

Where are all the miracles?

Group bible study

1/26/14



Gideon asks an angel in Judges 6:13 'where are all the miracles?'

MKJV Judges 6:13 And Gideon said to Him, O, my Lord, if Jehovah is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And **where are all His miracles** which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not Jehovah bring us up from Egypt? But now Jehovah has forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

So I ask where are all the miracles? I'm not saying that no miracles are happening. Miracles are happening daily. I'm asking where are all the great miracles that one reads about in the New Testament like how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, made the lame to walk, the blind at birth to see and open the ears of the deaf to hear. Jesus said in John 14:12 that we would do all the works that He did and then do greater ones.

RSV John 14:12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me **will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do**, because I go to the Father.

What are some of the greater miracles? If we are going to be doing them then we should know what they are. We read in Acts 5:15-16 that people seeking a healing were gathering along Peter's path for a chance of Peter's shadow to fall on them and be healed

RSV Acts 5:15-16

15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as **Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.**

16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.



Extraordinary miracles were done by Paul in Acts 19:11-12 so that handkerchiefs or apron that touched Paul would heal people and cast out demons.

RSV Acts 19:10-12

10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

11 And God did **extraordinary miracles** by the hands of Paul,

12 so that **handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.**

Miracles are needed to break people out of their everyday routine, to show them the power of Christianity and to distinguish between the true and false churches. The purpose or result of the miracles (besides the obvious healings) was that the disciples, people, rulers and the enemy believed.

The apostles believed Jesus when they saw him perform the miracle of the water changing into wine



RSV John 2:9 When the steward of the feast tasted **the water now become wine**, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom

RSV John 2:11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and **his disciples believed in him**.

Jesus' miracle of rising from the dead verified the scriptures which then caused the apostles to believe the scriptures and Jesus' message. Miracles confirm to others that what you speak is true (as long as it aligns with the word).

RSV John 2:19-22

19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

21 But he spoke of the temple of his body.

22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and **they believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken**.

A Single miracle can cause a family to believe as with a father asking for his son to be healed in Jn4:50-53.

RSV John 4:50-53

50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went his way.

51 As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was living.

52 So he asked them the hour when he began to mend, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

53 The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live"; and **he himself believed, and all his household**.

Peter brought to life a dead girl in Acts 9:40-42. This raising of the dead spread throughout Joppa and many in the city believed.

RSV Acts 9:40-42

40 But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive.

42 And **it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord**.

The enemies of Christianity -the ruling elite (chief priests and council of Pharisees) acknowledged Jesus' miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead after 4 days (Jn11:45-48) but were jealous of his power and their dwindling power.



RSV John 11:45-48

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him;
46 but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.
47 So the chief priests and the **Pharisees gathered the council**, and said, "What are we to do? For **this man performs many signs.**
48 **If we let him go on thus, every one will believe in him,** and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation."

A double witness on this jealousy begins in Acts 3:6 as Peter heals a lame person. In verse 11 people were filled with wonder and amazement. The miracle gives an opportunity to speak the gospel to the people.

RSV Acts 3:6-12

6 But Peter said, "**I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.**"

7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.

8 And leaping up he stood and walked and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God,

10 and recognized him as the one who sat for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 **While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded.**

12 **And when Peter saw it he addressed the people,** "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"



In Chapter 4 the religious rules arrest them because they are annoyed with the apostles speaking about Jesus but that miracle of healing a single lame man gave way to the preaching of the gospel which then led 5,000 men to believe.

RSV Acts 4:1-4

1 AND AS they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,

2 annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3 And **they arrested them and put them in custody** until the morrow, for it was already evening.

4 But **many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to about five thousand.**

In verse 13-18 the Pharisees are shut up due to the healed man standing next to Peter and John. The Pharisees acknowledged among themselves that a miracle had happened but still commanded Peter and John to stop preaching in the name of Jesus.

RSV Acts 4:13-18

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

14 **But seeing the man that had been healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.**

15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred with one another,

16 saying, "**What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is manifest to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.**

17 **But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to any one in this name."**

18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Miracles are used as an offensive weapon causing rulers to believe. In Acts 13:8-12 Paul blinded a magician trying to steer a ruler away from the Christian faith. The ruler believed at the power of the Christian faith.

RSV Acts 13:8-12

8 But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) withstood them, seeking to **turn away the proconsul from the faith.**

9 But Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

10 and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?"

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.

12 **Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.**

Why do we not see these miracles and greater miracles in great abundance and more abundance these days? If we want to have the great miracles of Peter and Paul then you have to imitate him in his walk in life -1Cor11:1.

