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SERMON HANDOUT for October 13, 2024



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Our only limitations are those we set up in our own minds! ~Mark 9:23

Series: *You've Got The Power*

MIRACLES: Signs

Mark 16:17-18; John 14:12 NKJV

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INTRODUCTION

"The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen!" ~G.K. Chesterton

"Miracles happen to those who believe in them!" ~ Bernard Berenson

Mark 9:23: *Jesus said to him,*

"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

One clear purpose of miracles – to authenticate the character of Jesus and his relationship with his heavenly Father.

MIRACLES DEMONSTRATE:

- God is with Jesus (John 3:2)
- Jesus is from God (John 3:2; 9:32-33)
- God has sent Jesus (John 5:36)
- Jesus has authority on earth to forgive sins (Mark 2:10-11; Matt. 9:6-7; Luke 5:24-25)
- Jesus is approved by God (Acts 2:22)
- The Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father (John 10:37-38; 14:11)
- In Jesus the kingdom of God has come (Matt. 12:28; Luke 11:20)
- Jesus is the Messiah (Matt. 11:1-6; Luke 7:18-23) AND the Son of God (Matt. 14:25-33)

A second purpose of miracles – to authenticate the message about Jesus. This was the major function of the miracles as far as the ministry of the apostles was concerned. Mark says that the Lord "confirmed his word [that the apostles preached] by the signs that accompanied it? (Mark 16:20).

When Luke was describing the ministry of Paul and Barnabas at Iconium, he said that the Lord "confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders? (Acts 14:3).

Notice that in both of these texts (John 14:12 and Mark 16:17-18), the Lord does not confirm the apostles themselves but rather "His Word? or 'the message? that the apostles were preaching.

Signs and wonders do not testify to the apostles, *but to the message of salvation preached by the apostles.*

So, the two principal things that are authenticated by miracles:

- † The Lord Jesus
- † The message about the Lord Jesus

Therefore, the passages we are looking at today are given to remind us for God says he will do for us, in us and through us if we fulfill His requirements — **BELIEVE!**

There are three things that those who Believe have:

THREE THINGS THAT THOSE WHO BELIEVE HAVE:

1) THE BELIEVER'S _____ - John 14:12a NKJV

- **Clearer Translation:**
I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.
- **Believe** (has faith) - (Greek: *pisteuo*) = *means to have confidence; to trust.*
- *The works that I do He will do also*
Literally translated:
the task/workmanship, that I perform/make/ cause, he will perform/make/cause/ practice!
- **DO YOU BELIEVE?**

2) THE BELIEVER'S _____ - John 14:12b NKJV

- *"We are the miracle of miracles, the great inscrutable mystery of God..."*
~ Thomas Carlyle
 - *"The greatest miracle that God can do today is to take an unholy man out of an unholy world and make him holy, then put him back into that unholy world and keep holy in it."*
~ Leonard Ravenhill
 - *Because I Go to My Father*
John 14:16-21 NKJV gives us the reason why!
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3) THE BELIEVER'S _____ - Mark 16:17-18 NKJV

- **John 10:38 NKJV**
- **Signs:** (Greek: *semeion*) = *distinguishing marks, miracles, that by which something is known...*
- **Dictionary defines:** *A sign is a clue something happened, or a display that communicates a message, like a stop sign that tells you stop.*
- ***These signs shall follow those who believe...***
but in this context it is difficult to speak of 'signs' as 'accompanying' or 'following'; these are activities restricted to persons, rather than to signs or symbols. Sometimes, however, one can say that 'signs will be present in those who ...' or 'signs will be with those who...' In other languages the clause must be recast as *'those who believe will show these signs: ...'*
- **These miracles/signs are to be done IN THE NAME OF JESUS**
In My Name...only done through Jesus, he is the one who has given us the authority to do so.
Luke 10:19 NKJV
- **What is our Authority? - Mark 16:17 NKJV**
 - *Cast out Demons... - James 4:7 NKJV*
 - *Speak with New Tongues (Greek: *kainais*) - Mark 16:17 NKJV*
'they will speak in new tongues': whether these 'new tongues' are intelligible foreign languages, or ecstatic charismatic utterances, the text does not say. It is to be presumed, however, that the meaning here is the same as that in Acts 2:4–11 [languages].
Acts 2:4 NKJV
It should be observed, however, that nowhere else is the phrase 'speak in new tongues' used: in Acts 2:4 'speak in other tongues' is used, while 1 Cor 14 has simply 'to speak in tongues' or, 'a tongue.
 - *the meaning here is, presumably, 'new (i.e., strange) to the one speaking it' not necessarily 'new' in the sense of a heretofore unknown language.*

- **Take up Serpents - Mark 16:18 NKJV**

The first is a statement of actual experience “they will pick up serpents” and the second is a condition if “they drink any deadly thing”. The first clause of this verse may be interpreted merely as a future statement, but it is also possible to relate it to the following clauses in such a way as to understand the passage as a kind of conditional statement, namely, ‘if they pick up ..., they will not be hurt.

This requires, however, the interpretation of the third clause:

(1) ‘picking up serpents ‘and

(2) ‘drinking any deadly thing.’

The last two clauses of this verse are similarly related as condition and result, for the first of these two clauses is essentially the condition, ‘if they lay their hands on the sick, ‘while the last clause is the result, e.g., ‘they will recover.’

In languages in which the conditional clauses must be more closely attached to the result, one may translate as ‘if they pick up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing, they will not suffer harm from these; if they lay their hands on the sick people, these will recover.

- **Drink anything deadly (if) - Mark 16:18 NKJV**

Deadly thing may be rendered as ‘a liquid which would kill them ‘or ‘a drink which kills people.’

- **They will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover - Mark 16:18 NKJV**

James 5:14-15 NKJV

Mark 16:19-20 NKJV

CONCLUSION

Miracles are for today!

The Key is do You Believe ... NOT in the Miracles, BUT IN GOD!!!
