

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon notes for October 21-22, 2000

"Let's Pray"

Dale Whitehead

James 5:13-18

The purpose of miracles

Miracles are primarily used by God to confirm an important message at a critical juncture in God's ongoing plan of redemption delivered thorough His special messengers (Hebrews 2:3-4).

The first outburst of miraculous activity that we see in the scriptures was in the time period of Moses in approximately 1450 to 1400 BC.

We do not see the second outbreak of miraculous activity until the time of Elijah and Elisha in approximately the ninth century BC nearly over 500 years after the death of Moses.

We do not see the third outbreak of miraculous activity until the time of Christ and the Apostles over 800 years later after the time of Elijah and Elisha.

The Biblical record

The healing ministry of the apostles in Jerusalem.

The apostles early healing ministry in Jerusalem initially appears to be unrestrained (Acts 2-8).

The apostles later healing ministry in Jerusalem however appears to be considerably more restrained (Acts 9-12).

The Apostle Paul's healing ministry among the gentiles.

The Apostle Paul's early healing ministry among the Gentile nations appears to be unrestrained (Acts 14:3-20).

The Apostle Paul's later healing ministry among the Gentile nations appears to be restrained (Acts 21:18; Philippians 2:25-27; 2 Timothy 4:19-20).

Paul's later epistles and the general epistles which were all written during Paul's first imprisonment or later have no reference to miracles at all.

My conclusion is the promise of James 5:14-15 does not apply today.

Present day confirmation