

Desiring God, pt. 4-Throwing off Doubt:Miracles Still Happen

From the outset of this series, I introduced the topic of us desiring more of God, desiring to have His Spirit poured out, desiring to be filled with His Spirit. And trust me, by the end of this series, that is where we are headed. Before we get there so far In this series, Desiring God, we have looked at :

- 1) Jesus Christ's call to the church and how vital it is for us to be living for Him in every way
- 2) As we live in a state of repentance we should seek His righteousness
- 3) As we walk righteous before Him we should be living lives of humility towards others



I often have felt that many believers who desire more of God should first see where their life doesn't add up and seek what is plain to them first, and allow God to transform them from the inside out. How can we say we want more of God if we are not willing to be humble and repent first?

Tonight as we continue to unravel this topic of Desiring God, we have come to the next step in our process: believing that miracles still happen!

It would be so easy to point out all that Jesus did on earth, or talk about Creation, the Red Sea, a dead man falling on Elisha's bones and being immediately raised to life, or God hearing Hezekiah's prayers to not die from sickness and granting him 15 more years, immediately after Isaiah had prophesied to him as the way he would die.

No, while all those stories are astounding to read about, I want to show you in God's Word through 4 passages of Scripture how salvation is the most amazing miracle, the miracle where everything starts for us as believers, and whereby we are wowed and full of awe in front of God!

Mark 10:17-27

- Who can be saved?
 - None by man's natural ability
 - Notice that obeying the 10 commandments did NOT SAVE THIS MAN!
- With God all things are possible!

Word study on "Possible"

-GK-**dunamai**

Phonetic Spelling: (doo'-nam-ahee)

Definition: to be able, to have power

- With God's Power, all things are possible! The Old Testament alone shows us that!
- Jesus Himself was emphasizing here that it is the power of God alone to save.

Luke 24:49

-Jesus, given instruction before He ascends to heaven post-resurrection, tells His disciples to wait for the "power" that will "clothe" them from on high, or heaven. He was talking about the Holy Spirit-the promise of the Father-the fullness of the presence and power of God in our lives.

-The Greek word in this verse for the word "power" is the same as in Mark 10:27!

-What does this mean?

-This means we live in a post-resurrection life where the same Spirit that made it possible for us to be saved by the power of God, is the same Spirit that fills us with the fullness of power (baptizo) to live for God and to spread His Gospel to the ends of the earth!

Luke 1:15-16

-John the Baptist was in Elizabeth's womb and Gabriel spoke about Him saying he would be full of the Holy Spirit and would "turn" many of Israel to the lord.

-Turn means conversion.

-John the Baptists role, by the power of the Holy Spirit was to preach repentance from sin and water baptism after repenting and believing. But he was only preparing the way in his message for the one who would be the very mode of salvation Himself! Jesus!

John 3:1-15

-Nicodemus, a high up teacher of the law, a pharisee, was hungry to understand who Jesus was and what his role was.

-Nicodemus becomes perplexed at this statement Jesus gave-"You must be born again."

-The thought was so radical, and so odd, that it made no sense to an earthly mind, and not just an earthly mind, but the mind of a very learned man in Israel.

-Jesus tells Him the reason that the Son of Man came-that He will be lifted up that all who believe in Him shall have eternal life!

Something so simple-belief-in Jesus is only possible because the impossible (salvation apart from God's power) was made possible through the power of God in Jesus Christ!

Do you struggle to believe in Miracles today?

YOU ARE A MIRACLE if you have confessed Christ as Savior because God had to do a supernatural work to make you born again when you believed, which was only possible by His doing and not yours!

THE WAY OF SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST IS A MIRACLE! This message was preached by all the apostles, in dozens of cities, spread throughout Israel, Judea, Samaria, Syria, Turkey, Greece, Italy, and Asia, and that is just in the book of Acts!

Now this message-this miraculous, powerful message is being spread all over the globe!

The miracles we often so long to see in our life, are NOTHING compared to the miracle of salvation.

These 2 Scriptures emphasize this point:

Romans 1:16-“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the **power** of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

SAME GREEK WORD FOR **POWER** as seen in Mark 10 and Luke 24

Luke 10:17-20-“The seventy-two returned with joy, saying even the demons are subject to us in your name! And he said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this the the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Our greatest joy is salvation Those are basically Christ's words.

At the end of this series we are going to talk about the power (dunamai) that God desires to give to all His people-the promise we are to walk in. But so that no jealousy of spiritual gifts, no selfish division, no self-aggrandizing opinions take place, we must all as God's people rejoice and marvel at the fact that GOD SAVED US IN THE FIRST PLACE!

Miracles happen!

