

MIRACLES GLORIFY GOD

Andrew Wommack

We've talked about walking in the power of God and ministering to other people through the gifts that He gives us. I'd like to share some things about how this really glorifies God, and how He expects us to use His supernatural ability. There are so many scriptures on this that I can only touch on a few. In Matthew 9 there's an instance where Jesus healed a paralytic man, and I'll deal with that in more detail in Mark 2. Matthew 9:8 says, "But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men." Did you know that the gifts of the Spirit—miracles—glorify God, and that's the reason He gave that miraculous ability to us?

When you start sharing with other people, there's a natural tendency for them to doubt and begin to question, "Well, how do I know what you're saying is true?" I once heard T. L. Osborne, a famous evangelist who led hundreds of thousands of people to the Lord, discuss his experience when he was first on the foreign mission field. He tried to witness to people, and they just didn't believe what he said. Finally, one day he was talking to a man saying, "But the Bible says," and the man said, "What makes your black book any different than my black book?" His black book was the Koran. When T. L. Osborne saw that, he thought, "Well, yeah, how do these people know the Bible is true? I have faith that the Bible is the Word of God, but how do I convince them?"

He left the mission field defeated and discouraged, came home, and began to seek God. The Lord told him that he had to use His supernatural ability. Signs and wonders are for the purpose of validating the Word of God, which is what will change people's lives. In 1 Peter 1:23 it says, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." God's Word is what changes people's lives, but how do you get them to believe it really is God speaking? Well, that's the purpose of miracles. When we preach and say that it's God's will for a person to be healed, then demonstrate it by speaking over them in the name of Jesus. Their blind eyes or deaf ears that are opened validate that it is God. Miracles aren't going to change people, but they will cause them to believe that the word you've spoken is the Word of God.

A scriptural example of that is Mark 2:1-9, where there is further detail on the paralytic who was healed: "And again he [Jesus] entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether it is easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?" The truth is both of those things are technically impossible. It's impossible for a man to forgive sins, and it's

also impossible for a man to heal another person of paralysis. So if God could do one, He could certainly do the other.

Jesus said in verses 10-12, “But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up the bed and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.” Jesus made it very clear when He said, “But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy),” He produced the healing so people would know that if He could do things in the physical realm that they could see happen at His word, then spiritual things such as the forgiveness of sins could also take place. Jesus used miracles to validate His word.

This exact same thing is said in Hebrews 2:2-3. “For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.” It says that God confirmed this word by the power of the Holy Spirit. Put this together with Mark 16:20, “the Lord working with them, and confirmed the word with signs following.” The point I’m making is that God wants you to use His supernatural ability and power to minister to other people. He uses the miracles that take place through the gifts of the Holy Spirit to confirm to people that He is actually speaking to them. Ultimately He wants people to be set free in their hearts, but sometimes the way to a person’s heart is through their bodies and their emotions. If you can deal with those areas and see a person set free, then they will open up and allow the Lord to touch the rest of their lives and literally commit their entire being to Him.

In 1 Corinthians 2:1 Paul was writing to the Corinthians, telling them how he first approached them: “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” He made it very clear that the reason he didn’t come emphasizing and using words only but came in demonstration of the Spirit and power, was so their faith would stand in the power of God and not in the wisdom of man.

Christianity has wonderful logic to it. Once you see the truth, you wonder how you ever missed it and why everybody doesn’t embrace it. But Christianity isn’t only logic . . . it is a real experience with a real God. He’s alive today, and He wants to manifest Himself in power exactly the same way He did in His Word. Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” Jesus came and He was a man approved of God among us by signs and wonders and miracles. Acts 10:38 says, “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” He had his word confirmed, and those miracles rang like a bell to draw people to His message. They glorified God. Many scriptures say that these miracles glorified God, and if Jesus had to use the power of the Holy Spirit to minister and to change people’s lives, how do we think that we can do better than He did? If Jesus drew on miracles to draw people to Himself to receive His message, how can we possibly think that we can convince the world today without operating in the supernatural power of God? The truth is that miracles

glorify God. They are a bell that draws people. It's like ringing the dinner bell—it's the food that will fill you, but it's the bell that gets your attention. Without the bell, some people are going to miss the meal. Without the miraculous power of God, many people are going to miss out on the fact that God is real and He can change their hearts and forgive their sins.

