

Cooke, Tony

Miracles and the Supernatural Throughout Church History Study Guide

8. Lesson 5 — The Move of God in America

Rick and Tony trace the Holy Spirit's power through early American church history, drawing on Tony Cooke's book on miracles throughout church history. They profile four key preachers and argue that the gifts of the Spirit continue today, with America poised for a fresh outpouring.

Key takeaways

- The gifts of the Spirit stay active until Christ returns; Paul says the Corinthians were 'enriched' (Greek plousios, extremely rich) in every gift.
- John Wesley: anointed preaching with healings (even a man, Mr. Myrick, reportedly raised). He warned Methodists could survive as a 'dead sect' with the form but not the power if they stopped contending for it.
- Charles Spurgeon: operated in the word of knowledge, calling out hidden sins mid-sermon (a hidden gin bottle, stolen gloves) leading to repentance.
- Jonathan Edwards: First Great Awakening leader; revival swept New England, people fell under God's power. His 'Distinguishing Marks' gives five tests of a genuine work of the Spirit.

- Charles Finney: Second Great Awakening leader; described his Spirit baptism as 'waves of liquid love,' saw sudden healing and people falling under the power.
- Modern outpourings (Azusa Street, 1940s–50s healing revival, 1960s–70s charismatic move) have produced over 600 million charismatics; another Great Awakening is coming.
- Miracles never cease, but faith for miracles can fade—so it must be worked at and kept alive.

Passages worth keeping

“I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist... But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power.”

Wesley's warning that groups born in the Spirit can lose their fire.

How it connects

Edwards' five marks of a genuine work—exalting Jesus, opposing sin, honoring Scripture, promoting truth, producing love—give a Biblical test for any claimed move of the Spirit.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Corinthians 1:5-7** -- Corinthians enriched in every gift until Christ's coming—gifts continue.

- **Joel 2:28-29** -- God pouring out His Spirit on all flesh in the last days.
- **Acts 9** -- Saul falls to the ground—Scripture precedent for being overcome by God's power.