

MIRACLES (21)

There are a couple of key observations we want to make about this type of sickness:

(Observation #1) - Other people should hold their tongues in assuming the sickness is because of some sin in a person's life.

In the book of Job, three of his "friends" kept telling Job they knew there was some hidden sin in his life and that was the reason for his sickness. God held those guys accountable and would not even accept their worship until they made things right with Job (Job 42:7-9). In our list of reasons for sickness here there are ten possibilities. So the chances of the sickness being due to a sin issue are one in ten. Unless you are in a truly good position to say for sure which of the ten it is, it is best to keep one's mouth and opinions to oneself.

(Observation #2) - The anointing with oil by the Elders in James 5 is in the context of confessing sin. James 5:14, 15, 16

If a judgment has been given by God for a sin issue and the recipient of the judgment senses this, that one may call the Elders of a church to anoint with oil and confess the sin and God will lift the judgment. **Most of the time, people, who are anointed with oil, aren't sick due to a sin/judgment issue** and they totally neglect this context. It is not the Elders who contact the sick person, it is the sick person under judgment who contacts the Elders and apparently this person has some specific sin notion as to what this is all about. When the Elders arrive and the sin is confessed and the Elders anoint with oil, healing will be the result.

QUESTION #13 – What are the Grace Age miracles we are able to see today?

God does not want His people groping in the dark to try and discover some miracle. He wants them seen and known in every dispensation.

We may recall that there are two ways God may perform a miracle directly or indirectly. If He performs a miracle by Himself, it is a direct miracle. If He uses an individual to perform the miracle, it is an indirect miracle (see p. 7 of your notes). **In this Grace Age, God does not work indirectly through a human to perform some sign and wonder miracle; however, He does do some miraculous things directly and He permits His people to see it and share it.**

If one of the purposes of a miracle is to glorify God, the God glorifying believer must know exactly what to look for in seeing the miraculous at this present time in the Church Age, because when the believer sees it, he/she may give glory to God.

Church Age Direct Miracle #1 - The miracle of soul salvation .

When a sinner believes on Jesus Christ as Savior, the actual logistics of this are so stupendous and miraculous that there is so much "joy in heaven" (Luke 15:7) that the angels rejoice (Luke 15:10). Angels view this moment as a miracle of God.

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If we remember the necessary ingredients for a miracle, we may see just how amazing it is to see a sinner come to faith in Jesus Christ. We may recall the five ingredients are: 1) A being with enough power to perform the miracle; 2) An object on which the miracle may be performed; 3) Normal, natural laws of the way that object works; 4) Reliable eyewitnesses to verify the miracle and, 5) Specific purpose of the miracle.

When it comes to salvation, only God is capable of performing this miracle. A person is born dead in sin and is blinded by Satan. The human being apart from God is called the natural man. A natural man does what is natural for a sinful man to do. **When it comes to God, not one natural man in and of himself will ever seek God (Romans 3:11)**. The natural man has no capacity whatsoever to accept or understand things that truly relate to God (I Corinthians 2:14). **In order for a natural man or woman to come to faith in Jesus Christ, God must perform a miracle.** He must supernaturally overrule the normal and natural and bring that sinner to faith in His Son. There are multiple thousands who have had this miracle wrought in them. Every single believer in Jesus Christ is a miracle. The reason God performs this miracle is so that these people may demonstrate His glory all over the world.

In this Grace Age, God in His grace is miraculously saving sinners. We could call this the miracle of saving grace. Don't overlook your own life or the life of someone else God has saved. As Ada Habershon said, "God's people are His miracles, His signs, and wonders to the world around" (*The Study of Miracles*, p. 248).

Church Age Direct Miracle #2 - The miracle of life transformation .

In I Corinthians 6:2, the Apostle Paul appeals to believers in the church to make righteous decisions in view of the fact that the "saints will judge the world." The actual period of time in which this will happen is the Millennium, in which believers share in the righteous reign of Jesus Christ. During the millennium, Jesus will change the nature of all kinds of things such as the animal world. For example lions, wolves, lambs and serpents will all get along as one big happy family. Israel, which is a barren desert type of place now, will blossom as a fruit producing rose. Humans will live long lives, in fact if one were to die at 100 he would be considered a youth (Isaiah 65:20). Paul's point in I Corinthians is that present day Church Age believers should reflect a transformed millennial character in their present decisions, knowing they will judge the world. Just as the world in the millennium will stand amazed at the transformed world, so now the world in the Church Age should stand amazed at the transformed life. As we are transformed by the renewing of our minds on the Word of God, we become a living example of a transformational miracle for the world to see (Romans 12:2). When we see someone believes on Jesus Christ, that is a miracle. When we see someone transformed to become Christlike, that is another miracle.

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Church Age Direct Miracle #3 - The miracle of written revelation .

