

MIRACLES (23)

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.

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I read an account of one who visited an engine room of a large ship. There were wheels and gears and cylinders and bars and bands and rods and pistons. Some were moving rapidly, some were moving slowly and some weren't moving at all. To the untrained eye, this looks like some organization of hopeless confusion, but to the trained eye, that engine room was running in perfect order. Every part of the engine played its own part. The big wheels were connected to the small wheels and the pistons made them all move. Everything was necessary to the ship getting to its destination.

When you think about the skill that is needed to make every event of your life work in harmony with every other event of your life so that all events are moving you toward your Christlike destination, it is miraculous. Sometimes we know why things happen and sometimes we don't. God is directing all things in accordance with those who love Him. The big things and the small things. God directs the good, overrules the evil and just as the Scripture says, "The steps of a man are established by the LORD; and He delights in his way" (Psalm 37:23). Joseph's brothers did things that were evil against Joseph that God turned into good. So it is with us. There is a sovereign providence and direction at work in every area of your life and that is miraculous.

Church Age Direct Miracle #6 - The miracle of supernatural evangelism .

When Jesus was here on earth, He predicted a time would come when His disciples would actually do greater miracles than He did (John 14:12). He said this in the context of the coming Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18). Moments before He ascended into heaven, He brought this up again and He connected all of this with the Apostle's evangelistic witness and worldwide impact (Acts 1:8). In other words, the greater miracles which they would perform would be the miracle of witnessing and then seeing souls saved all over the world. Instead of doing something physical, they would do something spiritual and eternal.

When you think about a lost person who is dead in sin and blinded by Satan, listening to our feeble presentations of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God using this to deliver sinners and bring them into His family, it is a supernatural miracle. If you have ever had the privilege of sharing Jesus Christ with someone and they trust Him, you have just witnessed an amazing miracle far more stupendous than healing any disease, for you have just been part of healing an eternal soul.

When we share the truth of God with someone and the Holy Spirit convicts that person and they favorably respond, you have just been part of a miracle. One of the great miracles of the Grace Age.

The logistics of such a miracle are amazing. God's Spirit must bring the person under conviction. God's sovereignty must bring you to the point of witnessing at this precise moment. The words you speak must be taken by the Holy Spirit and cut open the soul. The living and active word which you shared must produce saving faith in Jesus Christ. It is an astounding miracle.