I encourage you to realize that God wants to flow through each one of us and work these miracles through us in other people's lives. Some of you may say, "But that intimidates me. What happens if I pray for a person and they aren't healed? How do I know this is going to happen?" You need to recognize it's not you doing the miracles; God is doing them. You don't take responsibility if the miracle works and the person gets set free, and you don't take the blame if it doesn't work. You just do the praying; God's the one who does the healing, but He has to flow through you. God wants to use you in miraculous ways. You need to get into God's Word and see how it worked for other people, apply those things in your life, and let the miraculous, supernatural power of God start flowing through you today.

MIRACLES GLORIFY GOD (Outline)

BIBLE TEXT: Matthew 9:8: “But when the multitudes saw it, they marveled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.”

Miracles glorify God. Example: T.L. Osborn on the mission field. Signs & wonders validate the Word of God.

1 Peter 1:23: “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

Miracles cause people to believe that the word spoken is indeed the Word of God.

Mark 2:1-12: “And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. ²And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. ³And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. ⁴And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. ⁶But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, ⁷Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? ⁸And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? ⁹Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? ¹⁰But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) ¹¹I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. ¹²And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.”

Jesus produced physical results so that people might know that He could produce spiritual results (the forgiveness of sins).

Hebrews 2:2-4: “For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; ³How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; ⁴God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

Mark 16:20: “And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-5: “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. ²For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

Our faith must stand in the power of God, not in man.

Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”

Acts 10:38: “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

God does the miracles, not you!

MIRACLES GLORIFY GOD (Teacher's Guide)

1. Read Matthew 9:1-8. What was the result of this miracle?
It brought glory to God.
2. In 1 Peter 1:23, what does the term "incorruptible seed" describe?
The Word of God.
3. A. In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus healed a man who was sick with palsy. According to verse 2, what did Jesus preach?
The Word.
B. What can we know about Jesus words in verse 10?
He has power to forgive sins.
C. What then is the purpose of miracles?
To validate that the Word of God is really the Word of God.
4. In Hebrews 2:2-3, it says, "The word . . . was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." In Mark 16:17-20 (especially verse 20), what will the Lord use to confirm His Word?
Signs.
5. In 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Paul explained his method of preaching. In verse 4, what does the Bible say that Paul demonstrated and why?
Spirit and power so that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
6. What does Hebrews 13:8 say about Jesus?
He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
7. In Acts 10:38, what did Jesus do as a result of being anointed with the Holy Spirit?
He went about doing good and healing ALL that were oppressed of the devil.
8. If the Holy Spirit worked through Jesus that way, then He can work through us that way too! This is how we can bring glory to God.

MIRACLES GLORIFY GOD (Detailed Teacher's Guide)

NOTE: The following information may be read out loud (a numbered section at a time) with the person(s) being disciplined. After each numbered section is read, pause and ask the question(s) that correspond to the paragraph(s), and then discuss them.

¹ A “miracle” is an extraordinary or unusual event that is considered to be a manifestation of divine power.

² Miracles are God's way of meeting the needs of those who seek Him in faith. Miracles will sometimes be used to demonstrate God's ability so that people may believe (Mark 2:10-11), but they will not happen to skeptics who are tempting God (Luke 4:9-12).

³ A miracle is also a supernatural intervention of God's power over natural law. Healings occur within the boundaries of natural law, while miracles are not limited to natural law. A person with a high fever who receives prayer and then begins to recover is experiencing a healing. The Lord intervened, but in natural ways. The virus, infection, or whatever was rebuked left the body (Luke 4:39), and then the natural healing process that the Lord built into all of us took over. When something totally supernatural happens, that's a miracle. When Jesus reattached the servant's ear and it was instantly whole after Peter cut it off (Luke 22:51), that was a miracle. It was also a healing, but it was a miraculous healing.

⁴ Feeding the five thousand (Matthew 14:19-20), walking on the water (Matthew 14:25), translating a ship and all aboard to the other side of the sea (John 6:21)—all these were miracles. Miracles are usually instantaneous, whereas healings are sometimes gradual.

