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Miracles and the Supernatural Throughout Church History Study Guide

7. Lesson 4 — The Move of God in Europe

Rick and Tony trace the Holy Spirit's supernatural work across European church history, from Paul's first arrival in Macedonia through Irenaeus, Martin Luther, and John Wesley. The point: Europe has a rich Gospel heritage, and the same power that worked then still works now for anyone who engages their faith.

Key takeaways

- The Gospel first reached Europe when God redirected Paul by vision to Philippi in Macedonia, where a slave girl was delivered, Paul and Silas were freed from prison, and the jailer's household was saved.
- "Divers miracles" in Hebrews 2:4 uses the same Greek word as Joseph's coat of many colors — miracles are variegated, meeting many different needs.
- Irenaeus of Lyons (sent by Polycarp) recorded demons cast out, sick healed, dead raised, prophecy, and tongues — the early European church was born in power, not darkness.
- Martin Luther preached justification by faith and also saw healings and deliverances; his prayers were credited with healing Melanchthon and Myconius.

- John Wesley caught the fire among the Moravians and saw healings throughout his Methodist ministry; 35 denominations trace to him.
- The secret is 'engaged faith' — God moves wherever His Word is believed and acted on. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Passages worth keeping

“That is not right, for the same power is in the church still.”

Luther rejecting the idea that miraculous signs ceased after the early church.

“The secret to the miraculous is engaged faith. God will move for anyone that will engage their faith.”

The lesson's core thesis.

How it connects

The through-line from Pentecost to Paul to Luther to Wesley is one continuous move of the same Spirit — the Charismatic renewal is not new but the ongoing outworking of Acts 1:8.

Scripture referenced

- **Hebrews 2:4** -- God confirms the Gospel with signs, wonders, and divers miracles
- **Acts 1:8** -- power of the Spirit to witness to the uttermost parts of the earth

- **Acts 16:10** -- the vision redirecting Paul to Macedonia — Gospel reaches Europe
- **John 14:12** -- believers doing Jesus' works and greater; Luther's key text on continuing power
- **Mark 16:17** -- signs follow those who believe