

MIRACLES – PART 2

John 21:25 ... “And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written...”

In part 1 of this topic, we defined what miracles are and why we might not experience one. Today we look at the miracles Jesus performed and how he was able to do so.

Jesus did not call his own acts such as healing the blind and cripples, raising the dead, feeding thousands with a few fish, and calming storms as “miracles.” His disciples documented those acts as miracles because they could not explain them in human terms. In fact, in today’s verse John tells us that what he and the other disciples wrote about, were a fraction of what Jesus did when he was here. I have a feeling that God smiles when we call something we cannot explain, a miracle, because everything he does is special while also being routine. Is not the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the brain you have, far beyond anything you can make for yourself? But God created those by simply speaking them into existence, something he could do without a second thought.

An important aspect of Jesus’ miracles is that he did not raise people from the dead or heal the sick because he is God. Rather, Jesus was able to perform supernatural acts because of his faith in the Father. When Jesus left Heaven to be born as a child, he gave up his own supernatural powers. For 32 years he lived as a boy then a man, facing the same temptations and hardships as us, and with similar limitations. However, because he never sinned, had pure faith, and lived in total obedience to the Father, his faith was sufficient for God to demonstrate his power through Jesus. Jesus performed miracles, not because he was the Son of God, but because he was righteous. He told his disciples that they would someday do even greater acts than him after they received the Holy Spirit, and scripture tells us they did indeed raise the dead and heal the sick. And that ability can also apply to us if our faith and obedience are great enough.

If you have not raised someone from the dead in Jesus’ name or healed a blind person, it is only because you have not reached the level of obedience and faith that qualifies you to do so. The same is true of myself. But, do not lose heart. Our spiritual growth is slow and filled with distractions and mistakes. We are not cut from the same cloth as Christ. After all, he was conceived by the Holy Spirit of God. We were not born righteous, but Christ declares us righteous when we are born again. You and I may never achieve the spiritual purity and Godliness necessary to be used by him to perform miracles, but the potential exists. But, be careful about your thoughts and desires for a miracle because satan can also perform miraculous acts. Thessalonians chapter 2 warns us that satan can deceive us by performing his own signs and wonders. So, I suggest that rather than seeking the level of faith and obedience to perform miracles, you instead seek discernment to know when a supernatural act is from God or from satan.

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