

# THE FIVE MIRACLES

## OF THE UPPER ROOM

ACTS 1–2

The upper room is where the early church was born — and it's still where God moves today. After Jesus ascended, He left His disciples with a command: wait, and pray. These five miracles are not just history — they are God's pattern for His church in every generation.

**BOTTOM LINE** — *Prayer is not preparation for the mission — prayer IS the mission.*

**UPPER ROOM** — A gathering of praying Christians who encounter the manifest presence of Christ — anywhere, anytime, anyone.



### THE MIRACLE OF GATHERING

Acts 1:13

- Prayer is what brings believers together. Jesus gave His disciples a command to wait and a promise of the Spirit — and that was enough to draw them back despite real fear and danger.

**Q:** *What makes it hard for you to consistently gather with other believers?*



### THE MIRACLE OF PRAYING

Acts 1:14

- Sustained, united prayer is itself a work of God. Only weeks before, these same disciples couldn't pray for a single hour. God transformed them into a praying community — and He can do the same for us.

**Q:** *What would being truly "devoted" to prayer look like in your daily life?*

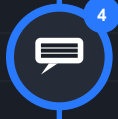


### THE MIRACLE OF RECEIVING

Acts 2:4

- The fullness of the Holy Spirit is a gift — not earned, but received. When the disciples opened themselves to what God promised, He filled every single one of them with His manifest presence.

**Q:** *Is there anything keeping you from asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit?*



### THE MIRACLE OF MINISTERING

Acts 2:11

- When people truly encounter God, they can't stay silent. The disciples were so overwhelmed by His presence that they broke into spontaneous, Spirit-filled praise — declaring things they had never said before.

**Q:** *How does a real encounter with God change the way you talk about Him?*



### THE MIRACLE OF HARVESTING

Acts 2:41, 47

- Upper room prayer changes the spiritual atmosphere around us. When believers are filled and ministering, God draws people in. Three thousand were saved in a single day — and the growth continued daily.

**Q:** *Who in your life could be reached if your upper room became a priority?*

# The Upper Room

*“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 1:4-5*

The most influential, powerful place on earth today is not the White House, Pentagon, Wall Street, or Silicon Valley. Influence does not come as a result of a viral video on YouTube or TikTok. The most influential place on earth is the upper room and influence comes as a result of prayer. Rebuilding upper rooms on earth is the greatest activity we can be involved in to fulfill Christ’s purposes in our world today.

If Christians can learn to pray, we can have everything God wants us to have on earth. This is why the only thing Jesus taught His disciples was how to pray (Luke 11:1). This is why Jesus said His house shall be a house of prayer for all nations (Matthew 21:13).

The upper room is the most significant moment of Jesus’ ministry with His disciples. When Jesus ascended into heaven, the only thing Christ left behind on earth was the God-encountering upper room prayer gathering. Jesus established His upper room by giving His disciples a command and a promise.

Command: *“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait...”*

Promise: *“...for the gift my Father promised...in a few days you will be bap-tized with the Holy Spirit.”*

The disciples obviously understood the importance of this command and promise. “Then they returned to Jerusalem...And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, [Greek: Huperon] where they were staying...” Acts 1:12-13

Prior to the crucifixion, the disciples met in the upper room for the Passover meal, the Lord’s Supper, foot-washing, and fellowship (Mark 14:15). Following the resurrection, the disciples met in the upper room again (John 20:19). Now they are meeting again in their upper room immediately following the ascension (Acts 1:12-13).

For the early church it was called an upper room because it was literally on the rooftop. For the church today, however, the upper room can be on the back porch, in your office, living room, basement...anywhere!

**DEFINITION: An Upper Room is a gathering of praying Christians who encounter the manifest presence of Christ. Anywhere. Any-time. Anyone.**

## **OTHER UPPER ROOMS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**

Spontaneous upper room (Acts 3:6-8).

Crisis upper room (Acts 4:23-31).

