

The God of Miracles

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Scripture References: Mt. 4:12-17; Lk. 4:14-30; 2 Ki. 5:1-19

One interesting aspect of the method I use for reading and meditating in the Bible each day is that often you encounter the same “theme” in each reading that day in the OT, NT, Psalms and Proverbs. Today was such a day. The “theme” today in each of these is the history of how God’s people, both under the Old and New Covenants, have a tendency – and a history I might add – to forget Him and all the things/miracles that He has done for them. They have a history of worshiping other “things”; often religious things. As those of you who’ve read *Mysterious Secrets* know, this is the operation of religious spirits.

Hezekiah was one of the most godly kings in the history of Israel yet he did something that would seem sacrilegious – he broke the bronze serpent (*cf.* 2 Ki. 18:4) that Moses had made (Nu. 21:9) because the people idolized it, had given it a name and even brought gifts to it. This is interesting because this is the first mention of the “bronze serpent” since Israel was in the desert; we didn’t even know it was still around yet it had been kept all these years (approximately 800 years later) and had turned into an idol. We see the same thing happening in the book of Judges when God used Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites who were descendants of Abraham through Keturah. The people worshiped a golden ephod that Gideon made (Ju. 8:27).

Why does this happen? Why do people allow religious spirits to turn them away from the Lord? Well, one reason is because they simply do not have a very deep relationship with the Lord – they don’t personally *know* Him.

Last week I wrote about healing and what the Spirit said about people not *knowing* Jesus the Healer. I mentioned that I learned over 30 years ago that I'd been incorrectly taught as a Baptist that "the day of miracles was over."

I learned that there never was a "day of miracles" but there was and still is a God of miracles. My question for you today is: "Do you know Jesus the Miracle Worker?" The Lord wants me to continue on speaking about miracles this week because they are not the same as healing and, in fact, there are two separate Gifts of the Holy Spirit which differentiate the two.

I shared in *Revelations From God* a night vision in October of 1998 when the Lord appeared dressed as a prophet and spoke to me about the Gift of Working of Miracles. I also share on this website the three steps He gave me in this vision which He said if followed "anyone can receive a miracle." If you need a miracle or know somebody who does then you should read and meditate on the tab "miracles and healing."

I want to share some examples of miracles from the Scriptures from which we can learn something about both the Gift of Working of Miracles and also the God of miracles. A miracle is different from healing although people often confuse the two by calling a healing a miracle, especially if it's from a terminal disease such as cancer. However, a miracle is something the Spirit of God does that we would term "supernatural" – it's not something within the realm of science such as when the prophet Elisha threw a stick into the river and caused an iron axhead to float. Most scientists today would discount such an occurrence just as they wouldn't believe that Jesus and Peter actually walked on the water. That's because they are focused on the physical and don't understand the spiritual – spiritual forces dominate physical forces. That is why your faith can literally cause a "mountain to be removed and cast into the sea."

Unfortunately, as I've said many times before, most human beings never develop spiritually so they find it almost impossible to understand spiritual things or spiritual science. Paul spoke about this quite a bit in I Corinthians and is precisely why you need to understand *Dark Speech* and the "language of the Holy Spirit." If you never learn His language He won't be able to communicate with you much even though He wants to.

Now back to miracles. Like most things God provides for us as His covenant people there are many different ways to receive from Him. Just as there are many different ways for a Christian to receive healing so are there many different ways to receive a miracle. Like healing, you can receive a miracle

through your own faith or through someone operating in the Gift of Working of Miracles or the Gift of Faith. Also, like healing you can receive a miracle through prayer. But perhaps the easiest way to receive a miracle is through personal ministry by a true prophet or apostle as they frequently operate in the gifts of Faith and Working of Miracles today just like they did in the Bible. Most of the miracles we see in the Scriptures happened in the ministry of prophets and apostles. Of course apostle, as an anointed office, is distinctive of the New Covenant.

One specific miracle occurred in the life of Elisha the prophet which was unique in that it accomplished a number of things: (1) It brought restoration and life to a commander of the armies of Israel's most hated enemy, Syria; (2) it brought salvation and a knowledge of God to this gentile commander; (3) it revealed the heart and impure motives of Elisha's servant, Gehazi, who was in training to take over as prophet in Elisha's place, (4) it revealed that there was a true prophet in Israel who represented God Almighty, (5) Finally, as we learn later, it brought recognition about God and Elisha's ministry to all of Syria.

