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miracles (Matthew 10:1) but it is not allowed today (I Corinthians 13:8-10). Yes, God is the same yesterday, today and forever, but his laws and requirements have changed!

We are told in Mark 16:20 that miracles were for the purpose of *"confirming the word."* While the New Testament was in the process of being given it was "confirmed" as genuine and true by *"signs and wonders and divers miracles"* (Hebrews 13:3-4). Revelation (the New Testament) was being given in "parts" and when all the "parts" had been delivered and confirmed, the completed New Testament was finished. Therefore, the miracles needed to validate the giving of the Word were no longer needed. This is the argument the apostle Paul makes by inspiration in I Corinthians chapters 12-14. In chapter 13:8-10 we read, *"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."*

According to I Corinthians 13:11, miracles were childish things. A baby needs a rattle but when he is grown the rattle is discarded. While the church was in its infancy it needed miracles, but when the giving of the New Testament

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was completed by the end of the first century, miracles were no longer needed and therefore done away.

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"For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."

1 Corinthians 13:9,10

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## What Does The Bible Teach Concerning Miracles Today?



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### PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT A MIRACLE IS.

Webster's 7th New Collegiate Dictionary says: "1. an extraordinary event manifesting a supernatural work of God." You can also find other definitions because of the way the word is used in society today, such as: 2. "an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment."

The word "miracle" is most often used today in a non-Biblical sense such as definition number 2 above. For example: when someone is not killed in a particularly horrible car crash, people will be heard to say, "It was a miracle he was not killed!" Such is not a miracle! People often credit unusual events with being a miracle, when such is not the case at all.

A miracle is supernatural — beyond the realm of human accomplishment or means. A miracle comes only from God — not man! There are many miracles recorded in the Bible. They establish and demonstrate a marked contrast between

genuine miracles of deity (God) and the so-called miracles of today. Note these examples:

Matthew 14:19-21, "...And took the five loaves, and the two fishes, ...he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children. Matthew 15:31 "Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see...." Matthew 11:5 "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up...." These are miracles!

Miracles—true, authentic, genuine miracles—are not being performed today. I say that, not because I do not believe in miracles, but because the Bible says they ceased with the completion of the New Testament. We must believe the Word of God, not the testimony of men. The context of I Corinthians 13:8-11 makes

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it plain, "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." Miracles were for the purpose of confirming the Word and were therefore only temporary (Mark 16:20; Hebrews

### SINCE GOD IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER. WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." God's deity, nature, character and personality never change. "For there is no respect of persons with God" (Romans 2:11). However, God has dealt with men differently at various times in history under different laws. For example: at one time God created man from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7), but he does not make man that way today. At one time he spoke to men through prophets but now he speaks through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2) and the revelation of his divine word (John 12:48). At one time he required animal sacrifices (Exodus 20:24) but now he requires each Christian to be a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2). At one time God allowed men to perform

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