
Book 11

Human Miracle Working

A Biblical Evaluation of the Modern Miracle Movement

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The chapter numbers below are color-coded according to the following categories in order to help you prioritize your reading:

Best: The most helpful, interesting and/or important chapters of the book.

Essential: Important chapters to understand the topic of the book.

Specialized: Chapters for the finer or more complex points of the topic of the book.

Part I: Miracle Working in Scripture

11.1: The Biblical Attributes of Miracle Working

When a Miracle Really Was a Miracle [20 pp]

- A) Introduction: Faith, Healing, & Miracle Working** [2]
- B) Miracle Working Gifts Always Worked with a Command, Not a Prayer:**
Miracles vs. Miracle Working [3-7]
- C) Miracle Working Gifts Always Required Miracle Faith from God** [7-8]
- D) Miracle Working Gifts Always Worked Powerfully, Not Partially** [8-11]
- E) Miracle Working Gifts Always Worked Convincingly, Not *Suspiciously***
[11-15]
- F) A Biblical "Healing Ministry" Always Worked to Authenticate a Divine
"Revealing Ministry"** [15-21]

Extras & Endnotes [21-26]

11.2: Defending Biblical Miracle Workers [15 pp]

- A) The View of *Liberalism* and *Charismaticism* Disagrees with Historical Christianity** [2-5]
- B) There are No "Ordinary" Miracle Workers in Scripture** [5-11]
 - B.1) *Super-supernaturalism's* straw man of "apostolic" miracle workers
 - B.2) The "Seventy" were apostles of Jesus Christ
 - B.3) Ananias was personally appointed by Jesus Christ with a monumental message for the Church
 - B.4) Phillip introduced extra-biblical revelation to Samaria
 - B.5) Stephen was personally appointed to represent apostles
 - B.6) NT does not imply "ordinary" miracle workers: *1 Cor 12, Gal 3:5*

B.7) There are no "ordinary" miracle workers in the OT: *Aaron, Joshua, & Samson*

C) *Super-supernaturalism* Confuses the Primary Purpose of Miracle Working with the Secondary Beneficial Effects [11-13]

D) Christ's Injunctions for Silence Condemn *Super-supernaturalism* [13-14]

E) Supposed "Miracle Workers" in Other Religions Do Not Negate God's Purposes for Miracle Working [14-16]

Publications & Particulars [16-18]

11.3: The Misuse of Scriptures Regarding Miracle Working [6 pp]

A) Arguing from Silence Instead of Scripture: *Where are all the miracle workers?* [1-2]

B) The Misuse of the Gospels and Acts: *We are to be awed by the uniqueness of biblical miracle workers, not expect to imitate them* [2-4]

C) The Misuse of Mark 16:17-18: *Where are the Poison Gifts?* [4-6]

D) The Misuse of Isaiah 53: *By His wounds we are healed* [6-7]

E) The Misuse of Joel 2:23: *The latter rain* [7]

Extras & Endnotes [7-9]

Part II: Miracle Working & Faith

11.4: Miracle Working & *Miracle Faith*: *Both are Gifts from God* [5 pp]

A) Enables Miracle Working [2]

B) Absent of Doubt [2]

C) Possesses Omnipotence [2-3]

D) Source is Divine not Human [3]

E) Granted through Revelation [3-4]

F) Extremely Rare [4-5]

G) Enables the Reception of Miracles [5]

H) Abraham's Illustration of Miracle Faith: *Romans 4:18-22* [5-6]

Extras & Endnotes [6-10]

11.5: Defending *Miracle Faith* [12 pp]

A) *Miracle Faith* is Completely a Gift from God [1-2]

B) *Miracle Faith* is Required for Miracle Working but not Miracles [2-3]

C) *Miracle Faith* May be Given to the Healer or the Healed [3-4]

D) God Never Blames His People for the Absence of Miracles [4-8]

E) *Miracle Faith* Can be Granted Without the Gift of Miracle Working:

James 5:14-16 [8-11]

F) God Chooses When & Where to Grant Miracle Working Faith & Gifts
[11-12]

Extras & Endnotes [13-15]

11.6: Miracle Working & Saving Faith: An Evaluation of "Power Evangelism" [11 pp]

A) "Power Evangelism" Confuses Several Biblical Distinctions [2-4]

B) "Power Evangelism" is Not Supported by Early or Subsequent Church History [4-5]

C) "Power Evangelism" is Not Supported by Scripture [6-8]

D) "Power Evangelism" Obscures Conversions & Discipleship [8-9]

E) Miracles are Meant for Believers, not Unbelievers [9-11]

F) *Saving faith* occurs with the propositional Gospel & supernatural regeneration, not miracle working [11-12]

Extras & Endnotes [13-15]

Part III: The Ceasing & Counterfeiting of Miracle Working

11.7: The Cessation of Miracle Working in the Church

The Completion of NT Revelation & Purpose of the Gift [26 pp]

A) Introduction to the History of Miracle Working in the Church [3-4]

B) A Survey of the History of Miracle Working in the Church [4-23]

