***Miracles - CA-010***

When we first began this study of Christian apologetics some time ago, we saw that one of the criterion that people throughout the ages have used to illustrate the truths of Christianity is the truth of miracles. So we're going to look at the miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Miracles, first of all, give someone who claims to be a spiritual leader (a prophet with new insight) the right to be heard. That's not necessarily the right to be believed, but if a person claims to be able to perform miracles, then it gives them the right to be heard. We're going to say that in the case of the Lord Jesus Christ, not only did the miracles give Him the right to be heard, and seriously considered as the Messiah, but proved conclusively that He was a prophet; that He was the Messiah; and, that He was deity.

Miracles are extremely important in Christianity. In Luke 7:22, John the Baptist had begun wondering, "Is Jesus, my cousin, really who He claims to be? Is He really the Messiah?" So he sent some messengers: "Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard. The blind received sight; the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed; the deaf hear; the dead are raised; and, the poor have the gospel preached to them. Blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me."

So Jesus said, "Just check the miracles out. If you want to know whether I'm the Messiah or not, just look at what you have seen Me do, and what has been reported by reliable witnesses that I do."

So miracles are extremely important. Another reason for this is that so many of Jesus's teachings were elaborations on the miracles, especially in John. You can look at John 5 and 6 especially. Jesus would perform a miracle, and this would be a launching pad for some teaching. If you take away the miracles from the New Testament, you're going to take away a great deal of what Jesus taught.

Then also, if you'll look over in John 10, if Jesus had never raised Lazarus from the dead, He would have probably never been crucified. He was a thorn in the flesh of the Jewish religious leaders: the Pharisees; the scribes; and the Sadducees – the power structure. But when He raised a man from the dead, they said, "He's got to go." John 10:47-48: This was after Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. "Therefore, the chief priest and the Pharisees convened a council (they called an emergency meeting) and were saying, 'What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs."

Notice that they didn't say, "He's pretending to perform miracles." They said, "He's performing miracles. We have to do something to stop Him. He is performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, all man will believe in Him. Everybody will believe in Him. If we just let Him keep on raising people from the dead, and doing all these miracles, pretty soon everybody will be His followers. And the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." Our place means the temple. "The Romans will decide that this man who performs miracles must be our king because the people are going to want Him as a king. And they're going to close down the temple, and they're going to take away what little self-rule that we have." They weren't really interested in the people. They were interested in their established power and financial prosperity. So they said, "We've got to stop Him." Why? Was He deceiving people and claiming to perform miracles? These were His enemies, and they said, "He is performing many miracles and He's got to be stopped."

So in John 12:9-10: "The great multitude, therefore, of the Jews learned that He was there, and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead." Now, listen to this. "But the chief priests took counsel that they might put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him, many of the Jews were going away, and were believing in Jesus. This could be a study on negative volition. But the point is that nobody was saying, "Lazarus was never raised from the dead. It was just a trick." Nobody was saying that. Even Jesus' worst enemies (spiritually blind as they were by Satan) were saying, "He's performing miracles, and we've got to stop Him." That is really foolish thinking – that if they killed Lazarus again, that Jesus wouldn't just raise him from the dead to begin with. A man who could raise other people from the dead could raise from the dead Himself. But again, that's the way Satan can blind the eyes of people.

But the point is that even His worst enemies didn't accuse Him of being a charlatan. They said, "Yes, the man's performing miracles."

In 2 Corinthians 12:12 is one of the passages that remind us that not only Jesus performed miracles (as the Old Testament prophesied the Messiah would do), but he gave the power to perform miracles to the apostles. So if a man stood up and said, "I'm one of the apostles of Christ," he was expected to deliver the goods and be able to perform miracles. 2 Corinthians 12:12: "The signs of a true apostle were performed among you, with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles." There has never been a religion in the world that says the way to tell whether our people are true prophets (true spiritual leaders) is that they'll go around performing supernatural miracles. The apostles of Christ did that. They delivered the goods.

Acts 2:43: "Everyone kept feeling a sense of wonder and awe, and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles."

In Galatians 3:5, Paul writes to the Galatians, "Does He then who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you do it by the works of the law, or by hearing of faith?" Isn't that interesting? He's trying to get them off of this false doctrine of works plus grace equals salvation, which isn't grace at all. He's going right back and He says, "OK, all the miracles that you've seen: were they wrought by people who were obeying the Law, or by the grace of God?"