⁵ “Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did . . . when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized” (Acts 8:5-6, 12 NKJV).

⁶ The Lord has never had anyone who was qualified working for Him. It's by God's grace that He uses any of us. Anyone who claims to be used of God because of his great holiness is either deceived or a deceiver. It's our faith in the grace of God that allows miracles to flow through us.

¹ What is a miracle?

² What did Jesus' miracle in Mark 2:10-12 demonstrate that He had power to do?

³ Does Mark 16:18 demonstrate a miracle or a healing?

⁴ What is the difference between a miracle and a healing?

⁵ According to Acts 8:5-8 and verse 12, how did the people respond to what was happening?

⁶ (a) What did the Apostle Peter say about his own holiness producing miracles? Acts 3:12

(b) How do miracles happen? Acts 3:16

MIRACLES GLORIFY GOD (Discipleship Questions)

Miracles: An extraordinary or unusual event that is considered to be a manifestation of divine power. God's way of meeting the needs of those who seek Him in faith. Used to demonstrate God's ability so that people may believe. A supernatural intervention of God's power over natural law.

Read Matthew 9:1-8

1. What did Jesus forgive of the paralytic?
2. Who took offense that Jesus was "forgiving sins"?
3. Did the Scribes voice their opinions out loud or did Jesus perceive their thoughts? (this is considered a word of knowledge)
4. Which is easier to say:
 - A. Your sins are forgiven you
 - B. Take up your bed and walk
5. What was the purpose for Jesus physically healing the paralytic (verse 6)?
6. How did the multitudes react after seeing this miracle?

Read Matthew 5:16

7. What are our good works supposed to accomplish?
8. Who are people supposed to follow, us or Jesus?

Read John 1:33-37

9. What did John the Baptist say to his disciples about Jesus?
10. After the disciples heard John speak, whom did they follow; John or Jesus?

When we speak, we need to make sure others would follow Jesus and not ourselves.

Read Hebrews 2:1-4

11. What must we "give the more earnest heed to"?
12. Why?

13. How was the word of the Lord confirmed?
14. Not only are we witnesses to the word of the Lord but God also. What did God do to validate His Word (verse 4)?
- A. _____ and _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____

Read Mark 16:17-20

15. What will follow those who believe?
16. Are the signs listed in verses 17-18 something man can do alone, or are they supernatural?
17. What did the disciples do after Jesus was received up into heaven?
18. How did the Lord work with them?
19. Do you recognize that the Lord will do the same for us because we are also His disciples?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

20. Did Paul speak with eloquence and wisdom?
21. What did Paul determine to know?
22. Was Paul strong and bold?
23. What did Paul's preaching demonstrate?
24. Where should we put our faith?
- A. In the wisdom of men
 - B. The power of God

Read Hebrews 13:8

25. Has God ever changed?

Read James 1:17

26. Is there any variation or shadow of turning with God?
27. Does He give good or bad gifts to His children?
28. Will this ever change?

Read Malachi 3:6

29. Does the Lord change?
30. Can we count on the Lord to work through us just as He did the disciples?

It's not about worthiness; it's about obedience. You are already worthy because of Jesus, but will you be obedient?

Read Acts 10:38

31. What did God anoint Jesus with?
32. Then what did Jesus do?
33. Who was with Jesus all the while He was doing good and healing?

Read Acts 1:8

34. What shall we receive from God if we wait upon Him?
35. What are we to do after we receive the Holy Spirit and power?
36. If the Lord doesn't change, do you see that everything God gave to Christ, Christ has given to us?
37. Do you now see how it is that we are able to fulfill the Great Commission?

Read Acts 3:12, 16

38. What was Peter trying to tell the people about whose power it was that made the man walk?
39. What was it that made the man strong according to verse 16?

Read Acts 8:4-8

40. What did those who were scattered do?
41. What did the multitudes do after hearing and seeing the miracles Philip did?
42. What was the result in verse 8 of their obedience?
43. What will be the result of your obedience? Are you ready?

