The Good News was first declared by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him; while God also bore witness to it with various signs, wonders and miracles, and with gifts of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh which he distributed as He chose (Hebrews 2:3-4).** The apostles performed miracles just like Yeshua did (see [Acts Ap - Peter Heals a Lam](#) [Beggar: A Closer Look at Miracles in Acts](#)). But even the miracles in Acts were not normative that time. They were highly unusual and only used to authenticate the message of the apostles. The early church was not a miracle working church, it had miracle working apostles. Once the apostles passed away, those authenticating miracles were no longer needed because **God's Word** and the Church had been established.

But just what kind of miracles did the apostles do? Yeshua made wine, made food, walked on water with Peter, took a coin from the mouth of a fish, disappeared from a hostile crowd, and ascended into heaven in a cloud. All those miracles related to nature and done only by Him. No apostle is ever reported to have done a miracle of nature. Then, what miracles did they do? The answer is in the word for miracle (Greek: *dunamis*, meaning power). In fact, the term is translated power in the gospels, and is frequently connected with the

casting out of demons (Lk 4:36, 6:18, 9:42). It is precisely that **power**, to **cast out demons**, that **the Lord** gave to **the Twelve** and to **the seventy (Lk 9:1, 10:17-19)**. We have no such power today by which someone can successfully go about commanding **demons** to come out of unsaved people, as **the apostles** and **the seventy** did. **Philip** and **Stephen** demonstrated **the effecting of miracles (Acts 6:8, 8:7)**. **Paul** used it to confirm **the hand of the Lord** and bring a man to **faith (Acts 13:6-12)**. Some **Jews** who tried to cast out **demons** without the true **gift** were beaten up and chased out by **the demons they** were trying to exorcise **(Acts 19:14-16)**.

Those **miracles** accompanied **God's Word** only so long as **He** was revealing **the Word**. When the revelation stopped, the sign **gifts** stopped. B. B. Warfield (1851-1921), the great biblical theologian wrote, "These **miraculous gifts** were part of the credentials of **the apostles**, as authoritative agents of **God** in founding the Church. **Their** function confined **them** distinctly to the apostolic Church, and they necessarily passed away with it."³⁷² Nothing in Scripture indicates that **the miracles** of the apostolic age were meant to be continuous in subsequent ages. Nor the Bible exhort believers to seek any **miraculous** manifestations of **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh**. In all the B'rit Chadashah there are only five commands relating to the believer and **the Spirit**.

Walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:25)

Do not grieve the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)

Be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

Do not quench the Spirit (First Thessalonians 5:19)

Pray in the Spirit (Jude 20)

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for **Your** wisdom and great love, bearing our **sin** so we could have **Your righteousness (Second Corinthians 5:21)**, and also caring so lovingly for the Church that was birthed from **Messiah's** resurrection. Thank **You** for providing different **gifts** used for **building up the body of Messiah**, as **each individual part produces the body's growth, for building itself up in love (Ephesians 4:12 and 16c)**.*

Your** presence in each of **Your** children **(Romans 8:9-10)** is so helpful to guide each of **Your** children how they should live for you, including how to use their **gift** for **You**. **Your** presence also gives strength to conquer temptations and is comforting in times of trial. **For I consider the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the



***coming glory to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18).** How wonderful that we have a sure hope in heaven where our trials will all be past and we will praise **You** for all eternity! Thank **You** for being such a loving and caring **Father**, In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*