And then there is one more in Hebrews 2:3-4: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard. God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will."

Then, of course, the big miracle is the resurrection.

So if you take the miracles out of the New Testament, you really don't have much left. Even those who say they can believe that Jesus was a good ethical teacher (an example), if you take the miracles out of that, you take most of the teaching away.

So we're going to look at some of the false miracles in the world and see what their characteristics are. Then we're going to see the true miracles that the Lord Jesus Christ did, and what they proved.

**False Miracles**

First of all, we'll look at some false miracles. The Bible calls them lying wonders. It's questionable whether Satan can perform a true miracle. I personally believe that Satan cannot perform a true miracle. That's why they're called lying wonders. The forces of evil know so much more than we do about science, and they're such masters of deception, they can't perform a true miracle, but it will look like a miracle to us. So we don't really have a whole lot to go on when it comes to false miracles. One reason is because there are so few people who even claim to be performing miracles. When you compare that with Jesus, we're going to look at how widespread miracles were in His ministry.

**Muhammad**

Look at one of the world's great religious founders of a big religion. That's Muhammad. Did Muhammad ever perform any miracles? I don't know of any claims by any of his followers of performing any legitimate miracles. I asked a question to a Muslim once. I ask him, "What miracles did Muhammad perform?" And he said, "Oh, he performed miracles." I said, "OK, tell me about them." He said, "Well, the fact that Muhammad wrote the Quran, that was a miracle because Muhammad was illiterate. He couldn't write, and he wrote the Quran. And it had some beautiful poetry in it. Well, at best, that's very questionable, first of all, whether Muhammad was illiterate or not. We don't really know. He might have been. The tradition says that he couldn't read or write. But we don't know.

Secondly, if he couldn't write, then he could have gotten someone to write it for him. He could have paid them and said, "Just keep quiet about this. Let people think that I wrote it." So I can't really accept the fact that Muhammad performed a miracle. The only claim to miracles (to supernatural experience) that Muhammad had was that the angel Gabriel appeared to him, and said that he had been sent by Allah as his messenger, and that Muhammad was the chosen prophet to write down the preexistent word of a law which was called the Quran. But there were no witnesses. All we have is Mohammed's word for that. He didn't say, "If you want to check me out, then see Abdul and some other Arabs." It happened when Muhammad was alone. So I don't think we can seriously consider Muhammad as a contender for someone who could perform miracles.

**Joseph Smith**

The same could be said of Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith said, "You've got to believe the Book of Mormon." He changed his story several times. First of all, it was three men who appeared to him who were the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then he changed it to an angel who appeared to him. They gave him some golden plates, but he couldn't read them because they were in another language. But they said, "Don't worry about it, Joe. Just put these glasses on (these spectacles) and you'll be able to read this language." He put them on, and sure enough, he could not only read it, but he translated it into English. Well, how many people do they have with him? Nobody. It's just the word of Joseph Smith.

Joseph Smith never claimed (as far as I know) to be able to perform miracles. There are no supernatural accounts of any miracle taking place, or any answer to prayer in his life. So there are millions of people in the world who follow these religious leaders. All they have to go on is the word of their leader who says, "Yes, something supernatural happened to me," but they never back it up.

There is a movement (not as big now as it used to be a few years ago) that is called The Way International. It was begun by Victor Paul Wierwille who was a Protestant minister for a number of years. One day he was in prayer in his steady, and he claimed that God spoke to him and said, "The first thing I want you to do is just burn all your theology books, because none of these guys know anything. You're going to be the prophet that I use to bring the truth to this generation." So he said, "Can you give me some kind of confirmation?" And God said, "Well, look out at the weather." It was a bright day in August. He said, "Now, close your eyes for a minute and look back out." He looked out the window and there was a blizzard going on. God said, "Close your eyes and look back out." It was again, a bright, hot, summer August afternoon. So he said, "That confirmed it for me that I am God's chosen prophet for these last days." To this day, you can ask his followers, "How do you know that this man's a prophet?" They will say, "Well, you know, he had some miracles happen to him." There were no witnesses. It was just his own word: "God spoke to me. I saw a miracle." You believe it, or you don't believe it?

What a contrast with Jesus! At one point, He supernaturally fed 5,000 people. This is recorded in each of the gospels. If someone has the nerve to step forward and say, "I performed a miracle in front of 5,000 people," then we're going to say, "OK, give us some names and addresses of witnesses, and let's check this out." That may be why they never have any witnesses. But Jesus had at least 5,000 witnesses on one occasion.