When you pick up a Bible in the Church Age, you are actually holding in your hands a miracle. Ada Habershon said - “The Bible is an ever-present everlasting miracle ...” (*The Study of Miracles*, p. 227). There have been many books written in history, but only one is God’s inspired word (II Timothy 3:16). **The Church Age of Grace is the only dispensation that has had the privilege of having the entire written Word of God in existence.** Holy men were selected by God to write inspired Scripture (II Peter 1:20-21). Although we cover this subject in depth in Bibliology, the truth is the Bible is a supernatural book in which the Holy Spirit worked through different personalities and literary styles to see that every single word written was in fact the Word of the Living God. Its power may be seen in its various metaphors:

- 1) The Bible is like a seed that can save us (I Peter 1:23).
- 2) The Bible is like milk that can nourish us (I Peter 2:2).
- 3) The Bible is like meat that can satisfy and strengthen us (Hebrews 5:14).
- 4) The Bible is like water that can wash us (Psalm 119:9; Ephesians 5:25-26).
- 5) The Bible is like fire that can cleanse us (Jeremiah 23:29).
- 6) The Bible is like a hammer that can shatter us (Jeremiah 23:29).
- 7) The Bible is like a sword that can cut us (Hebrews 4:13).
- 8) The Bible is like a guard that can protect us (Psalm 119:11).
- 9) The Bible is like a mirror that can truly reflect us (James 1:23-25).
- 10) The Bible is like a lamp that can light us (Psalm 119:105).
- 11) The Bible is like a counselor that can comfort us (Romans 15:4).
- 12) The Bible is like a forecaster that can inform us (II Peter 1:19).

Dr. Norman Geisler said, “The Bible is the only known book in the world that both claims to be and proves to be the Word of God” (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 1, p. 561).

Church Age Direct Miracle #4 - The miracle of answered communication .

Answered prayer is a miracle. In fact, it is interesting to track the link between “signs and wonders” miracles and prayer. Moses, Joshua, Elijah and Elisha were men of miraculous power, but they were also men of prayer. For example, in the days of the miraculous Egyptian plagues we read that “Moses cried to the LORD ... and the LORD did according to the word of Moses ...” (Exodus 8:12-13). When Joshua was involved with the miracle of the sun standing still we read, “Then Joshua spoke to the LORD ... the LORD listened to the voice of a man” (Joshua 10:12, 14). Elijah was such a powerful man of prayer that James uses him as an example of this very point (James 5:17-18). In II Kings 6, we have three of Elisha’s prayers in one chapter (II Kings 6:17, 18, 20). When Hezekiah was told he was going to die, he prayed (II Chronicles 32:24). Clearly prayer was connected to miracles.

As we move into the Grace Age, Jesus, Himself, spent a great deal of time in prayer and He spoke of a new dimension of prayer - prayer in His name (John 14:13-14). Jesus said anything you ask which is consistent with His name and which is prayed in His name will be answered.

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This is a miraculous new level of communication that was being opened for those who would believe in Him (John 14:12). As we track prayer and miracles in the apostolic era, again we see the connection. When Dorcas was raised from the dead, Peter had kneeled down and prayed (Acts 9:40). When Publius was healed, Paul prayed (Acts 28:8).

One of the great miraculous wonders that you will ever see in this Age is the wonder of God moving and answering your prayers. It is a remarkable miracle. The sad reality is many believers will never see or experience this miracle simply because they do not spend time in prayer. As James said - "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2). So many are willing to run to this crusade or that meeting, looking for something powerful, when they ought to be having private time in prayer. The thought that a human can move an infinite God to answer an individual prayer is staggering. It is one of the great miracles of our dispensation and you do not want to miss it, but this may be missed.

This is why God is careful to give Grace Age believers certain prerequisites they must meet if they want to see the miracle of answered prayer. The more one meets the prerequisites, the more one will move God.

(Prerequisite #1) - A believer must be willing to obey the Scriptures . John 15:7; I John 3:22

(Prerequisite #2) - A believer must be willing to examine his motives . James 4:3

(Prerequisite #3) - A believer must be willing to examine his relationships . Mark 11:25

(Prerequisite #4) - A believer must be willing to deal with his sin . I John 1:6, 9; Psalm 66:18

(Prerequisite #5) - A believer must be willing to judge his Phariseeism . Matthew 6:5-8;
Luke 18:9-14

(Prerequisite #6) - A believer must be willing to examine his marriage . I Peter 3:1-7

(Prerequisite #7) - A believer must be willing to examine his faith . James 1:5-7;
Mark 11:20-24

Any believer who is willing to meet these prerequisites is one who will experience the miracle of answered prayer.

Church Age Direct Miracle #5 - The miracle of Sovereign direction .

As we said previously Romans 8:28 is an amazing verse of Divine sovereignty in a person's life. The miraculous is truly seen in this one verse. If you love God and have been called by God, the statement is that everything in your life is directly orchestrated by God and put into your world for your good to conform you to Jesus Christ.

Think about that. Everything that will happen to you this hour, this day, this month, this year is miraculously controlled by the Sovereign God of the Universe and has been specifically geared to develop you. That is a miracle of amazing proportions.