B.1) Miracle Working in the 1st Century Church: *James*- "*Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church*"

B.2) Miracle Working in the 2nd Century Church: *Irenaeus*- "*The dead even have been raised up*"

B.3) Miracle Working in the 3rd Century Church: *Origen*- "*traces remain*"

B.4) Miracle Working in the 4th & 5th Century Church: *Chrysostom*- "*The gifts have long since ceased*"

B.5) Miracle Working in the Medieval Church: *Roman Catholic propaganda*

B.6) Miracle Working in the Reformation Church: *Calvin*- "*We are not forging some new gospel*"

B.7) Miracle Working in the Revival Church: *Edwards*- "*since the canon of Scripture has been completed . . . those extraordinary gifts have ceased.*"

B.8) Miracle Working in the 19th Century Church: *Spurgeon*—"He gave that gift to the Church in its infancy, but now it needs it no longer"

B.9) Miracle Working in the 20th Century Church

B.9.a) Early 1900's

B.9.b) Early super-supernaturalists: *Allen, Coe, and Branham*

B.9.c) Prominent Women: *McPherson & Kuhlman*

B.9.d) Contemporary super-supernaturalists: *Roberts, Bakker, & Swaggart*

- C) Proposed Reasons for the Obvious and Drastic Decline of Miracle Working Gifts in Church History & Their Supposed Restoration Today** [23-27]
- D) A Biblical and Historical Reconstruction of the Distribution of the NT Documents and the Resulting Cessation of Miracle Working Gifts** [27-29]

Extras & Endnotes [29-37]

11.8: Modern Miracle Working & Fraud: *Not Everything Amazing is Real* [14 pp]

- A) Introduction to Explaining Modern Claims to Miracle Working** [2-4]
- B) *Super-supernaturalism's* Inadequate Approach to Fraud** [4-6]
- C) Fraud in the Ancient Church: *Apollonius*** [6-7]
- D) Fraud Among Spiritualists & Shamans** [7-8]
- E) Fraud in Early *Super-supernaturalism*** [8-12]
 - E.1) Fraud of Indonesian "Revival"
 - E.2) Fraud of Kathryn Kuhlman
 - E.3) Fraud of Oral Roberts
 - E.4) Fraud of resurrections
- F) Fraud in Modern *Super-supernaturalism*** [12-15]
 - F.1) Fraud of the "Toronto Blessing"
 - F.2) Fraud of the "Happy Hunters"
 - F.3) Fraud of John Wimber
 - F.4) Fraud of Benny Hinn

Publications & Particulars [15-17]

11.9: Modern Miracle Working & Mind Cure: *Not Everything Amazing is Supernatural* [15 pp]

- A) Understanding Mind-Cure** [1-7]
- B) Temple "Miracles" of Asclepius: 300 B.C.** [7-8]
- C) Gravesite "Miracles" of Jansenists: 1700's** [8]
- D) The "Miracles" of Mary: Lourdes** [9-11]
- E) The "Miracles" of Mesmerism** [11]
- F) The Power of Positive Thinking** [11-12]
- G) The "Miracles" of Another Mary: *Christian Science*** [12-15]

Extras & Endnotes [16-18]

11.10: Miracle Working & the Power of Confession, Conversion & Exorcism: *Not Everything Supernatural is the Gift of Healing* [4 pp]

A) The Power of Conversion & Confession to Heal [2-3]

B) The Power of Exorcism to Heal [3-5]

Extras & Endnotes [6-7]

Part IV: Demonic Miracle Working

11.11: Understanding Demonic Miracle Working: *Not Everything Supernatural is Holy* [6 pp]

A) Biblical Warnings of Demonic Miracle Working [2-3]

B) *Super-supernaturalism's* Inadequate Approach to Demonic Miracle Working [3-6]

C) Biblical Purposes of Demonic Miracles: *Testing His elect & deceiving His enemies* [6-7]

Extras & Endnotes [8-10]

11.12: Ancient & Modern Examples of Demonic Miracle Working: *Demonstrating That Not Everything Supernatural is Holy* [10 pp]

A) The Simonians [2-3]

B) Levitations [3-4]

C) "Eyeless" sight [4]

D) Elongations [4-5]

E) Psychic healing [5-7]

F) Psychic surgery [7-8]

G) *sai baba: the greatest miracle worker today . . . & he's not a Christian* [8-11]

Extras & Endnotes [11-13]

11.13: Distinguishing Between Divine & Demonic Miracles: *Virtue, not power or doctrine* [10 pp]

A) The Challenge of Distinguishing Between Divine & Demonic Miracle Working [2]

B) Supernatural Virtue is the Ultimate Test of the Divinity of Miracles [2-5]

C) It is the Virtue of the Miracle Worker that Matters, not the Miracles Themselves [5-6]

D) The Insufficiency of Mere *Power* to Test the Source of Miracles [6-7]

E) The Insufficiency of Mere *Doctrine* to Test the Source of Miracles [7-11]

Extras & Endnotes [11-14]