

What A Big Mistake They Make Who Assume That . . .

1. **To deny that God is working miracles among men today ,just as He did in the first century (according to the New Testament), is to deny that God is able to work miracles, or is to deny the power of God.** Such is not the case! I believe that God has the power to do anything He wishes to do, that God is able to do anything consistent with His character and will. But I believe that miracles served their purpose and ceased, and that God foretold their cessation. Read Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:1-4; John 20:30-31 and, especially, 1 Corinthians 13:8- 10. What God can do and what God does do are two different things.
2. **To deny that God is still communicating with men and continually revealing His will, is to deny that God is able to do so, or is to limit the power of God.** Again, such is not the case! The finality and perfection of God's revelation in the New Testament is clearly affirmed. Peter declared *"that God's divine power hath granted unto us all things pertaining to life and godliness"* (2 Peter 1:3). Jesus had promised that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all the truth (John 16:13). Jude called upon Christians to *"contend earnestly for the faith, which was once for all delivered unto the saints"* (Jude 3). And Paul affirmed that the Scriptures were able to make the man of God *"perfect"* or *"complete"* and to furnish him *"completely unto every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The gospel of Christ or the new covenant is called *"the perfect law"* in James 1:25. Any communication since then would either be a needless repetition of what we already have in the New Testament or an addition which calls for God's anathema (no one is to preach or receive a gospel different from the one Paul preached, Galatians 1:6-9).
3. **To deny that God unchangeably foreordains all that comes to pass (as Calvinism teaches), is to deny that God has the power to do so, or is to deny that God foreordains any thing.** Such is not the case! Again, it is not a matter of what God is *able* to do, but of what God *chooses* to do, and does do. It must follow that if God unchangeably foreordains whatever comes to pass among men, then men are not creatures of volition or free will at all, and men have no choices to make. The popular and wide-spread notion that every human being has a predetermined and set time to die is nothing more than a consequence of the Calvinistic idea that God has "unchangeably foreordained whatsoever comes to pass among men and angels." The Bible does not teach it, and we should not believe it.
4. **To deny that a child of God is kept by God from falling away, is to deny that God has the power to keep a child of God from falling away.** Such is not the case! But does not the Bible teach that the Christian is guarded (or kept) by the power of God? Indeed it does! But only if we cooperate with God by holding on to our faith, for we are *"by the power of God guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"* (1 Peter 1:5). We are also commanded to *"keep"* ourselves in the love of God (Jude 21). Can a child of God fall from grace? Please read Hebrews 3:1, 12; 4:1; 6:4-6; Galatians 5:2-4 (verse 4 reads, *"Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace"*); 2 Peter 1:5-11; 2:20-22; 3:17; James 5:12; Revelation 2:4-5; 3:14-17).