MIRACLES GLORIFY GOD
(Discipleship Answer Key)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. His sins | 22. No |
| 2. Scribes (Religious) | 23. The Holy Spirit and power |
| 3. Perceive their thoughts | 24. B. Power of God |
| 4. A. Your sins are forgiven | 25. No |
| 5. We may know Christ has power to forgive sins | 26. No |
| 6. They marveled and glorified God | 27. Good gifts |
| 7. Encourage people to see Jesus | 28. No |
| 8. Jesus | 29. No |
| 9. He was the Son of God | 30. Yes |
| 10. Jesus | 31. Holy Spirit & Power |
| 11. The things we have heard | 32. Went about doing good, healing all |
| 12. Lest we drift away | 33. God |
| 13. By witnesses | 34. Power |
| 14. A. Signs – wonders
B. Various miracles
C. Gifts of the Holy Spirit | 35. Be witnesses |
| | 36. Yes |
| 15. Signs | 37. Yes |
| 16. Supernatural | 38. It was Christ's power |
| 17. They went out and preached everywhere | 39. Faith in the name of Jesus |
| 18. By confirming the word with signs following | 40. Preached the word |
| 19. Yes | 41. Heeded the word Philip spoke |
| 20. No | 42. Great joy |
| 21. Jesus Christ and Him crucified | 43. Your answer |

MIRACLES GLORIFY GOD
by Don Krow
(Additional Information)

Do you believe in miracles? May I tell you about one that happened to my family?

A “miracle” is an extraordinary or unusual event that is considered to be a manifestation of divine power.

My wife and I have been married 21 years. Since the time she was 4 years old, she has suffered from “asthma,” which is a respiratory disease that often arises from allergies and is characterized by difficulty in breathing, tightness of the chest, and coughing. This condition is incurable and is usually treated by the use of inhalators and other medications.

After we were married, we moved to west Texas, known for its notorious dust storms. It is not unusual to see a dark cloud form and within 20 minutes be in dust so thick that you have to turn on your car lights so that you can see to drive. It was in one of these instances that my wife could have died, or almost died, if it had not been for the miracle.

My wife, night after night, had to be propped up in bed, or on her hands and knees just to breathe. Night after night I prayed for God’s healing to come to her. After months of this, we were at the end of ourselves. It was at this time that we intensified our seeking God by adding fasting along with our prayers. Within a few days, some supernatural things began to happen. It was revealed to me through prayer that Wendy’s (that’s my wife’s name) real problem was not asthma but rather fear. There is a natural fear that is normal (like, “I can’t breathe”), and there is a supernatural fear that is abnormal that drives and torments people. The Scriptures declare “God hath not given us the SPIRIT OF FEAR; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). When we discovered this was Wendy’s real problem, I immediately resisted and rebuked this foul spirit of fear (see James 4:7). Wendy was instantly healed and delivered from fear and asthma that day. It has been almost 20 years, and Wendy has remained healed.

A few weeks ago in Kit Carson, Colorado, a woman told me about her baby who, at 17 months, had brain damage and was partly brain dead. The baby was lifeless in the hospital with all kinds of tubes and things hooked up to him. This woman told me she got angry at God and began to curse. When she finally calmed down, she told God that she was sorry and would give her child to Him if He would heal him. Immediately the lifeless child stood up in the hospital bed with all of the different tubes attached to him. This lady began to say, “Jesus has just healed my baby!” She ran and called her husband proclaiming, “Jesus has just healed our baby!”

He said, “What?”

She said, “Jesus has just healed our baby!”

That baby is now grown up and is a college student with a 4.0 GPA.

Why am I sharing these true stories with you? When the Apostle John wrote down the true stories and miracles that Jesus did, he also gave the reason for doing this: “These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his Name” (John 20:31).

Isn't it time that you started thinking about spiritual things? ⁵“ Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ to them. ⁶And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did . . . ¹²when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, were baptized both men and women” (Acts 8:5-6,12 NKJV).

Have you ever considered turning to Him for the forgiveness of your sins? Accepting Him as your personal Saviour and following Him as your Lord? He loves you and wants to give you the miracle of His salvation!

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Discipleship Evangelism
P.O. Box 17007
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935-7007 U.S.A.
www.krowtracts.com www.delessons.org
Phone: 719-577-7775