

ACTS : WHERE'S MY MIRACLE?

Acts 3:1-10 | Mark Friestad | Feb 1, 2025

The Book of Acts depicts a *pattern* for the Christian life: We wait...God acts...we act in response.

- WE have a daily choice to obey/not obey. The Biblical phrase is “walk with the spirit”. Or “walk with the flesh.”
- Ex: Chapter 1: Apostles wait as Jesus instructed them to...the Holy Spirit comes (Ch 2)...Peter explains what's going on...3,000 people join the movement.

Miracles: the subject can make people uncomfortable. Do miracles still happen today?

v. 1-2 – the man sat in a high-traffic area to beg; he could not enter into where a “normal” (non-disabled) Israelite man could go

v.3 – he asks for money, not healing. He had likely accepted, “This the best I’m going to get.”

- If we don’t believe in a spiritual reality, we will always have too-low expectations
- 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” the things God has prepared for those who love him—10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.
- 1 Corinthians 2:14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.
- We can limit what we believe God can do in us and through us
- We can also limit our expectations of the way God can work in other people’s lives

v. 4 Peter and John demonstrate compassion: Just like God, they *see* the man in his suffering

v. 6 Peter makes a bold move. Did he know God was going to heal?

- Where the man had little faith, Peter brought lots of faith
- The same Peter who walked on the water to Jesus...but then sank

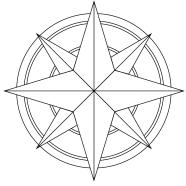
v. 7 – Now the man gets to go into the temple courts, where he had never been before. His physicality attracts attention.

Two questions today:

1. Does God still do miracles?
2. And, the title of this sermon, "Where's my miracle?"

Responses to talk of miracles: Skepticism, Jealousy, Resentment, being Puffed Up

But that's not the effect of these miracles in Acts! The effect is that people are humbled and filled with the fear of the Lord



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God's very presence in the lives of the early believers was, itself, miraculous. Presumably there were plenty of days when nothing *overtly* or *obviously* miraculous happened. Yet, true to the pattern of Acts, God was in their midst, working.

For skeptics of modern-day miracles, two questions:

1. Is God natural or supernatural? The Christian answer unquestionably points to a supernatural (uncreated, eternal, Spirit-being) God
2. Is God bound by physical laws? Clearly no. Hebrew 11:3 - "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

God:

- made the world out of nothing, simply his own command.
- was never born.
- Never ages.
- never dies.
- is eternal.

If you acknowledge the existence of God, as a spirit...and affirm that he interacts with the natural, physical world, but is not bound by the physical laws, you are admitting that miracles are possible and real, and even way more common than we think.

The purpose of Jesus' miracles (and those in the book of Acts) went so much further than extending people's bodily, physical existence by a few years. They pointed people to a great truth, which is salvation.

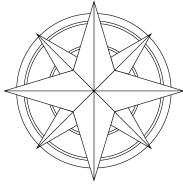
It is *heresy* to claim that there were no miracles. It rejects the scriptural account. It is also heresy to claim that God *must always* deliver the miracle we expect, or to condition our faith in him on some personal miracle.

- ⇒ Miracles and miraculous healings *are not the good news.*
- ⇒ Miraculous encounters are God-encounters that reframe our understanding
- ⇒ Miracles are a wake-up call to people who experience them.

Acts 4:21 – "All of the people were praising God for what had happened."

What was the basis of their praise?

It wasn't their miracle...Except, it was. It testified to them that God was in their midst.



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If you are tempted to ask, "Where's my miracle?" Maybe the question for us is, "What are you doing with the miracles God has already given?"

- The balance of the atmosphere
- Earth's perfect distance from the sun
- Automatic processes of the human body
- God's care for all people, his generous provision
- The miracle of agriculture.

But the greatest miracle of all... Is *salvation*.

Peter doesn't explain the miracle! He turns their attention to Jesus, risen from the dead

Salvation is a miracle because Jesus *exchanged places with you* in the sight of God

- He gets the suffering, the death, the penalty.
- You get the life.

And why? Because of LOVE. (Romans 5:6-8)

A lot of what we wish for is temporary and subject to loss.

Salvation is eternal (1 Peter 1:4). You will ALWAYS have your salvation. It is CERTAINTY, in an uncertain world.

Applying this teaching:

1. Pray for miracles. Pray for the thing that God would have to do in your life that would put you in awe of him.
2. But, don't condition your faith on it.
3. Don't overlook or dismiss what God might do in the life of someone else. No one is beyond his reach.