

Do You Act or React?

I walked with my friend, a Quaker, to the newsstand the other night, and he bought a paper, thanking the newsie politely. The newsie didn't even acknowledge it.

"A sullen fellow, isn't he?" I commented. "Oh, he's that way every night," shrugged my friend. "Then why do you continue to be so polite to him?" I asked. "Why not?" inquired my friend. "Why should I let him decide how I'm going to act?"

As I thought about this incident later, it occurred to me that the important word was "act." My friend acts toward people; most of us react toward them.

He has a sense of inner balance which is lacking in most of us; he knows who he is, what he stands for, how he should behave. He refuses to return incivility for incivility, because then he would no longer be in command of his own conduct. When we are enjoined in the Bible to return good for evil, we look upon this as a moral injunction - which it is. But it is also a psychological prescription for our emotional health.

By Sydney J. Harris

Nobody is unhappier than the perpetual reactor. His center of emotional gravity is not rooted within himself, where it belongs, but in the world outside him. His spiritual temperature is always being raised or lowered by the social climate around him, and he is a mere creature at the mercy of these elements.

Praise gives him a feeling of euphoria, which is false, because it does not last and it does not come from self-approval. Criticism depresses him more than it should, because it confirms his own secret shaky opinion of himself. Snubs hurt him, and the merest suspicion of unpopularity in any quarter rouses him to bitterness.

A serenity of spirit cannot be achieved until we become the masters of our own actions and attitudes. To let another determine whether we shall be rude or gracious, elated or depressed, is to relinquish control over our own personalities, which is ultimately all we possess....The only true possession is self-possession.



Classes This Week

Sun 5:15 PM Kid's Class at the Bldg.	Sun PM College Devo and Singing at the Roberts	Mon 7PM Ladies Class at the Rouse's	Thur 7 PM Joshua Study ay Jillian and Hannah's	Fri 6-8PM 1st—8th Grade Class at the Rouse's
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Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Marsha and Lee (Toni Herd's Cousins)
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivane's Parents)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Mary Smith (Nathan Smith's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Mike Reed (Friend of the Long's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Jo Faust Williams (Manna Jones' friend)

February Birthdays

- 2 - Ken Sullivane
- 2- Maghen Smith
- 2 - Wesley Herd
- 3 - Chris Long
- 5 - Mark Zeanah
- 5 - Josh Redden
- 6 - Jackson Fowler
- 8 - Grant Burton
- 13 - Megan McMurry
- 13- Leslie Freeman
- 14 - Leighton Daniels
- 15 - Ella Miller
- 15 - Terria Burton
- 16 - Seth Humphrey
- 17 - A J Wilkerson
- 18- Caralise Hunt
- 20 - Haley Chittam
- 20 - Lara West
- 23 - Lisa Lanier
- 24 - Jeff Jerkins
- 27 - Julie Johnson

News and Notes

Our next Gospel Meeting will be Feb 27- Mar 3 with Alan Cornett. Printed Announcements are in the Foyer. Invite a friend!

Let us remember our expentant mothers in our prayers: Anne morton and Jana Hall.

Mike and Debbie Johnson's son, Matthew, will be deployed this month. Also David Golden will be deployed soon.

Tim Morton is currently serving our country in Afghanistan. Please remember him in your prayers.

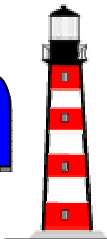
Jon Coleman has completed his treatments!

Business meeting today at 3:30.

Bill Hall is in a meeting at Union Springs March 13-16.

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The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Differences in Bible Miracles and Modern Miracles

By Hiram Hutto



Thought to Ponder

All deception in the course of life is indeed nothing else but a lie reduced to practice, and falsehood passing from words into things.

