

MIRACLES

"For to one is given by the Spirit, the working of miracles" (I Corinthians 12:10)

WHAT IS THE GIFT OF THE WORKING OF MIRACLES?

The gift of the working of miracles is the supernatural demonstration of the power of God by which the laws of nature are altered, suspended or otherwise controlled. (Example: Normally iron sinks in water, but this natural law was temporarily reversed in a specific instance to bring a lost ax-head to the surface - II Kings 6:4-6)

TOTALLY SUPERNATURAL

1. A miracle is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature, a temporary suspension of the accustomed order through the Spirit of God.
2. It is the mighty power of God flowing through a person.
3. It is God supernaturally intervening in the affairs of man, overriding the normal course of nature, to give help to His people.
4. "It is the authority, and power, of God coming upon us, enabling us to command a specific miracle in the forces of nature, as directed by the Holy Spirit.
5. It is the ability to do the miraculous by the power of God and the authority of the Holy Spirit." (Rev. Ken Krivohlavek)

LOOK AT THE MIRACLES OF GOD

1. Elijah and Enoch translated to heaven (Genesis 5:24; II Kings 2:11)
2. Elisha smoting the Jordan River with Elijah's mantle (II Kings 2:14)
3. Water turned into wine by speaking a word (John 2:1-11)
4. Moses' rod turning into a serpent (Exodus 4:1-4)
5. The ten plagues sent from God (Exodus 7-14)
6. The opening of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21)
7. The widow's pot of oil not failing (II Kings 4:1-7)
8. Paul smiting Elymas the sorcerer with blindness (Acts 13:4-12)
(here the working of miracles was used to carry out divine judgment)
9. Pillar of cloud by day and fire by night (Exodus 13:20-22)
10. Manna from heaven to sustain God's people (Exodus 16:11-15)
11. The burning bush that was not consumed (Exodus 3:2)
12. The star leading the wise men east to Bethlehem (Matthew 2:2)
13. The sun standing still through Joshua (Joshua 10:12-14)
14. Jesus stilling the storm on Galilee (Mark 6:45-52)
15. An angel opening prison doors in the city (Acts 12:5-10)
16. Water from a rock in the wilderness (Exodus 17:5-7)
17. Three Hebrew children in flames of fire (Daniel 3:19-30)
18. Fire descending on Mt. Carmel (I Kings 18:38)
19. The sun going back 10 degrees on Hezekiah's sundial (II Kings 20:8-11)
20. Jesus walking on the water (Mark 6:49)
21. Philip's miraculous transportation to Azotus (Acts 8:39,40)
22. Jesus feeds 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish (Mark 6:38-44)
23. Jesus providing a great catch of fish where there was none (John 21:5-12)
24. Jesus sending Peter to find money in the fish's mouth (Matthew 17:27)
25. Jesus' birth of the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1:18)

EVIDENCE ABOUND...

.....to show us that Jesus' miracles were done out of compassion to meet the needs of people!!!

IMPORTANT DEFINITION

There are three New Testament words used for miracles:

1. Dunamis - meaning "Power"
2. Terras - meaning "Wonder"
3. Semeion - meaning "sign"

(over)

THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES STANDS REVEALED

1. Miracles are given in times of emergency to provide help for those in need.
2. Miracles are given to stimulate the faith of God's people.
3. Miracles are given to show us that God is not limited by natural laws, but can intervene at anytime, in anyplace, for anyone!
4. Miracles are given to prove to us that God is in control.
5. Miracles are given to attest to the validity of the messenger who comes in His name.
6. Miracles are given to arrest people's attention so they can hear and believe the gospel.
7. "Jesus' miracles were a sign that He was verily God alive among men. His continued miracles today are repeated signs that He is still alive among men" (Harold Horton, page 116, The Gifts of The Spirit)

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR PREACHING

While miracles are hard proof of the existence of the supernatural, they are not a substitute for preaching the gospel. Without the preaching of the gospel, men and women will not be saved. Miracles are not the highest evidence of truth; they do not guarantee faith. Jesus said to Thomas, "Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (John 20:29) Faith is the result from the hearing the Word, not from seeing a miracle. (Romans 10:17)

BE CAREFUL

While many people run to and fro to follow signs and wonders, Jesus said signs and wonders should follow us (Mark 16:17). And remember the myth of signs and wonders building the church. "A great multitude followed Him (Jesus), because they saw His miracles which He did on them that were diseased" (John 6:2) But where are these same followers in v.66? "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with Him".

"O GOD...

.....Make us people who love you and serve you, not for what you give us (miracles, gifts, etc.) but for what you've already given on Calvary. Motivate us with the cross, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else!!!"

Love,

Pastor