

# Tempting God and Working Miracles

by Tony Melton

Often when men claim to be able to do miracles and are asked to do one, they say, "The Bible says that we are not to tempt God." Then they cite the verse where Satan told Jesus to jump off the top of the temple, and Jesus replied to him, "It is written again, you shall not tempt the Lord your God" (Matthew 4:7).

Now if we were to ask a man who claims miraculous power to raise someone from the dead, would this be asking him to tempt God? Many people went to Jesus and asked Him to do some miracle, but he never told them that they were asking Him to tempt God. If someone's daughter died, and they ask a man who claimed miraculous power to bring her from the dead, would they be asking him to tempt God? Of course not! They would simply be asking him to do what he claims he can do.

If we were to ask an individual to jump off a five-story building, he or she truly could say that the Bible says, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God." On the other hand, if we ask a man who claims miraculous power to heal a blind person, would this be asking him to tempt God?

Tempting God has nothing to do with working miracles. One can tempt God by purposely endangering himself and expecting God's protection. If someone were to ask another person to stand in front of an on-coming train in order to see if God would rescue him, that would be tempting God. However, to ask someone who claims to work miracles to work one has nothing to do with tempting God.

The power to work miracles, heal the sick, prophesy, and other spiritual gifts were imparted by the laying on of the apostles' hands in the first century (Acts 8:18, 19; 19:6). Consequently, when the last of the apostles died, and the last one on whom they laid their hands died, then the gifts passed away. This was the fulfillment of Paul's prophecy in 1 Corinthians 13:8 where he said, "Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away."