



*God's
Miracles*

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Signs and wonders shall be done in the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:30 - By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Boldness is not reckless impulsiveness. Boldness requires courage to press on through our fears and do what we know is right.

To be bolder, like the disciples, we need to pray with others.

To gain boldness, we can

- (1) Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to give us courage,
- (2) look for opportunities in our families and neighborhood to talk about Christ,
- (3) Realize that rejection, social discomfort, and embarrassment are not necessarily persecution, and
- (4) Start where we are by being bolder in small ways.

Some will believe when they see signs and wonders.

John 4:48 - Then said Jesus unto him, except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

This miracle was more than a favor to one official; it was a sign to all the people. John's Gospel was written to all humankind to urge faith in Christ.

Here a government official had faith that Jesus could do what he claimed. The official believed; *then* he saw a miraculous sign.

This government official not only believed Jesus could heal; he also obeyed Jesus by returning home, thus demonstrating his faith. It isn't enough for us to say we believe that Jesus can take care of our problems.

We need to act as if he can. When you pray about a need or problem, live as though you believe Jesus can do what he says

Through faith, in the name of Jesus, the man was made strong.

Acts 3:16 - And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Jesus, not the apostles, received the glory for the healing of the lame man.

In those days a man's name represented his character; it stood for his authority and power.

By using Jesus' name, Peter showed who gave him the authority and power to heal.

The apostles did not emphasize what *they* could do but what God could do through them. Jesus' name is not to be used as magic—it must be used in faith.

When we pray in Jesus' name, we must remember that it is Christ himself, not merely the sound of his name, who gives our prayers their power.

In the name of Jesus, devils will be cast out.

Mark 16:17 - And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

There are times when God intervenes miraculously to protect his followers.

When needed, he gives them special powers. Paul handled a snake safely (Acts 28:5), and the disciples healed the sick (Matthew 10:1; Acts 3:7, 8).

This does not mean, however, that we should test God by putting ourselves in dangerous situations or try to tempt the laws of nature.

No one should build a religion on a portion of Scripture. God calls us to live as new citizens in the eternal Kingdom and to witness by word and service to God's love and power. Our witness should center on Jesus, not on superhero-type stunts.

Through faith, nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 17:20 - And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

For a time the council met on a low hill in Athens near the Acropolis. As Paul stood there and spoke about the one true God, his audience could look down on the city and see the many idols representing gods that Paul knew were worthless.

Paul was well prepared to speak to this group. He came from Tarsus, an educational center, and had the training and knowledge to present his beliefs clearly and persuasively.

Paul was a rabbi, taught by the finest scholar of his day, Gamaliel, and he had spent much of his life thinking and reasoning through the Scriptures.

Great works shall increase because Jesus has gone to his father.

John 14:12 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Jesus is not saying that his disciples would do greater works—after all, raising the dead is about as amazing as you can get.

Rather, the disciples, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, would carry the Good News of God's Kingdom out of Palestine and into the whole world. The miracle works would be more numerous.

When Jesus says we can ask for anything, we must remember that our asking must be in his name—that is, according to God's character and will.

God will not grant requests contrary to his nature or his will, and we cannot use his name as a magic formula to fulfill our selfish desires. If we are sincerely following God and seeking to do his will, then our requests will be in line with what he wants, and he will grant them.

God manifested miracles through the ministry of Paul.

Acts 19:11 - And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

"Not him, Lord; that's impossible. He could never become a Christian!" In essence, that's what Ananias said when God told him of Saul's conversion.

After all, Saul had pursued believers to their death. Despite these understandable feelings, Ananias obeyed God and ministered to Saul. We must not limit God—he can do anything. We must obey and follow God's leading, even when he leads us to difficult people and places.

This sickness to glorify God.

John 11:4 - When Jesus heard [that], he said, this sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Any trial a believer faces can ultimately bring glory to God because God can bring good out of any bad situation (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28). When trouble comes, do you grumble, complain, and blame God, or do you see your problems as opportunities to honor him?

Jesus loved this family and often stayed with them. He knew their pain but did not respond immediately.

His delay had a specific purpose. God's timing, especially his delays, may make us think he is not answering or is not answering the way we want.

But he will meet all our needs according to his perfect schedule and purpose (Philippians 4:19). Patiently await his timing.

The devil will show signs of lying wonders.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 - [Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

This evil man will use "counterfeit power and signs and miracles" to deceive and draw a following.

Miracles from God can help strengthen our faith and lead people to Christ, but all miracles are not necessarily from God.

Christ's miracles were significant, not just because of their power, but because of their purpose—to help, to heal, and to point us to God.

The man of lawlessness will have power to do amazing things, but his power will be from Satan.

He will use this power to destroy and to lead people away from God and toward himself. If any so-called religious personality draws attention only to himself or herself, his or her work is not from God.

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print