RSV 1 Corinthians 11:1 **BE IMITATORS of me**, as I am of Christ.

To prepare oneself to receive the gift of healing (1Cor12:29-30) one must be imitators of the Apostles. If you don't have the gift of healing right now by what you are presently doing then why would you expect to receive it in the future by not changing anything that you are doing now? Insanity is defined as doing the same thing over and over but expecting different results.

RSV 1 Corinthians 12:29-30

29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

30 **Do all possess gifts of healing?** Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

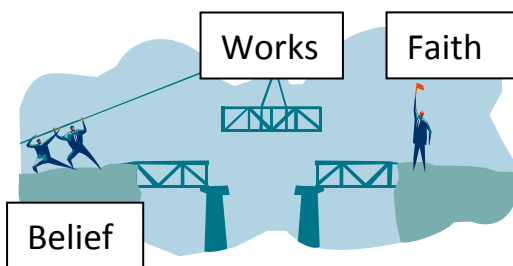
I've always heard at work that in order to get promoted you must first be performing the role of added responsibility before you receive the blessing of a raise. Same as with the gifts. You must first obey the basic commandments of God before receiving any additional blessings.

A man came to Jesus and asked Jesus to cure his son because the disciples couldn't cure him. Jesus cast out the demon - Mt17:14-18. The apostles came to Jesus and asked why couldn't they cast him out. Jesus said if you had the faith of a mustard seed then you can move a mountain - Mt17:20.

RSV Matthew 17:20 He said to them, "Because of your **little faith**. For truly, I say to you, if you have **faith as a grain of mustard seed**, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and **nothing will be impossible to you**."

If we want to increase our faith then we must start doing the actions that demonstrate our faith. Faith is tied with works - Jm2:18,20-22

RSV James 2:18 But some one will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I **by my works will show you my faith**.



RSV James 2:20-22

20 Do you want to be shown, you shallow man, that **faith apart from works is barren?**

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar?

22 You see that **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by works,**

Your faith is not completed until you have works. In Rev19:8 it's mentioned that fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. If one has no works then there is no garment covering you. I believe this answers the wedding feast parable where the king comes in and spies a man without a wedding garment (fine linen). Even though the man was able to get into the wedding feast thru baptism for the remission of sins since he was a fruitless tree or having no works (James2:20) - he wasn't able to stay. Jesus is looking for Christians who use their talents/gifts/ability not those who hide them.

YLT Rev 19:8 and there was given to her that she may be arrayed with fine linen, pure and shining, for **the fine linen is the righteous acts** of the saints.'

MKJV Mat 22:11 And the king coming in to look over the guests, he **saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment**.

Mat 22:12 And he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

Mat 22:13 Then the king said to the servants, Bind him hand and foot and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

My question: On judgment day when all the books are open. What works or how many works would be recorded which demonstrate your faith? I can study the bible daily but if I'm not engaging the world in the works that Jesus has told me to do then why would I expect Jesus to give me any additional gifts?

The gift of healing was used to spread the gospel. The apostles were taught by Jesus to serve others before they were given the gifts of healing and casting out demons.

Job was personally pointed by God in Job1:8 as being upright and just. Job received blessings and protection from God. His walk of life should be studied if we desire similar blessings and protection.

RSV Job 1:8 And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"

Some of the behaviors of Job that should be demonstrated in our own lives:

- 1) control your speech -Job27:4
- 2) help the poor and orphan -Job29:12
- 3) help the widow -Job29:14
- 4) helped the physically disabled -Job29:15
- 5) helped bring justice to the accused -Job29:16
- 6) fought and overcame those coming against the defenseless -Job29:17

RSV Job 27:4 my lips will not speak falsehood, and my tongue will not utter deceit.

RSV Job 29:12-17

12 because I delivered the poor who cried, and the fatherless who had none to help him.

13 The blessing of him who was about to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban.

15 I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame.

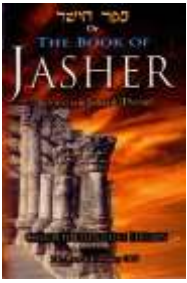
16 I was a father to the poor, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know.

17 I broke the fangs of the unrighteous, and made him drop his prey from his teeth.

Abraham was blessed by obedience to God's voice, charge, commandments, statutes and laws.

RSV Genesis 26:5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

The book of Jasher (referred to in Joshua 10:13 and 2 Samuel 1:18) spoke of the behavior of Abraham in Jasher 22:11-13 of providing both the physical and spiritual needs of a person.



Jasher 22:11-13

11 And Abraham planted a large grove in Beersheba, and he made to it four gates facing the four sides of the earth, and he planted a vineyard in it, so that if a traveler came to Abraham he entered any gate which was in his road, and remained there and ate and drank and satisfied himself and then departed.