Then if you'll turn to Acts 26:6, we'll check out something else. The apostle Paul continues this theme. He was making his defense before Agrippa. He says, "King Agrippa knows about these matters. If I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner." So he was appearing before these important officials in the Roman government, including Festus, another government official. He was before these people, and he said, "Come on, guys. You know what I'm talking about. You read The Jerusalem Daily News, and none of these things happened in secret. None of these things happened in a corner."

There are 32 or 35 miracles that are recorded in the gospels. The reason that it is 32 *or* 35 is because for three of them, we're not really sure if they're talking about the same miracle or not. They were witnessed in different ways by different people, and they wrote them up so differently, we read it and we say, "Well maybe this was the same. Maybe what Mark was talking about was the same one that Luke was talking about." We really can't be sure.

Now, what does that tell you? Well, it tells me that if all four of them got together and got their story straight, they'd all be just alike. There would be no variation. You know, if you're on a jury in a courtroom, and they bring several different witnesses, and they all tell the very same story down to the very last detail, you begin to think, "Did these people get together and agree on what they were going to say?" But if they don't contradict each other, but you can tell that each one is seeing it from a different perspective, and each one saw different details, then you think, "You know, this has got to be the truth."

So at least 33 different miracles (and maybe 35) are recorded. And this is interesting. They were all good. There are stories of miracles of religious leaders over the years: cult leaders; Roman Catholic saints; and, so on. But some of these miracles are really questionable, if for no other reason, because so many times they were for personal gain. Jesus never did anything for personal gain. Everything was good for other people.

For example, in John 10:32, Jesus had just said that He and God the Father are of the same essence. That is just like saying, "I am God." And the Jews understood Him to say this. So in verse 31, they took up stones to stone Him for blasphemy. In verse 32, Jesus said, "OK, before you stone Me, I'd just like to ask one question. I showed you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you stoning Me? You people have been following me around. You've been watching what I've been doing, and you've been seeing the good works I've been doing." By that, He meant the supernatural works: healing the blind; the deaf; and, the paralyzed, and raising the dead. He said, "Just which one of these are you going to stone Me for?"

Notice that they didn't say, "We're going to stone you for pretending to do good works." They said, "Well, that's not what we're stoning You for. We're stoning you for claiming to be God."

Let's look at a few more. Matthew 15:30-31: "Great multitudes came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, dumb, or mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet, and He healed them. And the multitude marveled as they saw the dumb speaking, the cripple restored, the lame walking, and the blind seeing, and they glorified the God of Israel." Notice that there are no specific miracles here. These don't even count with the 33 or the 35. Matthew is just saying, "Wow, He sure performed a lot of miracles, and here are the kinds of miracles that He performed."

Matthew 19:1-2: "It came about that when Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee, and came into the region of Judea behind the Jordan, and great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there. So great multitudes of people were healed.

Mark 1:32: "When evening had come, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city gathered at the door." That's a lot of people – the whole city. "And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And He was not permitting the demons to speak because they knew who He was." Again, these were great multitudes. Mark is not even going to try to tell us how many, or pick out any specific people. He just says great multitudes.

Mark 6:53: "And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore. When they had come out of the boat, immediately, people recognized Him." I bet they did, if they had been hearing about these things. "And ran about that whole country, and began to carry about on their pallets those who were sick to the place they heard He was. And whenever He entered villages or cities or countryside, they were lying sick in the marketplaces, and then treating Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak." They just wanted to touch one of fringes that Orthodox Jews wore on their garments. "And as many as touched it were being healed."

So Mark is not even going to try to pick out a few cases in that context. He's just saying that many people were healed.

Another one is in Luke 6:17: "And He descended with them and stood on a level place. There was a great multitude of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all of Judea in Jerusalem, in the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon and who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. All the multitude were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing them all."

We say sometimes if somebody has a gift of healing, why doesn't he just go down to Baylor Hospital, and walk down the hall, and heal all the people in their rooms and then go to St. Paul's, and do the same thing and then go to Parkland's? That's just what Jesus was doing. He said, "Sure, I can heal people. Who do you want healed?" This is one of the differences in false miracles and the true miracles of Jesus Christ. False miracles are private, usually no witnesses, and if there are witnesses, they're good friends, or on the payroll of the person who pretends to perform miracles, and they all have their story just right.

