

Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Principles Unit 2
Week 9: Restorationism Part 1 - Hermeneutical Problems

Introduction

Definition of Restorationism: A movement emphasizing the belief that God's miraculous working in the gospels, Acts (and Corinth?) describes the normal Christian life (individually and corporately). Restorationists therefore seek to *restore* today's church to reflect that perspective.

History: Three "waves" of restorationism have occurred during the 20th century.

1. *Pentecostalism* (early 20th cent.):

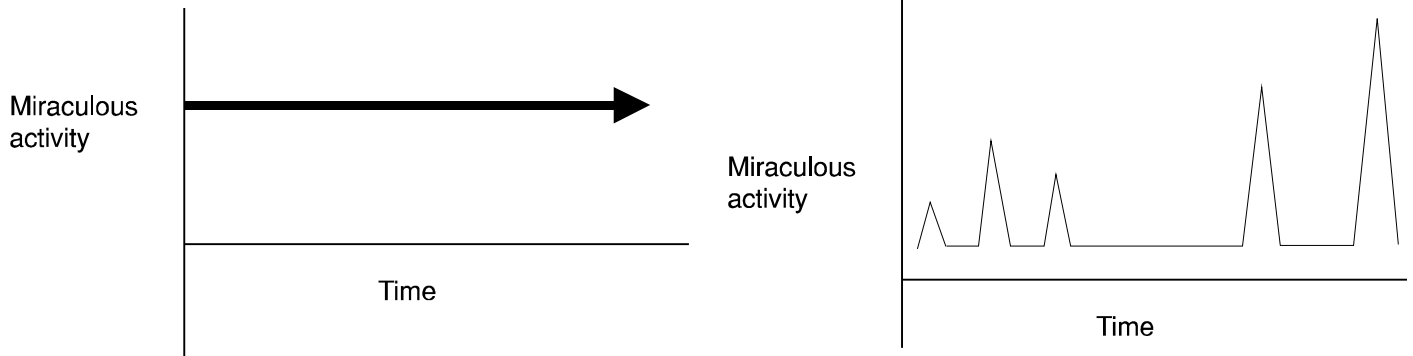
2. *Charismatic Movement* (mid 20th cent.):

3. *"Third Wave"* (late 20th cent.):

Factors Leading To Spiritual Imbalance:

Hermeneutical Problems with Restorationism

1. Miracles are not normative in biblical history. (“How frequent are miracles in the Bible?”)



2. Biblical *descriptions* of miracles are not *prescriptions* for all Christians to do. ("Should I expect the miracles that the New Testament describes?")

How then do we decide what examples we should follow?

(Stott) "What is described in Scripture as having happened to others is not necessarily intended for us, whereas what is promised to us we should appropriate, and what is commanded us we are to obey . . . What is descriptive is valuable (in determining what God intends for all Christians) only in so far as it is interpreted by what is didactic . . . We must derive our standards of belief and behavior from the teaching of the New Testament . . . rather than from the practices and experiences which it portrays." (John R. W. Stott, *Baptism and Fullness* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1975), pp. 15-17).

- Greater in privilege

4. God used many miracles for unique reasons in Acts.

- The apostles were unique in certain important ways (2 Cor. 12:12*; Heb. 2:1-4).

a.

(Matthew 10:40; John 14:26; 15:26,27; 16:13)

b.

(2 Cor. 12:12*) The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

(Heb. 2:1-4) For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (2) For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, (3) how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, (4) God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

c.

Important qualification:

- Acts describes a unique period in history.

How might we understand the deviation from the norm in Acts 2,8,10,19**?

Acts 2:1-12

Acts 8:14-24

Acts 10:44-46

Acts 19:1-7

Summary of the Acts accounts:

(D. A. Carson) "Acts provides not a paradigm for individual Christian experience, but the account of the gospel's outward movement, geographically, racially, and above all theologically." (D.A. Carson, *Showing the Spirit*, p. 150.)

Conclusion:

- Miracles are not normative in biblical history.
- Biblical descriptions of miracles are not prescriptions for all Christians to do.
- God used many miracles for unique reasons in the Gospels.
- God used many miracles for unique reasons in Acts.

Memory Verses

Acts 2,8,10,19** - instances of delay between belief in Christ and receiving the Holy Spirit; also instances of speaking in tongues.

2 Cor. 12:12* - the apostles were uniquely authorized to perform signs and wonders and miracles.

Assignment

Read “Concerns About Leanne Payne” and write a one paragraph summary of the article.

STUDY FOR THE EXAM!!

Week #9 – Exam Review Guide

Be able to explain why the miracles described in the gospels and Acts are not necessarily a description of the normal Christian life (hermeneutical problems of restorationism).

Be able to explain the role of speaking in tongues in acts.

Acts 2,8,10,19** - narrates incidences of tongues to demonstrate transition from Old to New Covenant and inclusion of non-Jewish believers into the church

2 Cor. 12:12* - the apostles were uniquely authorized to perform signs and wonders and miracles