

MIRACLES | Help My Unbelief

Rob Rogers March 14, 2021

Introduction

How many of you would say, regardless of how BIG or small the issue is, “I, or someone I know right now, needs a miracle?”

- Maybe it’s a **marriage** that’s barely hanging on that needs saving
- Maybe you’re trapped in a seemingly endless **cycle of addiction** and no matter how hard you try you just can’t break free
- Maybe you need God to intervene today and rescue you from the **temptation to take your own life** because you’ve been **so hopeless** and **so depressed** for so long you can’t even remember what it feels like to have joy, to be at peace. *Let me just tell you, there’s a better option... but you need a miracle.*
- Maybe you need God to rescue you from **loneliness**
- Or **infertility**
- Or a **life-shattering diagnosis**
- Maybe you need God to radically transform the way you **view yourself** — to give you a new identity
- Or maybe you need the miracle of salvation

Our hope over the next several months, is that ***our miracle-working God would stretch your faith like it’s never been stretched before... that He would fill you with hope that you’ve never had before... and that regardless of what He does or does not do, that you would trust Him more than you’ve ever trusted Him before.***

MIRACLE: *an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs.*
~ Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary

In other words,

- It’s when the supernatural breaks in and intervenes in the natural
- It’s where heaven and earth collide
- It’s a moment that science and logic, despite their best efforts, cannot explain
- It’s a moment, no matter how great or small, where God does something unmistakable and incredible
- It’s a moment that causes wonder, awe, inspiration, possibility, LIFE to spring up from your life like an overflowing fountain
- In a world that’s constantly adding to your plate, pushing you down, demanding that you run faster, try harder, do more...
 - **A miracle is a moment that causes you to stop and look up.**
 - **To be still and lift your weary eyes toward the God of heaven**

Throughout this series, we’re going to be digging into many of the miracles that Jesus performed throughout the gospels. AND you’ll be hearing stories of individuals from right here in our G C family... where ***the Divine has intervened into the impossible and turned it into a miracle.***

We're going to confront the difficult question of why God performs miracles for some but not for others... why them and not me?

- Is God punishing me?
- Is it that I just don't have enough faith?
- Or I'm not praying hard enough?
- If God isn't bringing me my miracle, does that mean I'm doing something wrong?
 - These are real questions that the world is asking, and that some of us in the room have been asking for a long, long time.

My prayer for us, and what I believe for us is that throughout the next few weeks, God is going to stretch our faith, confront our doubts, and renew our hope in the-all knowing, all-present, and all-powerful God of heaven and earth!

We're going to see that
God is still a miracle-working God,
and that
even when God doesn't give us the answers we're looking for,
even when we don't understand why He does what He does,
we're going to see that **He is still good and worthy of our trust.**

Jesus heals demon possessed son

Mark 9:16-18

And He asked the scribes, **"What are you discussing with them?"** ¹⁷ Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. ¹⁸ And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

- A father brings his son who is suffering tremendously to the disciples... the passage tells us that the boy is demon possessed, and as a result, he's mute, and is having what sounds like epileptic seizures.
- And as a parent... having a child who is suffering... you will do anything and everything to take that suffering away. We see the heart of this father for his son. He'd tried everything, he even goes to the disciples and says maybe the problem is a supernatural problem, they couldn't even help. He brings to Jesus an impossible situation...

We face impossible situations all the time...

- Incurable, terminal, broken, irreparable, irreconcilable, relapse, utterly hopeless, lost.

**But while there is brokenness in each of those words —
there is also beauty, and here's why —**

The prerequisite for a miracle is an impossible situation.

Are you facing an impossible situation right now!?

Then praise God for it because...there is

- **no disease God can't heal**
- **no diagnosis He can't deliver you from**
- **no relationship he can't repair**
- **no addiction He can't break**
- **no person He can't save**

Mark 9:19

He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?”

- It sounds like Jesus is saying, “Y’all are driving me crazy!”
- Jesus is addressing the whole crowd, *but He’s primarily talking to His disciples... he’s rebuking them...* for their lack of faith in God’s power.
 - Later on in verse 28, Jesus tells his disciples that this kind of demon is only cast out by prayer and fasting. What Jesus is telling them is... spiritual issues must be dealt with by spiritual means. You can’t solve a supernatural problem with a natural solution.
 - It implies that the disciples were relying on past success, relying on their own ability, on their own power, and were not looking to God as the deliverer, as the source of their power — and as a result had failed.
- and where they failed, Jesus stepped in...

