

- Not long after becoming a Christian, the group NewSong released the single: “Miracles” ... The singer confesses a strong belief in miracles because he’s a miracle ... “The greatest miracle of all, is the miracle of sweet salvation” ... No doubt, every time a person is born-again of the Spirit, a miracle happens ... Every time the God of All Creation enters into a person’s life, and takes up residence within them, a miracle takes place ... When a human being is conceived, and begins to grow inside a woman, a miracle is birthed – unfolding as the child develops and is finally brought into the world ... Regardless of what a person believes about God, or refuses to believe about Him, every one of us is a walking miracle – a public display of God’s power and work
- And while this is true, it is just as true that **a manifestation of the Spirit is given to each Christian for the benefit of them and others** ... **Manifestation of the Spirit – a visible display of the Spirit’s power** ... Where the Spirit of God is made known and experienced in a way that only He can produce ... You and I, being God’s workmanship, are a vessel through which God’s work is accomplished ... Work that He prepared ahead of time for us to do ... Think of this: the all-powerful, all-consuming God, who from nothing created everything, has chosen the Church to be the main vessel through which He displays His supernatural power and work within the world ... This has always been His plan ... This is in part of why you and I have been saved; why you and I have been given the Spirit of God
  - The Holy Spirit is jealous for an authentic relationship between you and Him ... He is jealous for your trust ... He is jealous for your obedience ... He is jealous for your surrender and simple faith ... He is jealous for you (Jam4:5) ... Are you open to the Spirit’s ability to work through you and His desire to do so? ... Those in Christ are a vessel through which the Holy Spirit displays His power and makes Himself known
- Every spiritual gift is a manifestation of the Spirit, and every spiritual gift remains in existence today, including those gifts we cannot readily explain or routinely experience ... Such as healings and miracles ... I don’t think it’s really a question of does God still work supernaturally today, particularly through healings and miracles ... Maybe, why is it hard for me to believe that God still works supernaturally ... Why should I care that God still works supernaturally
  - Let’s be honest, we live in a time where healings and miracles are not sought after nor expected ... Is this not true of those outside the church and those inside the church ... Because we don’t routinely experience them, it seems harder for us to believe in them ... We tend to rely on natural methods over supernatural ... This is not to say that we should avoid doctors and medicines and the like ... Does God not work through natural means – absolutely ... The issue is, which do you turn to first: the ibuprofen or God ... Do you rely more on what you can do for yourself, or on what God can do for you ... If we limit God and His ability, should we really be surprised when the reality of the Bible does not match the reality of our life
  - Keener – signs and wonders are more routine in places where gospel has not yet taken root; areas where demonstrations of God are most needed ... In the NT, healings and miracles done by Jesus demonstrated the arrival of God’s Kingdom ... They revealed that the work of Satan was being overthrown by the work of God ... This carried on as the Church spread throughout the known world ... And so, it continues today ... Healings and miracles are realities of God’s Kingdom; they are a foretaste of what is to come, when all of evil is finally cast into Hell and God’s creation is perfectly restored ... In the US, supernatural things happen more than we think ... Miracles and healings reveal Jesus, and help belief in Him to take root and grow

## Miracles and Healings

- A person may be a vessel through which God performs a miracle at a particular time for a particular purpose, but no Christian has the ability to perform miracles at will ... Likewise, no one person can heal every disease every time ... Words **gifts of healing** are plural, meaning Paul has in mind different means of healing for different diseases ... It is the Spirit who causes the healing to take place ... Healing is always subjected to God’s will ... Though faith and prayer are instrumental, they are not guarantees that a healing or a miracle will occur ... **Storms**, “Faith is not a force that compels God to act ... It is an expression of weakness and utter dependency. The focus of faith is not in our ability to believe but in God’s ability to do what otherwise seems impossible.”

## Faith

- 3 Types of Faith:
  - **Saving Faith** – all Christians have this ... Eph2:8-9
  - **Sanctifying Faith** – all Christians have this ... Gal2:20, 5:25
  - **Supernatural Faith** – can occur through any Christian ... God enables you to pray His will for a particular person or situation ... Jam5:15 – the prayer of faith ... 1Cor13:2 (Matt17:20) – moving of mountains
- **Storms**, “Faith, ultimately, is a gift from God. When God wants to bless us with a miraculous answer to our prayers, He will take the initiative to cultivate and build into our hearts the fulfillment of the condition He requires.” ... [Video](#)
- How often have people been told, “Because you had poor faith, this didn’t happen” ... Yes, we are called to have faith ... But even with the smallest of faith, Jesus brought about the miraculous in the life of those who came to Him ... Unless a person is obviously denying or doubting God, I think it is wrong and harmful to tell a person their prayer wasn’t answered because their faith was not big enough ... We do not possess the ability to perfectly understand the mind of God ... When prayer goes unanswered, we need to place ourselves in the midst of God’s presence ... He is not the One who has wounded us; He is the very One who sustains us with our greatest need – Himself
- The Gift of Faith is connected to healings and miracles, but also comes about in other situations – pressing decision (*trip to Africa*) ... It is being empowered with an immovable confidence in God to bring about what’s needed
- When it comes to healing specifically, we need: faith that God is our sole source of blessing ... Faith in God’s ability to heal ... Faith in God’s heart for healing ... Faith that God does heal ... Faith that it is God’s will to heal right now
- Are you open to the Spirit’s ability to work through you and His desire to do so? ... Those who are in Christ are a vessel through which the Holy Spirit readily desires to display His power and make Himself known