While Jesus was on earth he made some very startling claims. He claimed to be divine, and the Jews so understood him (Jn. 5:18; 10:33). He claimed to be the Son of God (Jn. 10:35-37). He claimed to be the Messiah (Jn. 4:25-26) and the Savior of the world (Jn. 14:6). But anyone could make these claims. We were on a call-in radio program where a man would occasionally call denying that Jesus was the Messiah, and claiming instead that he was the Messiah. However, Jesus did more than simply claim to be the things noted, he proved that claim by the miracles he performed. Let's consider these.

1. Power over nature. He stilled a storm (Matt. 8:26-27).
2. Power over material things. He fed 5,000 men with a few loaves and fishes (Luke 9:10-17).
3. Power over all manner of diseases (Matt. 8:16).
4. Power over the spirit world (Matt. 8:16).
5. Power over life and death (Jn. 11:14-44).

Their miracle-working power was given to them to confirm the word which they were preaching. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation; which having at the first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed unto us by them that heard; God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will" (Heb. 2:34). The Bible shows that after the apostles received the commission to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15), they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following" (Mk. 16:20).

From these facts and many more, it may be safely concluded that there is no need for miracles today. The Bible has sufficient proof in writing that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" (Jn. 20:30-31), and the word of God having been adequately confirmed is sufficient. Anything we need to know about life and godliness is furnished completely when we take all the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3). Although this is true, it does not keep many people from claiming to perform miracles today. But there is a vast difference between what is done in our day and the miracles performed by Jesus and the apostles. Let us consider some of these differences.

1. The miracles of the New Testament

(Continued on page 2)

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or
E-mail:
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

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were not limited to healing. As already noted, there was power to still the tempest. Yet in 1950 a storm blew Oral Roberts' tent down injuring 50 people, most of whom were treated at local hospitals, not by Roberts. Where have you heard reliable evidence of turning water into wine? Not even A. A. Allen, noted healer, could have done this, though he died of acute alcoholism. Who today is feeding 5,000 men with a few loaves and fishes? For the most part, today's "miracles," in sharp contrast to these, are limited to "healings" and these are not of any organic illness. We are told by those who are supposed to know that most of these illnesses are in the mind, so when Roberts or others convince those who think they are ill that they are not sick, they are "healed" but not miraculously.

2. The apostles were not "selective" in their miracles or in their healings. An advertisement for an Oral Roberts campaign states "Prayer Cards Given Out at Afternoon Service ONLY" (emphasis his, HH). Anyone who has attended such services should know why this is done - to screen out the undesirables. Whoever read where those who were healed by the apostles needed a prayer card?

3. Miracles in the New Testament were not conditioned on the faith of those being healed. How much faith did dead Dorcas have (**Acts 9:36-40**)? The lame man who was healed by Peter in Acts 3 was not even expecting to be healed, much less believing that he would be. Yet today, those who are not healed are told that they do not have enough faith. What a compound tragedy this is! The sick are not only left with their sickness, but are made to feel guilty because they are the ones to blame for lacking in faith!

4. As in **Acts 3:7** the lame man was healed "immediately." If you have attended many "healing" campaigns, no doubt you have witnessed people, being "worked into a lather" with much emotion, exertion, and sweating over the ones to be healed. Not so in that done by the apostles.

5. The miracles of the New Testament were so powerful that even the enemies of the apostles admitted "that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest unto all that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it" (**Acts 4:16**). In our day, numerous ones could deny the "miracles" that were supposed to have been wrought, and they have denied them and that publicly. From the Alabama Baptist (9/12/74), there is this headline: "Noted Surgeon Follows Up Reports on Faith Healings, Says He Found None."

The article tells how Dr. William A. Nolen of Litchfield, Minn., noted surgeon and author of the book, *Healing: A Doctor In Search of a Miracle*, wrote, "After following up on the cases of 26 patients who thought they had been 'healed' at a famous faith healers religious service here, says he couldn't find a single cured patient in the group." The book is even more extensive than that with the same results. At various times some of our brethren have offered high financial rewards for proof of any genuine healing of organic illnesses. To my knowledge, they have never had to pay off.