Leadership upper room (Acts 6:4).

Private upper room (Acts 9:10-18).

Special assignment upper room (Acts 10).

Small group upper room (Acts 13:1-3).

Unlikely upper room (Acts 16:25-34).

Family upper room (Acts 16:27-34).

## **THE FIVE UPPER ROOM MIRACLES**

There are five distinct miracles associated with the upper room. We do not use the word “miracle” casually; each of the five miracles listed below are only accomplished by God’s intervention in the lives of His people. These five miracles are being reproduced all over the world today. Christ will finish His mission on earth the same way He started—through the upper room!

### **1. The Miracle of Gathering**

*“And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.” Acts 1:13*

The fact that the early disciples gathered back in the upper room in Jerusalem is nothing short of a miracle. Every instinct within the disciples would have been to leave Jerusalem. Most of their families and children were elsewhere. Their jobs were elsewhere. The same people who killed Jesus were still in power in Jerusalem, so it was not safe to stay there. The Scripture even says in Mark 14:27, *“I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”* But they did not scatter; instead, they gathered. The early church gathered in the upper room because they were given a command and a promise. Christians gather today in their upper room all around the world because they too have a command and a promise. It requires a miracle for us to gather in the upper room, just as it did for the early Church.

### **2. The Miracle of Praying**

*“All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” Acts 1:14* The fact that these early disciples gathered for ten days of prayer is definitely a miracle. Keep in mind that only forty days prior, in the Garden of Gethsemane, they were incapable of praying one hour. Without pre-Pentecost prayer, there would be no Pentecost power. It takes just as much of a miracle to empower the church today to pray.

### **3. The Miracle of Receiving**

*“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...” Acts 2:4a* This third miracle, receiving, is the central miracle of the upper room. When the early church received the fullness of the Holy Spirit, they received the manifest presence of Christ. When Jesus ascended into His upper room in heaven, He received from the Father the Holy Spirit. When the disciples arrived in their upper

room on earth, they received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.” Acts 2:32-33

#### **4. The Miracle of Ministering**

*“...we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”* Acts 2:11b

Once the upper room disciples received the manifest presence of Christ in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, they immediately began ministering to the presence of Christ among them. In Acts 2:11 *“mighty works”* is the Greek word “megaleious” (used only 1 time in the entire New Testament). It means “magnificent, splendid, wonderful, perfection.” The early believers were using words they had never used before to describe things they had never seen before. These early disciples were so blown away by the visitation of God’s manifest presence among them, they stood in wide-eyed wonder and proclaimed the mighty works of God. Once we receive God’s manifest presence, we want to linger in His presence and declare His praise in high worship.

#### **5. The Miracle of Harvesting**

“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” Acts 2:41 “And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” Acts 2:47b

Once they were filled with God’s manifest presence and responded by ministering to His presence, it was as if God changed the spiritual atmosphere. People who had cried out for Christ’s crucifixion only forty days earlier are now eagerly listening to the gospel and asking, *“What shall we do?”* (Acts 2:37). Immediately, at least 3,000 repented and were baptized (Acts 2:41). Others continued to be saved daily (Acts 2:47). Today Christ is rebuilding upper rooms all over the world. He is inviting each of us into upper room encounters continuously.

Private upper rooms (just you and Jesus).

Family upper rooms.

Small group upper rooms.

Class or School upper rooms.

Entire church family upper rooms.

Remember: While the upper room in the early church was physically on the rooftop, today it can be any place where believers gather for the express purpose of receiving Christ’s manifest presence, ministering to His presence, and carrying His presence into our daily lives.

#### **ACTION STEPS**

Let’s get in small groups and answer these questions,

- What is the difference between the upper room and other prayer meetings?”
- What miracle of the upper room do you want to experience more of in your life?
- How do you plan to start upper rooms of prayer (Private, family, small group, church, school, etc.)?

When you think the prayer time is completed, ask someone to lead in public prayer on behalf of the entire group.