We've got 35 recorded miracles in the gospels, then each gospel writer says, "There were many, many more," everywhere Jesus went. He was performing miracles for other people. He was doing good, and never taking up a collection. He was just trying to do as much good for people as He could, and never for personal profit. In Matthew 4, Satan said, "I know you're hungry. It's been 40 days since you've eaten, and since you are the Son of God, why don't you just change these rocks and stone into food?" Jesus refused him. He never performed a miracle for personal advantage. His miracles don't have the sensational card trick magic type of aura that surrounds the false miracles.

**Pseudepigrapha**

There is a collection of ancient books called The Pseudepigrapha. The word "pseudo" means "false." In the early days of Christianity, there were some books that people wrote that claimed to be gospels telling about the life of Jesus, and they were never accepted by any Christians with discernment. Finally, during the days of Constantine, Constantine said, "OK, I want everybody in the Roman Empire to have access to a Bible. I want all the churches to have a Bible to be read." Somebody said, "Well, how are we going to determine what is sacred Scripture? You know, there are a bunch of these books floating around that really don't belong in the Bible, but some people would like to see them there." So Constantine called a couple of councils, and they didn't throw them out, because they never were in. They just made it public that it's OK to read this stuff if you want to, but don't think you're reading Scripture. It isn't authentic. It isn't Holy Spirit inspired.

In the Pseudepigrapha, there all these little stories about Jesus growing up. You can imagine, if you let your imagination run away with you and you think, "Well, here's a man, here's a little boy who is God. How would a little boy who happens to be God and has infinite power, how would he act growing up?" So there's a story about when Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus are they're fleeing to Egypt or coming back from Egypt. Mary was thirsty, and they were out on the desert, and she didn't have anything to drink. So they stopped to rest for a while, and baby Jesus had compassion on His mother, so He created some springs there. To this day in the Egyptian desert, there are three springs. The tradition is that those were created by the baby Jesus because his mom was thirsty.

Then one of the books of the Pseudepigrapha tells about when Jesus was playing with his friends. They decided to make things out of clay. So they're making birds out of clay and seeing who can make the best birds. And the birds that Jesus made out of clay just fly away.

Then when sometimes as a joke or a prank, when Jesus is playing with his friends, He'll just change one of them to an animal for a while, and get some laughs from the guys. These are the kind of pseudo miracles that were made up about Jesus. These are the kind of miraculous stories that you hear about false religious leaders. But when you read the New Testament, there's a totally different air about the miracles. They were never for attention; never for personal gain; and, never a miracle just to be doing a miracle for its own sake. They were always to prove a point. They were always to help someone, and almost always as a springboard for teaching some doctrinal truth.

An example of illustrating that Jesus never performed a miracle to hurt anyone, even his own enemies, would be in Matthew 26 and John 18. When the officials (the temple police and the Roman soldiers came to arrest Jesus), Simon Peter took out his sword, and wanted to kill the high priest's servant. It even tells us his name: Malchus. Simon Peter missed his throat and hit ear. Jesus picked up his ear and put it back on and healed him. Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back in its place, for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than 12 legions of angels? So put your sword up, Simon. We're not going to do it this way. If I didn't want to go through with this, if I wanted to use My divine power to save My neck, I'd just call on My Father, and He would send angels here to wipe these guys out." So He never used miracles for personal profit. It was always a divine good work.

When you hear about false miracles, in addition to never having any credible witnesses, they're always isolated. Remember what Paul said to Herod Agrippa and Festus. He said, "These things were not done in a corner." Everybody knew about these things over a three-year spread. Jesus' public ministry began with a miracle of changing the water to wine at a wedding. It ended with the resurrection, of course. It was over a three-year period in all kinds of settings: inside a synagogue; by the sea shore; in the sea; and, both public and private. Sometimes there many witnesses, and sometimes just a few. They included healing of people of physical infirmities, spiritual infirmities, casting out demons, and showing His power over nature. All sorts of miracles were spread out in all kinds of settings over a three-year period, and all without ostentation, without showing off, and without preparation.

You know, if someone's going to perform a magic show, you need to get there early, and put up your props, and get your helpers all in place. But Jesus performed miracles right on the spot as though He had never even thought about it, without any kind of preparation. Not only among Jewish people, but there are at least two examples of going into gentile territory and performing miracles. You might want to check this out in Mark 7 and John 4.

