

- I) V10 INTRO: To another, the working of miracles
As we study the gifts of the Spirit, we now come to the gift of **miracles**
In order to study the gift of miracles we need to lay a foundation

- II) To somebody from an earlier century, what is **common** to us would be miraculous
Light bulbs, photographs, automobiles, jet planes, rockets, anesthetic, television,
radios, videos, eyeglasses, atomic weapons, cell phones: **color TV**

- III) I remember hearing of an unreached people group seeing their first airplane
They were amazed to see land and give birth to white human beings

- IV) None of these things require supernatural aid, they all fit under natural law
SO WHAT THEN IS A MIRACLE

- V) A miracle is something that is **impossible** without supernatural, outside aid
It isn't something that can be explained by giving credit to a natural event
LET ME DEVELOP THIS

- VI) As we read our bibles we see that **miracles** are mentioned fairly often
Creation, the flood, the confusion of languages, the destruction of Sodom and
Gomorrah, judgment on Lot's wife, the birth of Isaac, Elijah raising the widow's son,
Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, Jonah and the great fish etc.
MOSES' LIFE

- VII) **Moses'** life and ministry was filled with miraculous events
His call: A Burning Shrub in the Wilderness that was not consumed by the fire
Ex 4 records his staff was turned into a serpent, and his hand became leprous
We see 10 plagues, the Red Sea parted, and he struck a Rock that gushed water

- VIII) When Joshua crossed the Jordan the Priest's feet touched the water, and it parted
Jericho's wall fell down, after Israel circled the walls 13 times in seven days

- IX) Elijah prayed, and for three years, it did not rain: He prayed again, and it poured
The list goes on
WITH THIS IN MIND, WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE

- X) Miracles reveal **the greatness of God** and are consistent with His nature
They would be what are called part of the **communicable attributes** of God
Onnipresent, omniscient, immutable, holy, righteous, love, faithful
He is also **onnipotent**, all-powerful being consistent with *the nature* of God

I) Jer 32:27 I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. **Is there anything** too hard for Me
Lu 1:37 **For nothing is impossible** with God.

Lu 18:27 (Jesus) The things that are impossible with men **are possible with God**
WHEN SCRIPTURE SAYS NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

II) Nothing in keeping with His nature is impossible for Him
Something that is absurd remains absurd, even when you place God in it
SOME THINGS ARE IMPOSSIBLE

III) Heb 6:18 It is **impossible** for God to lie
2 Ti 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abides faithful: He **cannot deny Himself**
Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, **who cannot lie**, promised before the
world began

MIRACLES CONTINUE INTO THE NT

IV) The gospels record 37 miracles but there were many more that were not recorded
Jn 21:25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written
down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that
would be written.

IN THE NT

V) Three words are used to describe God's power: *Miracles, wonders and signs*
Miracles: Dynamis: Works of power revealing the supernatural
Wonders: Teras: Something causing someone **to marvel** (appeals to imagination)
Signs: Semeion: Transcending the common course of nature (appeals to mind)

WHY MIRACLES

VI) In the New Testament, there are various reasons given for miracles

First: They revealed the Glory of God

Jn 11:40 (To Martha, at the raising of Lazarus) Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that
if you believed, you would see **the glory of God**?"

Second: They established Jesus' credentials

Ac 2:22: Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by
God to you by **miracles, wonders and signs**, which God did among you through Him, as
you yourselves know.

Third: They established the apostles' credentials

2 Co 12:12 The things that mark an apostle --signs, wonders and miracles --were
done among you with great perseverance.

Fourth: They confirmed the Word of God

Mk 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord
worked with them and *confirmed his word* by the signs that accompanied it

- I) **During His ministry** Jesus commissioned the twelve to perform miracles
Mt 10:7-8 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.
- II) **After His resurrection** His followers performed miracles
- III) The apostles performed miracles
Ac 2:42-44 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and *many wonders and miraculous signs* were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.
Ac 19:11-12 God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.
- IV) Not only the apostles but others were used to perform miracles
Stephen, a deacon in the early church performed miracles
Ac 6:8 Stephen, full of faith and power, did great **wonders and miracles** among the people.
- V) God still moves through the miraculous today
Salvation itself is called the **miracle of salvation**
Salvation is impossible without supernatural aid
- VI) Matthew wrote concerning a rich young ruler who approached Jesus
After hearing what was required to be saved, he walked away sorrowful
Mt 19:23-26 Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "**With man this is impossible**, but with God all things are possible."
- VII) Miracles continue, but they are not always from God
Sometimes what is not a genuine miracle is claimed to be a miracle from God
Weeping statues, Mary in a tortilla; anointed prayer cloths, water from holy land

- I) Satan counterfeits miracles
 - During the time of Moses, Pharaoh's magicians performed miracles
 - Ex 7:10-12 Aaron's staff became a serpent, but the magicians duplicated it
 - Ex 7:19-20 The waters of Egypt became blood: the magicians did the same
 - Ex 8:5-7 Aaron brought up frogs from the Nile and ponds over the land of Egypt

- II) Satan can perform counterfeit miracles
 - Mt 24:24 False christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect
 - 2 Th. 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders

THE KEY

- III) Who gets the glory for the miracle that is performed?
 - Is 42:8 I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another neitherr My praise to graven images

IS THE GIFT IN OPERATION TODAY

- IV) Are there truly workers of miracles today?
 - God performs miracles but some claims are made by men of poor reputation

- V) To possess such a gift would be very difficult
 - There are many temptations that would assault one with such a gift
 - Pressure to prostitute the gift would be enormous

FIRST

- VI) The temptation to become famous, or to receive financial gain from such a gift
 - This is exactly what false teachers do
 - Titus 1:10-11 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach --and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

SECOND

- VII) To take the glory and steal it from the Lord (People are prone to give glory to men)
 - Simon the sorceror was of this sort
 - Ac 8:10 all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is rightly called the Great Power of God

WHY FEW MIRACLES TODAY

- VIII) By nature, miracles would be few, anyway
 - God will occasionally do a work through a human vessel but He gets all the glory

- I) In Acts, several miracles are recorded
 - Peter was used to heal the crippled man at the Beautiful Gate Ac 3:1-11
 - Peter raised Tabitha to life Ac 9:36-41
 - Paul causes Elymas the sorcerer to be smitten with blindness (Ac13:6-11)
 - Paul healed a cripple in Lystra Ac 14:8-10
 - Paul raised Eutychus to life Ac 20:9-10
 - Paul shook off the viper and did not die Ac 28
- FINALLY**
- II) Sometimes we have grown accustomed to believing in a God who doesn't work
 - We can be skeptical, or indifferent to God moving, not expecting Him to
- III) We have been trained to trust our intellect, and cannot get past it
 - Jud 6:11-13 The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? *Where are all his wonders* that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."
- IV) If I have a headache, I reach for an aspirin!
 - Still, God can use someone to pray for a miracle, because God performs them
 - Sometimes, He just does it on His own!
- V) Pastor Duane Miller healing testimony