Mark 9:19

“...Bring him to Me.”²⁰ Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.²¹ So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.”²² And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him.”

IMPORTANT

- **Not every physiological or mental issue is caused by a demon.**
- Sometimes, you just have a headache because you didn’t drink enough water. Not because you have a demon.
 - We don’t have time to fully unpack this, but I just need to tell you to ease your mind... **If you’ve surrendered your life to Christ, if you’ve received the gift of salvation and have been sealed by the Holy Spirit, you cannot be possessed by a demon.**
- So, not every issue you have is a result of a spiritual battle.
- However, not every issue we have is simply a physiological issue either — and if we never look deeper, if we never dig beneath the surface, if we never ask the question, if we *never find the source of the problem*, we’ll find ourselves in an endless battle with **symptoms** because we’ve never addressed **the source**.

The boy’s father is getting down to the source... he comes to Jesus and says this...

Mark 9:23-24

“But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, **all things are possible to him who believes.**”²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “**Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!**”

Wrestling with doubt

Anyone on the face of the earth that says they never wrestle with doubt as it relates to faith in or trusting in God, they are lying to themselves and they’re lying to you.

This is one of the most powerful and important phrases in the whole Bible! This father is talking to God in human flesh and says, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” I’m riddled with doubt! I have some belief, but as much as I wish I didn’t, I have doubts too.”

**God doesn’t need you to be perfect —
in order to change the impossible situation you’re facing.**

**He doesn’t demand your holiness,
He welcomes your helplessness.**

Mark 9:25-27

²⁵ When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “**Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!**” ²⁶ Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

When the boy comes to Jesus, He actually gets worse. Sometimes when you come to Jesus, life doesn't get better at first, often times it gets a whole lot worse. It gets harder. It gets more challenging, not less.

If the father had intervened, there would have been no miracle.

If the father hadn't waited an extra moment, no miracle.

The father surrendered the most precious thing in his life —

he came face-to-face with his own inadequacy and helplessness, let his son go —
and God worked a MIRACLE!

Turning the impossible into a miracle

Maybe you're in a situation right now where you are utterly helpless, and don't know what to do about your impossible circumstances.

Maybe you've lost all hope and don't know where else to turn?

VIDEO — watch online to see the video of Susan Collins, who has been a part of the Grace Chapel family for five years.

Here's a woman who had every reason to doubt in God's power, in God's goodness, in God's providence... EVERY reason to say, “God you don't see me, you don't care... not only did you not heal my husband but now I have cancer too!? How could I possibly trust you!? How could I possibly ask for your help!?”

And yet, she shows up... to a Before the Throne worship and prayer night, she's coming down front every Sunday for prayer... she's “hogging the prayer team”... she's praying, asking, seeking, knocking, she's being persistent in prayer and is just saying, “**God, I believe. Help my unbelief.**”

And just as the father begged for the life of his son, Susan's prayer wasn't even for herself, it was for the sake of her children... “*God spare them from the pain of losing both their parents to cancer so soon after one another....*”

And God took what little faith Susan had and turned the impossible into a miracle!

Don't lose hope! Don't lose sight! Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Do whatever it takes to push past whatever obstacles are in front of you — mental, emotional, spiritual, logical...

Whatever barriers you're facing — bring your situation with what little faith you have to Jesus! Watch and see what He can do.

What might have happened if the father hadn't pushed past the crowd and gone to Jesus?

What might have happened if Susan hadn't courageously come forward for prayer at Before the Throne?

What might have happened?

*“Without Him you cannot; without you He will not.”¹
~ Pastor Tony Evans*

¹ Evans, Tony. *Tony Evans' Book of Illustrations* (Moody Publishers, Jan 2, 2009)

Discussion Questions

1. Why is there beauty in an impossible situation?
2. Are you facing an impossible situation right now?
3. Discuss “wrestling with doubt” — “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.”
4. Have you experienced that sometimes when you come to Jesus, life doesn’t get better at first, it gets harder, more challenging, not less?
5. What barriers are you facing to bring your situation, with what little faith you have, to Jesus? What will you do to overcome them?

NOTES