

Cooke, TonyMiracles and the Supernatural Throughout Church History

8. Preface

The author explains why he wrote a book on the supernatural and church history. He tells his own testimony: raised in a formal mainline church, he had never expected miracles today, until a 1977 healing and being filled with the Holy Spirit changed everything. That personal experience, plus later formal study of church history, convinced him God has always worked supernaturally through His people.

Key takeaways

- In 1977 the author was healed of two years of chronic back pain when Charles Hunter prayed for him, feeling what he describes as 'electricity and warm honey.'
- That night his friend John Fenn showed him from Acts that the Holy Spirit is a Person who wants to fill and empower believers; the author was filled and his life changed.
- Being Spirit-filled gave him understanding of the Bible, a new desire to teach, and a ministry that has since reached over thirty nations.
- He had assumed miracles were 'ancient history'; his own healing made him rethink whether God had been working supernaturally all along.

- Later study — including a Master's with a Church History focus — showed him abundant evidence of revivals, outpourings, and spiritual gifts across the centuries.
- His thesis: God never intended His people to be without the Holy Spirit's power or gifts, and Scripture plus history bear this out.

Passages worth keeping

“Something I assumed only happened in Bible days had just happened in my life!”

Captures the shift from viewing miracles as past-only to present reality that drives the whole book.

How it connects

The preface sets up the book's dual method — reading Scripture alongside church history — to argue that the Spirit's power seen in Acts continued past the apostolic age and is available now.

Scripture referenced

- **Mark 5:29** -- The woman who felt in her body she was healed — the author's parallel to his own healing.
- **Acts 2:4; 8:14-17; 19:1-6 (and Eph. 5:18)** -- Passages his friend used to show the Holy Spirit fills and empowers believers.