6. After the apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit, there were no failures. **Acts 5:16** is typical, "they were healed every one." Instances could be multiplied where Oral Roberts and others failed frequently, some even dying after they had been pronounced "healed." Jack Coe had an ingenuous reply to this. He claimed that he had healed many people who did not know they had been healed for they still had the same symptoms!

7. No collections. One of the most obvious differences between today's "healing campaign" and those in the Bible has to do with money. One does not read in the New Testament where the apostles or others took up a collection as a part of their "healing campaign." (In fact, one does not read in the New Testament of "healing campaigns" with all the self produced publicity and high pressure propaganda that is so characteristic of today's "miracle worker"). If memory serves me correctly, several years ago I attended one of these and, before the meeting was over, collections were taken-up 9 times! On the other hand, the Bible tells us that Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none" (**Acts 3:6**), but he did not follow it up with a collection. Quite a contrast.

8. In the New Testament the apostles performed miracles which confirmed that their teaching was God's revelation. I have never heard a modern miracle worker claim that his teaching is a new revelation that is to be considered as a part of the word of God. But if they are doing what the apostles were doing or if they believe that they are doing what the apostles were doing, their teaching should be considered as much a part of the Bible as that which John or Paul wrote. In this case we would need a "loose-leaf Bible" to which we would continue to add their revelation. After all, Paul is emphatic when he says, "the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (**1 Cor. 14:37**).

From these considerations and many more, it can be readily seen that when today's miracles are compared with what we read in the Bible, there is no comparison!



Chirps or Testimony?

By Robert Turner

The current wave of ascetic utterances, "speaking with/in tongues", which has swept parts of the country and made inroad among some brethren, is directly related to the increase in a subjective approach to authority. External authority, exemplified in the written word and approached objectively, has been eroded by "no pattern" arguments, and replaced by an appeal to majority practices. Even "good judgement" looks inward, and is not "good" at all when it ignores the divine revelation.

One of the early fruits of such thinking is a rejection of hard-core, straight-line Bible preaching. Those who try to blend "direct spirit" operation with scriptures may contend that these must be "spiritually discerned" — and smugly conclude that you must not "have the spirit" since you do not "see" them as do they. But recent claimants are more - likely to pride themselves in their "spirituality" which finds "unity in diversity." If we remove the idea of God's word, sufficiently understandable to all, and to which all are subject, we have no standard for unity in "the faith", and all truth becomes relative.

Who, or what, can test the "feelings" of another? None — nothing! The one making such claims may be happily satisfied but his hope is subjective, wholly within himself. I would not deny that he had a feeling, but would insist that its interpretation must be measured by a fixed standard, the truth taught by the apostles and prophets of the N.T. (**Jn. 4:6**)

When we cut loose from this mooring, we are adrift on the sea of human wisdom. There is no

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limitations except as they are self-imposed, and the person who accepts "direct spirit guidance" in one field, may go (or encourage others to go) to the extreme of "tongue speaking." Once we step beyond the influence of the inspired (Spirit-breathed) word, that direct influence becomes a matter of degrees, with little to control our imagination.

Isaiah wrote, "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and unto the wizards, that chirp and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? On behalf of the living should they seek unto the dead? To the law and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this word, surely there is no morning for them." (**Isa. 8: 19-20** emphasis mine, rt) God is no respecter of person, but deals with each of us by appealing to common faculties. Each can hear, learn, and come unto God. (**Jn. 6: 45**) As free agents we may reject His word, or we may "see with our eyes, and hear with our ears, and understand with our heart, be converted, and healed." (**Cf. Matt. 13: 15-16**) This is not only the process for becoming Christians, but also for growth and development as children of God. (**1 Pet. 2:2**)

Such basic principles are so completely scriptural, and so much a part of preaching once common among churches of Christ, it seems absurd to have to repeat this for brethren today. Ours is a "new" generation, and woe to him who is tied to the party, instead of to Christ.

