

described involve performance both of miracles in general and of healing. In fact, incidents of outright miracles exclusive of healing are rare, since most of the miracles are either healing the sick, casting out demons, or, in a few instances, raising the dead. Due to this fact, miracles and healing will be handled together. The principles and conclusions are the same for both gifts.

The gift of working miracles means that a specific individual can directly perform miracles. The gift of healing means that a specific individual can heal other people directly. The same applies to casting out demons if it is considered a gift. The individual has the ability to perform the miracle or healing instances where people are healed in answer to prayer are not instances of exercise of spiritual gifts but are God's working in answer to prayer. If believers gather and pray for a sick person and that person is healed miraculously, this is not evidence that the gift of healing exists today. This demonstrates that God answers prayer.

- b. The question of continuance or non-continuance of this gift

Dennis and Rita Bennett (pp. 127-131) write:

What did Jesus mean when He said that those who believe in Him would do "greater things"? Some think it means that there will be many more miracles due to the greater number of people who are filled with the Holy Spirit today. Others think it could also mean new miracles will be done in addition to, and even greater than, those recorded in the Bible. One thing is sure, that if Jesus meant that believers would do new miracles, they would be according to the pattern already set by the Lord, and would be according to the Scripture. There are plenty of weird events taking place these days, as men and women experiment with the occult and the psychic, that is to say with the powers of Satan, and the Christian must not be deceived by them. The Scripture tells us that the followers of the enemy will do "great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Matt. 24:21 KJV; Mark 13:22)

However, miracles are happening today according to the pattern of the Scriptures. In the book, *Nine O'clock in the Morning* we cited several cases in which God strikingly altered the weather in response to believing prayer. There are present-day examples of persons being transported physically in the Spirit as Philip the Evangelist was in Acts 8:39-40. David duPlessis, perhaps the best-known witness in the charismatic renewal, tells of such a miracle in his earlier ministry. He and some other men were gathered in the garden outside a friend's home, praying for another man who was lying in bed, seriously ill, about a mile away.

"As we prayed," says David, "the Lord said to me: 'You are needed at that man's bedside right away!' I snatched up my hat