Even Jesus' worst enemies never said, "The man can't perform miracles. He's deceiving people." They would always come up with something like in Luke 11:14. He was casting out a demon, and it was mute: "And it came about when the demon had gone out of the man, the mute man spoke, and the multitudes marveled. But some of them said, 'He casts out demons by Beelzebub the ruler of demons.'" So they didn't say, "Look, people, this is a trick. This guy is tricking you." They said, "No, it's a miracle. He can do it, but He must be in league with Beelzebub, the prince of demons." They never denied that he could do that. Jesus' enemies later on did not deny that He performed miracles. They just came up with a different explanation.

The first book that we know about in history, written against Christianity, was a book written in 178 A.D. by a man named Celsus. It is interesting to note that Celsius praised Jesus. He said he was a good man: "I like his teachings. He really taught some good stuff. He was a good example. I admire his character." But he had some problems with other things.

First of all, he didn't believe that He was the Son of God, the Savior of the world. He said, "If people take Jesus teachings seriously, they might not be good citizens, because they won't put the government first. The state government will not be number one on their agenda. They'll have a higher power, namely God, that they worship. So I don't think it's a good idea for people to follow Jesus." He said, "Yeah, he performed miracles. I can't deny that. But, you know, a lot of pagan religious leaders have performed miracles. So he just discovered their secrets and knew how to conjure spirits or whatever." But he never denied that Jesus did indeed perform miracles.

Another guy has gone down in history with the name Julian the Apostate. He was really an interesting guy. He was emperor of Rome for a while, and he claimed to be a Christian for many years. And then when he became emperor, he said, "I've just been deceiving people about being a Christian so I could seize power, because since Constantine, the people wanted an emperor who claimed to be a Christian." But when Julian became emperor, he said, "I'm not a Christian, and I never have been. It's all been a big deception." He did a lot of things to discourage people and even persecuted Christians. He discouraged people from being a Christian. But he never denied that Jesus was a miracle worker. In fact, he said, "Yeah, one thing I have to admit about the Galilean, He did perform miracles. So isn't that interesting that even his worst enemies never denied that he was a miracle worker?

So many miracles that Jesus performed are recorded by all the gospel writers' record, and then they say there were many more. All of them have the earmarks of being authentic with none of the marks that false miracles may have.

**Difficulty**

Jesus didn't seem to rate miracles according to difficulty. I heard a guy a few years ago who was giving a course in healing. He was teaching people. He said some Christians have the gift of healing. He said if you have the gift of teaching, you can go to a Bible college or a seminary and learn how to use it. So why not the gift of healing? So if you have the gift of healing, come to my seminar, and I'll teach you how to heal people – how to develop and apply your gift of healing. I heard about a man who had gone to this healing seminar, and the teacher one day had a bad cold in his chest. So this man asked him, "Why don't you heal yourself? Or maybe since we all have the gift of healing, maybe one of us can heal you." He answered, "You know, I never have been able to heal a cold, and I never have known anybody who could heal a cold."

When Benny Hinn comes to a town, he does something. You might have seen him on television. He and W.V. Grant used to do this. I don't think that W.V. is healing many people anymore. But Benny Hinn will get people out of the wheelchair. He'll have them rolled up to his platform, and he'll command them to get up. And, man, they'll just get up and walk. Sometimes he'll say, "Play some nice organ music while they dance," and they'll go strutting down the aisles and dance. You'll just say, "Boy, this guy, he's really got the gift of healing."

But I have been told by people who are familiar with it that Benny Hinn carries these wheelchairs around with him in his trailers. And when his ushers see people coming in who look kind of weak, or they're limping, they may have a problem, or they are elderly people, they will say, "Well here, let us provide you with a wheelchair." But those are the people that they call out of the audience to put on a healing act with. When you get people psyched up emotionally, they can do things that might be more difficult for them otherwise. But they're very careful if they see somebody wheeling in a paraplegic, they're not going to call that person up. They're just going to call the people that they can tell are in their ministry-owned wheelchairs back.

25 or 30 years ago when Oral Roberts was really going strong, he was telling people that he had raised the dead, and so on. You've heard the stories before. Somebody said, "Okay, Oral, how many dead people have you raised?" And he said, "Well, I remember one time. I was think he was in New Mexico. A strong wind came and blew the tent down and one guy was killed. I went and raised him from the dead. You can check this out with the doctor because there was a doctor there." So they tracked down the doctor, and asked him where he went to medical school. Well, he never really went to medical school. He went to some kind of herbalist school, and got his doctorate at an unaccredited school – at best, a borderline type school. So he wouldn't know if anybody was dead or not.