12 For the house of **Abraham was always open to the sons of men** that passed and repassed, who came daily to eat and drink in the house of Abraham.

13 And any man who had **hunger** and came to Abraham's house, **Abraham would give him bread** that he might eat and drink and be satisfied, and any one that came **naked** to his house he would **clothe with garments** as he might choose, and **give him silver and gold and make known to him the Lord** who had created him in the earth; this did Abraham all his life.

God blessed the actions of Job and Abraham. God still is looking for people to perform those actions today in the new covenant. The apostle James said in James2:14-17 to clothe the naked and feed the hungry – same as what Job and Abraham did.

RSV James 2:14-17

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is **ill-clad** and in **lack of daily food**,

16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?

17 So **faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.**

JESUS' GOALS AND OBJECTIVES TO CHRISTIANS

Every year I receive goals and objectives at work which I have to complete in order to stay in good standing with the company. A smart employee will prioritize and complete the items management wants to be done first before working on those tasks not on the list.

Jesus has given goals and objectives to Christians that He will be specifically looking at being completed of Judgment in Mt25:31-40 and what will happen to you if you fail those goals and objectives in verse 46.

RSV Matthew 25:31-40

31 "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,

33 and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.

34 Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;

35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'
 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink?
 38 And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee?
 39 And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?'
 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'



RSV Matthew 25:46 And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Jesus is coming back to punish 2 groups of people - those who don't believe and those who don't obey the gospel - 2Thess1:7-9

RSV 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

7 and to grant rest with us to you who are afflicted, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire,
 8 **inflicting vengeance** upon those **who do not know God** and upon **those who do not obey** the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
 9 They shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

Faith must be present for miracles to happen and works must be present for faith to be completed. My challenge to myself and others is to judge yourself and fix any lack of works 1Cor11:31.

RSV 1 Corinthians 11:31 But **if we judged ourselves truly**, we should not be judged.



Everyone wants to call down **fire** on the enemy -Lk9:54 but Jesus has directed us to humble ourselves and to start out the Christian walk by washing other peoples **feet** – Jn13:14 and then work your way up to acts of charity such as what Job and Abraham did: helping the poor, orphans, widow, physically disabled, justice for the oppressed and strength for the weak. All the works are exercising your faith. When it does come time to move a mountain then you will have enough wisdom and faith to move it.



RSV Luke 9:54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to **bid fire come down from heaven and consume them**?"

RSV John 13:14-15

14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another's feet**.
 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

Once you fulfill the acts of charity demonstrating your faith thru your works and enter into the role of an elder then the gift of healing will be there (not to say that the gift of healing is only present for church elders but the elder role was specifically mentioned as containing this gift).

RSV James 5:14-16

14 Is any among you sick? Let him **call for the elders of the church**, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

15 and the **prayer of faith will save the sick man**, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

***** New Year's Resolution *****

This should be a Christian's New Year's resolution: "*To demonstrate his faith thru his works*". The Christian should not be expecting any rewards or additional gifts after doing a long list of charitable deeds because you are not doing anything extra – you are just doing the minimum that was expected of you -Lk17:10. If you want to go beyond the minimum then you can look at the suffering Paul endured to spread the gospel.

RSV Luke 17:10 So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; **we have only done what was our duty.**'"

I began asking where are the miracles. I now ask where is our faith and where is our works that demonstrate/complete our faith?

Regards,
David O'Malley

Called/Chosen + Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Baptize + Abide = Salvation -> Proclaim
Mt22:14 + Lk11:28 + Jn3:16 + Mk6:12 +Rm10:9 +Acts2:38 + Heb10:26 = 1 Pt 3:21 -> Mt28:19-20

2014 Completed Bible studies

- 1/1/14 – The 3 themes of Christmas
- 1/18/14 -The bible vs. the Churches (G)
- 1/26/14 - Where are all the miracles? (G)

Future O'Malley Family Bible studies

- 1- Second round Prophet
 - 2- Conduits of evil/parable of the ant
 - 3- Fear of the Lord
 - 4- End time parables of Jesus – part 3 Heaven
 - 5- End time parables of Jesus – part 4 Outer darkness
- The Way of an Israelite (boy scout alternative)
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- Enoch calendar overlaid on the prophets' end times
 - The final battle: the war scrolls
 - Lost Acts, Washington, legends, folk tales
 - History/Archeology of the movements of His people
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- Christian Soldiers group maneuvers
 - Understanding, knowledge and wisdom & Fear connection
 - Fall of Jerusalem: departure of the King of Kings
 - The Law before the Law