

Cooke, TonyMiracles and the Supernatural Throughout Church History

9. Introduction

The author explains what this book is and how to read it. He admits the subject—2,000 years of God's supernatural works in Church history—is too vast to cover fully, so he only skips across the highlights. He sets expectations and defines his terms.

Key takeaways

- The book is selective, not comprehensive—'a rock skipping across a pond.' A Recommended Reading section points to figures left out.
- 'Pentecostal' and 'Charismatic' are used interchangeably to mean believers who embrace the beliefs, practices, and experiences seen in the book of Acts—not a denomination, style, or stereotype.
- Three sections: (1) the Biblical Basis for supernatural works, (2) Historical Accounts after the apostle John up to modern times, (3) Present-Day Realities and Applications.
- The people covered were flawed, growing works-in-progress; only Scripture is infallible. Even great writers like Augustine and Aquinas reassessed their own work late in life.

- The goal is transformation, not just information—people 'full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom,' ready to act with God's power.

Passages worth keeping

“We don't just need individuals who have information, but people who have been transformed, who are full of wisdom, and ready to take action with God's enablement and empowerment.”

States the book's real aim—changed lives, not head knowledge.

How it connects

The whole book is anchored to Acts: the supernatural works of the early church are the pattern the author expects to trace through history and into today.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Corinthians 13:9,12** -- We know and see 'in part'—humility about what we can grasp.
- **Acts 6:3,5,8** -- The standard: people of good reputation, full of the Spirit, wisdom, and faith (Stephen).