The story is that there were some faculty members at ORU. They were a married couple, and one of them was a professor at Oral Roberts University. They had an infant baby and the baby died. They called one of Oral's aid and told him. He said, "Oh, I'm so sorry. Be sure and let us know about funeral arrangements in order to send flowers, or so on." The grieving mother said, "No, no, we want Brother Roberts to come and raise our baby from the dead." And the aide said, "Ma'am, Brother Roberts wouldn't touch that one. No way."

Well, it didn't bother the Lord Jesus. Leprosy was an incurable disease. And, you know, just recently in the last 20 years or so, they've gotten drugs that can stop leprosy. But 2,000 years ago, if you had leprosy, you had a one way ticket out. That didn't bother Jesus. He healed lepers; people blind from birth; death; and, hemorrhaging.

You know, I was in a service once that a Roman Catholic priest was leading. This was a charismatic Catholic. A lady there said that she'd like to be healed because one leg was shorter than the other. So he had her to sit in a chair, and he would pray that God would lengthen her leg. Then he'd have her put both of her legs out and say, "Yeah, look they're even now. God, just to show us, go ahead and make one shorter than the other, just to show us that it's really You." And you'd look at them. She would stretch her legs out. Sure enough, one would be a little bit shorter.

I heard later that this is a favorite trick. I mean, the healers love this because they can manipulate you. You can relax your muscles, and one leg will look a little bit shorter than the other, or a little bit longer or whatever. But it's all pretty subjective. I've been in Pentecostal services where somebody said, "A miracle just happened tonight. I had this horrible headache when I came here. As soon as Brother so-and-so prayed, my headache left me." And all over the building, people are saying, "Praise the Lord." Well, it's nice when people get healed, but all you have to go on is their word and their testimony. A lot of times headaches are psychosomatic.

I was in a service once of the old Brother Grant. This was the original W.V. Grant. He was the father of the guy who went to prison a few years ago. He got up and started preaching, and he said, "Oh, wait a minute. I just got a message from the Lord." He said, "There's somebody in here who's got a hurting right between your shoulder blades, and God told me that if you'll come up, I'll help you." Sure enough, there was a woman in the audience. She walked up, and he laid his hand on her, and she said, "Oh, boy, I haven't felt this good in a long time. That's really been bothering me." Well, again, there is no objective proof. All we had was the word of W.V. Grant and the lady.

But the thing about Jesus healing these blind people is that people had known all their lives that they were blind. This guy with the withered limb, it's pretty hard to fake that. Jesus didn't have any problem healing that. They dropped a paralyzed man through the roof on a bed because he was paralyzed. Jesus said, "Sure, take your bed up and walk."

Then there's the one about the amputated ear. There's not a healer in the world who would touch that one. No way. Jesus just picked the ear up; put it on Malchus, and said, "Simon, put your sword away."

The ultimate was the raising of the dead. There are three instances in the New Testament where the Lord Jesus Christ raised the dead. In the account of the raising of Lazarus in John 11, Lazarus was not only dead, but he had been dead four days. Jesus said, "Roll that stone away." Lazarus' sister said, "Oh, don't do that, Lord. By now, he's stinking." You know, decay had already set in. That was no problem for Jesus.

Well, we're out of time. So we're not going to go much further here. We're just going to say that Jesus' miracles proved who and what He was, which is God the Son of God. He's equal to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Some of His miracles just showed that He knew everything. He was omniscient. At the time when He healed someone, some of the religious leaders didn't even say anything. They were just thinking it. He had said, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Some of the religious leaders were thinking, "Who is this guy who claims to be able to forgive sin?" And Jesus spoke up because He could read their thoughts.

Then another time when this woman came and washed His feet, Simon was thinking, "This man is not a prophet, or He would know what kind of woman this was, and He wouldn't let her touch Him." Simon didn't say anything, but Jesus knew what he was thinking.

All through the New Testament, through the gospels, we see Jesus' omniscience. Only God is omniscient. Jesus had power over nature; calming the sea; power over demonic forces; casting out demons; and, then ultimately raising people from the dead, showing His power over life and power over death. Then finally, His resurrection proved absolutely beyond doubt that He was who and what He says he is.

Leon Adkins, 2003

[**Back to the Advanced Bible Doctrine (Philippians) index**](http://www.christiandataresources.com/philippiansdanish.htm)

[**Back to the Bible Questions index**](http://www.christiandataresources.com/allarticles.htm)