

# WHAT HAVE WE TO DO WITH MIRACLES?

Do miracles just happen or do we have something to do with them happening? Can you and I make miracles happen? These are questions I'm sure we would all like to find answers to. In Judges 6:13, Gideon faced the same dilemma: ***“O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about.”*** Most believers agree that God is still in the business of working miracles, and Galatians 3:5 confirms this, ***“Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”*** That being the case, the God who so graciously supplies us with supernatural power (by His Spirit) persists in performing supernatural deeds on behalf of His children. And He does this by hearing their faith!

But what is a miracle? The dictionary definition is; *“an extraordinary and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore attributed to a divine agency.”* Katherine Anne Porter says it’s *“an event that appears inexplicable by the laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God. Miracles are spontaneous, they cannot be summoned, but come of themselves.”* Even the word God strongly suggests *“One who must be worshipped as having supernatural powers and abilities!”* Hence, every time we mention God we are talking about the One Who must be worshiped as having abilities that go far beyond the law and power of this natural world in which we live.

The Bible is full of scriptures that reflect God as being a miracle worker. Matthew 19:26 says, ***“With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”*** Luke 1:37 declares, ***“For with God nothing shall be impossible.”*** If God did only what was humanly possible He wouldn’t be God, for He is a God of the impossible!

Yet, the majority of people around us choose to live by their own limited resources and abilities. They prefer to go it alone! They would rather not have to depend on a supernatural all-powerful God. It doesn't make sense, but it's true! For us as believers, however, the moment we receive Christ we were called to live in the unseen realm where "all things are possible." When we stepped out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of His dear Son, we stepped out of the "impossible with man" realm and into the "possible with God" realm (the supernatural, superabundant realm of the Spirit).

Now, it's awesome that we have taken that step but there are some things we need to truly comprehend if we are to continually experience the miraculous power of God. The most important thing is mentioned in Galatians 3:5, which we have just read: "***Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?***" Notice that God does miracles among us by our faith in what He says, or by the hearing of our faith! Therefore, we must have a vital role to play in the miraculous. We see this very clearly in Luke 18:35-39 (or Blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52):

***Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*** This man was blind and destitute, and that's why he was begging. But he represents many people in today's society. If you refuse to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, and do not yield to the power of God, the devil will keep you blind and destitute - begging through life.

However, this blind man may also represent a believer who has no knowledge of his covenant rights in Christ Jesus. He is living a life of lack and desolation, and all the while, his heavenly Father has made every provision in heaven and earth so that he need not be begging bread. ***“I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread”*** (Psalm 37:25). ***“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus”*** (Philippians 4:19). ***“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing”*** (Psalm 23:1). If you lack nothing, you can't be begging for anything - can you? This is what the cross at Calvary represents!

“Oh, God, won't You please heal me - I beg of you!” No, that's not your position in the blood covenant secured by Jesus. God Himself told us to put Him in remembrance of the covenant (Isaiah 43:26), and to make a demand on His power. We have every right to be healed, every right to be prosperous in all matters of life. Why! Because we have an everlasting covenant! God cannot retract His promises. They are yes and amen! So don't buy into the devil's lies. You do in fact “lack nothing!” All your needs have already been met. Hallelujah! You're not begging bread!

Next, notice that when the blind man heard all the commotion of the crowd passing by he called out to find out what was happening. And what did the people tell him? They told him that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by! Let me tell you also, ***“Jesus is passing by.”*** He is not just passing by in church today, but every day of your life! Moment by moment He is near to you. Right now, He is within reach! If you want your miracle then there is something you need to do - a part that you must to play. You need to take action. We have to do your bit! In the case of the blind man, he started hollering, ***“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*** But all this did was irritate the people around Jesus. So they told him to shut up!

Today there are also religious people who will try to shut you up and keep you from receiving your miracle. What is astounding about this story is that here we have a blind man who was able to see his miracle passing by, yet the religious people around him weren't able to. His natural eye couldn't see a thing, but he saw clearly with the eyes of his spirit, through the eyes of faith. And what he saw, caused others much indignation. But that didn't stop him. He just cried out even louder, and with more intensity! He knew that his miracle was within reach!