Thus we learn that God often has many objectives in mind when He orchestrates healing and miracles for somebody. It's always important to pray into the situation to try and determine His objectives before we just try to follow some rote formula and begin praying.

The Word says, "Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honorable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria; he was also a mighty man in valor, but he was a leper."

In other words he was a very brave warrior and had great favor with the king but he had a serious problem which not only was a disease but a wasting disease. If you've ever been to a leper colony, and few Christians have, you'll know that most of the people there have lost their arms, legs, etc., because the disease not only kills you but it eats away at your entire body and consumes it until you die. I ministered healing and restoration to a minister in the Philippines in 1996 who was so afflicted because although leprosy can be stopped through medication, once it breaks out there is nothing medical science can do. This gentleman was from a tribe on the island of Mindanao that spoke in demonic tongues; however, he had gotten saved and was overseeing 30 churches at the time I ministered to him.

It's interesting that Jesus referred to Naaman's miracle when He began His ministry in Nazareth and used this example as well as Elijah's being sent to a non-Jewish woman as examples of "a prophet not being without honor except

in his own country and home town.” Like Elisha before Him, Jesus became well-known throughout Syria (*cp.* Mt. 4:24), yet in His own home town of Nazareth He knew they would not believe in Him because of this spiritual principle. They were covenant people and entitled to God’s miracles just like all the lepers who lived in Israel during the days of Elisha but they were not healed and didn’t receive miracles because they didn’t have faith – they just viewed Him as “the carpenter’s son.”

Now He was (and still is) the “living Word” and just as they couldn’t receive a miracle back then through unbelief neither will you receive one today if you walk in unbelief. Remember, I’ve said it many times before, if you’re in covenant with God then there are only two things that can keep you from receiving your covenant promises – sin and unbelief. You have the written word which is also the *Logos* and God watches over his word to perform it; therefore, you can receive a miracle through your own faith by simply reading, meditating, believing and being a doer of the Word. But remember, in the Greek language it is progressive – you must “believe and keep on believing.”

If you want to receive through your own faith then it’s quite simple really, though it’s taken me about 30 years to learn this, you just believe and keep on believing until the miracle manifests. Now, let me add something I’ve learned over these years that will help you and I’ve preached it in many messages. You have a part to play – your part is to believe and keep on believing. God has a part to play – His part is to grant your petition. And He *will* do it. I guarantee He will. But learn this important fact and it will help you – you don’t tell God *how* to do it and you don’t tell God *when* to do it.

I learned this secret from what the Lord said to me back in the early 1980s about why most people don’t receive from Him. For Spirit-filled Christians which most of you are, He said “Most Spirit-filled Christians don’t receive from Me because their faith doesn’t possess patience.” Probably, especially here in the West, most Christians have the least development in patience of all of the Fruit of the Spirit. But I can guarantee you that God will grant you a miracle if you will not waiver in your faith and not tell Him *how* or *when* to do it.

Now I find it interesting also that Elijah, Elisha, etc., weren’t running around looking for people to minister to like so many “prophets” today. They weren’t holding conferences and charging admission; they didn’t charge for their personal prophecies either. Elisha turned down the gifts from Naaman that today would be worth north of \$20 million. How many ministries today do you personally know of who would do this? Perhaps this might speak to the purity

of most ministry today compared to God's true standards -- whether you know it or not there is a *plumbline* for ministry and the anointing resting upon you is a function of this.

God's true prophets only go where He sends them or ministers to those God sends to them. I can guarantee you that Elisha would not be one of the prophets whose daily "prophecies" you would find on the Balaam List of advertisements on the internet today.

Now, when you're standing in faith for a miracle from the God of Miracles and you've not grown weary but are "patiently waiting" I can guarantee that He will grant your miracle and He might do it by sending a prophet to you. Praise the Lord! Let's be grateful people and thankful people and thank Him for all He's done for us and all He is trying to do for us. Amen!