

Jesus and the Gift of Miracles

Miracles must be defined by the scriptures and not by our own imagination...

The greatest miracle of all is Christ Jesus himself. Immaculate conception conceived of the Holy Ghost, fully God and fully man. In Isaiah's prophecy, one of the names given to Christ is "**wonderful**" that word translated in Hebrew as "**miracle**". Many people think a blessing is a miracle. A financial blessing would be someone coming and giving you money, that is a blessing. A miracle would be me walking down the street and money appearing before my very eyes so that I can have lunch and buy lunch for the homeless man on the corner next to me, who also witnessed the money appear. There are miraculous stories of money appearing even in Jesus earthly ministry. The gift of miracles is one of the most unspoken about, and undemonstrated, gifts out of all of the 9 Spiritual Gifts Paul speaks about in 1 Corinthians 12. This too is changing, by the grace of God. I want to give a few brief insights from the scriptures concerning this gift. Deuteronomy 11:3 says, "**He did his miracles in the midst of Egypt.**" Many people are afraid to go into the enemy's camp. The enemy's camp is where the grace is for miracles. If we do not go into the enemy's camp because of fear, God will not strengthen our faith for miracles to demonstrate his power. Right in the midst of all the evil we could imagine is where God manifested his power. The greatest and the most visible miracles were done right in front of the enemy; and God's power was clearly proven to be greater. When Moses threw down his rod, his serpent swallowed the magicians of Egypt's serpents. This is clearly showing that God's power is superior to the devils.

God speaks, and one of the languages he speaks is “miracles”. *Numbers 14:22 KJVER* “ *because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I swore to their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it.*” God was speaking his language of the impossible through his miracles and glory, yet they didn’t hear what he was saying, they couldn’t go where he wanted to lead them. If we are going to receive God’s promises we must learn to speak his language. God had bigger plans for the people then they even knew, but they couldn’t receive his plans because of their hearing problem. If we are going to come into our destinies in God, it will never happen without him performing miracles on our behalf.

Many times people have a miraculous experience with the Lord and then they are commissioned by him to fulfill his good pleasure. This is seen with Moses, Paul, Gideon and others. I want to mention Gideon for a moment. Gideon was asking the Lord, “where are the miracles which our fathers told us of?” Shortly after this question Gideon prepared a sacrifice and put it on the altar, and the Angel of the Lord put forth staff on the sacrifice and fire came from the rock and consumed the sacrifice. This miracle was God speaking. Gideon asked for a sign to know God was talking to him, and so the Lord answered with fire to consume a sacrifice. This miracle was God directly speaking to Gideon, giving him clear understanding of what God has called him to do. In this affirmation of his calling he was commissioned. Gideon would not of had the courage to obey God and cast down an altar of Baal, if God would not have put fire on his altar. God’s supernatural miracle

provision is supposed to bring us into a realm of greater trust in the God who speaks the language of the impossible; the dialect is “miracles”. Even in the Old Testament we see the gift of miracles in full operation. Gideon didn’t earn this miracle it came through the grace of God alone. What put this miracle into motion was a prayer that reminded God of what his father had taught him. This wonderful story is found in Judges 6 if you desire to look into it further.

Jesus’ first miracle at Cana of Galilee was turning the water into wine; the scripture says, that he manifested his glory. Authentic miracles are the “***manifested Glory, of the Lord of Glory himself.***” The glory of the Lord is visible; it’s not just a cloud or a thick atmosphere that gives us goose bumps in a good long song service. The glory makes things appear that were not previously there. A miracle brings something from God’s Kingdom into earth’s reality. When Jesus feed the 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish that to was classified as a miracle according to Mark 6:52. Miracles are supposed to soften our hearts and change how we think about God and our current situations and or trials. True repentance is we see Jesus and we change how we think about him and life, and even those around us. If we truly change how we think, then we will begin to change how we live. Jesus clearly spoke that signs and wonders were also to bring repentance. Matthew 11:21 KJVER *“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”* Repentance is bigger than confessing sins, although it certainly starts there. When we don’t remember what God has done, it shows us that our hearts have become cold. A cold heart is one that is filled with unbelief. A burning heart is one that is

guarded by hope, which is anchored in what God has said. It's very hard to move in faith, if we don't have hope. Hope differed makes the heart sick, but a heart that is filled with hope is a healthy heart, which will produce a holy life. Many people fall into sin because of hopelessness. That's another message, lets stay on the topic here.

Jesus and the potential his miracles had according to the religious leaders of his day. *John 11: 47- 48* "Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? For this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation." If this is what the religious people said about Jesus and they had no faith, imagine what the people who really believe thought was possible through him. Imagine if we truly believed and lived out the reality of what the Pharisees said about Jesus. Imagine if we received his power to work miracles, imagine if we fully yielded to him in complete surrender? What would our church look like? What would our city look like? Let's dream with God here a little, imagine if Jesus eventually got what his blood paid for, people fully surrendered to him, people who really believed the scriptures. It doesn't matter that we are Pentecostal or charismatic by profession, the real question is, are we Christian by demonstration. Are our lives filled with the power of God and the love of Christ; or are we Bible thumping hypocrites who cannot demonstrate our faith because we have not yet really learned to believe? I myself am scared at this question! The church needs to wake up and return to Jesus our first love, and our first works, where we preach and he works with us affirming the word with signs and wonders following the gospel proclamation. That is the only real gospel, this is the gospel of Christ, this is the

gospel Peter and Paul preached and this is the gospel we must preach.

As we look further into the gift of miracles, we see more of what Jesus defines a miracle as. In Mark 9, Jesus' disciples were trying to cast a devil out of someone and they couldn't. So Jesus did, and told them this "this kind comes out only by prayer and fasting". As you continue to read John the beloved finds a man casting out devils in Jesus name. So John takes it upon himself to become a spiritual police. John then forbids the man to cast out devils. John is forbidding them man to do something he was just unable to do, cast out a devil. So then John tells Jesus, and Jesus rebukes him. Many leaders try to stop people from doing what they could not do. Ok that's another sermon, ok I will be good and stay on the topic of miracles. So Jesus defines casting out a devil as a miracle. *Mark 9:39 KJVER "But Jesus said, Forbid him: not for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can speak evil of me.* For he that is not against us in on our part." (Or for us) If only the church could understand that we are not against each other. That's a whole other article I will be good, and try my best to stay on the topic thanks for your patience.

Here Jesus defines a miracle as a demon leaving a body. In 1 Corinthians 12 casting out demons is not listed because it fits under two different gifts, one being healing the other being the working of miracles, and often the discernment of spirits also plays a great role in deliverance. Then Jesus describes how this free gift is accessed. By the discipline of fasting and praying we have continued access to a free gift of miracles. Fasting and prayer doesn't earn us the gift of miracles, it's free! Meaning we receive it for free but pay a price to operate in it and maintain it. However a life of the miraculous is sustained by the discipline or privilege of fasting

and praying. If Jesus fasted and prayed, how much more do we need to. If Jesus needed to do miracles to fulfill the Father will, so do we. I want to tell you that we cannot be in the will of God without miracles or without continuous miraculous provision. The will of God is the impossible not the logical. The will of God is that we would know God, and do exploits as we co-labor with him. You can do miracles and not know Jesus; we see this in Matthew 7. However, you can't really know Jesus and not see miracles, which would completely contradict the Word himself. I hope this article made you hungry for the man who is a miracle. I hope you begin to hunger and thirst for the power of the risen Christ in your life. I hope you become hungry enough not to eat, but to fast and pray and contend for a supernatural breakthrough. Remember the breakthrough is not just for you, but also for those around you.

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