Observe how the blind man played a part in receiving His miracle. His actions meant he was party to the miracle being manifest! Let's now examine God's part in it... Luke 18:40-43:

***Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.***

In the middle of a noisy crowd, Jesus heard a very distinct voice. It was the voice of **faith**. When He heard that voice, the Amplified Bible says He simply "stood still" (verse 40). The Lord quickly stopped! Jesus hasn't changed; He's still the same today (Hebrews 13:8). Anytime the Lord hears the voice of faith, He stops. When you speak words of faith, it's like calling Him to attention. Jesus must stop, because He is under a divine obligation. The **voice of faith** places a demand on His power. And right now Jesus want's to respond to your voice of faith. He want's to stop and give you your miracle! The question is this, "Will you cry out unashamedly to your Saviour?" The blind man wasn't prepared to allow Jesus you walk on by. He insisted and persisted in his actions.

Remember, once you make that demand on God's power, and once Jesus stops, divine authority is exercised. ***"Jesus stood, and commanded."*** Whenever the Lord stops it is because He wants to exercise His authority and set the captives free. When you make a demand, God makes a command. He makes a command on your behalf. He releases supernatural power to change impossible situations, and causes them to line up with what you are believing for. His power is directed by your faith. Can you see? God has placed Himself in a position where your faith directs Him. You and I have the ability to move God (and all of heaven) at any given time - in church, the supermarket, in the car, in your home, on the job, anywhere! Hence, on a dusty road that day, Jesus could not go anywhere or do anything until He answered the **voice of faith**. The voice that cried out to Him compelled Him to respond! The voice demanded and so Jesus commanded!

After Jesus insisted that the blind man be brought to Him, He asked the man, ***"What do you want Me to do for you?"*** Notice He didn't say, "Let me see what I can do for you." No, Jesus placed no limits on the man's request. Actually, the limits were up to the blind man. So he told Jesus, ***"Lord, that I may receive my sight"*** (verse 41). With that, Jesus replied, ***"Receive your sight, your faith has healed you"*** (verse 42). All the man had to do was receive. It is one thing to have faith to call out to the Lord, but it's another thing to have faith to receive. Do you have faith to receive today? Jesus has stopped and is asking you, "What exactly do you want Me to do?" Jesus stopped on His way to Jericho that day because He heard the voice of faith. That voice stopped Him in His tracks. He didn't have to think about it. He had no choice - He had to respond. But the blind man then had to make it clear what he wanted from the Lord. He had to speak out in faith the 'measure' of miracle-working power he was expecting. You need to do the same! Whatever measure you use He will use also.

Remember, God's power is limitless. So you need to direct it to where you are expecting it to manifest. And that takes faith! Jesus doesn't just drop by with His miracle-working power. As with anything, He must have a faith disturbance - like blind Bartimaeus. If you are not prepared to disturb Him, He will simply pass you by. A lot of miracles have been alluding us because, even though Jesus has shown up during our greatest need, we have let Him pass us by. We didn't call out with the **voice of faith** - the action that's necessary if we are to stop Him in His tracks. Why not stop Him right now! Yes, don't let Jesus pass you by again! Speak words of faith - cry, shout, use greater intensity if you have to. Demand His attention so that He may command the opposing forces to set you free. Your miracle is a breath away. It is in your mouth and in your heart!

Then once Jesus has stopped, don't back off. Don't limit Him, or yourself! Be bold and go ahead and tell Him what you want Him to do for you. Then simply receive! Remember, we serve a miracle-working God, and heaven has come down to us today. But your miracle is up to you. Don't let it pass you by. Make sure that Jesus is compelled to stop! ***“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*** Notice how this blind man referred to Jesus' royal heritage. He knew that only the King of Heaven had the power to command - the power to perform the miracle he needed.

*(Note, excerpts of this sermon were taken from an article by  
Kenneth Copeland)*