

Cooke, TonyMiracles and the Supernatural Throughout Church History Study Guide

4. Lesson 1 — Are Miracles Still for Today?

Rick and Tony argue that miracles and the gifts of the Holy Spirit did not stop with the apostles but continue in the Church until Jesus returns. They make the case from Scripture, Tony's own healing testimony, and 2,000 years of documented church history.

Key takeaways

- The Bible teaches the gifts of the Spirit keep operating until Jesus returns; miracles authenticate the Gospel and set people free.
- 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 does not mean gifts stopped when the Bible was finished. 'That which is perfect' means seeing Jesus face to face in eternity — until then, we know 'in part' and the gifts continue.
- Because Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, the same Pentecost power still flows today. He is 'the Great I Am, not the Great I Was.'
- Cessationist = believes the gifts stopped (with the apostles or the canon). Continuationist = believes they continue. History supports the continuationist view.

- Church history documents miracles in every century and region — Irenaeus, Tertullian, Justin Martyr, and later Wesley, Moody, Spurgeon, Finney, and Edwards all record the supernatural.
- Faith activates God's power. It is a two-sided partnership: God's unchanging power plus the believer's active faith. Ritual and dead formalism cause the miraculous to fade.
- Christianity is not only intellectual; there is a real, experiential side — 'taste and see that the Lord is good.'

Passages worth keeping

"God is the Great I Am, not the Great I Was."

Sums up the whole argument: God's power has not changed or diminished.

"A.W. Tozer said if the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the Church today, 95% of what we do would go on and no one would notice."

Warns how far today's Church can drift from real dependence on the Spirit.

How it connects

The lesson leans on Hebrews 13:8 (Jesus the same yesterday, today, forever) as its backbone: an unchanging Christ means unchanging power available to a believing Church.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Corinthians 13:8-10** -- The key text; 'that which is perfect' = seeing Jesus, not the finished Bible, so gifts continue.
- **1 Corinthians 13:12** -- 'Then shall I know as I am known' — the perfect time is meeting Jesus face to face.
- **Mark 16:17-18,20** -- Signs follow believers; the Lord works with those who preach — faith plus God's power.
- **Mark 5:29-30** -- The woman with the issue of blood felt healing; Jesus felt power leave — power can be tangibly felt.
- **1 Corinthians 3:9** -- Believers are laborers together with God — the human side of the partnership.
- **Psalms 34:8** -- 'Taste and see' — Christianity has a required experiential side, not just theory.