

Study on the Holy Spirit

Miracles

How'd you do on last week's homework assignment?

Did you spend at least once a day thanking the Lord and trying not to ask for anything during that time?

Was it as easy as you thought?

Don't just do it one week. I pray that this will be something you do everyday from now on.

This weeks study is on the gift of miracles.

- **1 Cor 12:9-10** *to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecies, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

The gift of Faith, Healings, and Miracles seem to go hand in hand.

We know by faith you are healed, and that it's a miracle if you are healed.

But miracles do not always involve healing.

We know that Jesus stilled the storm, walked on the sea, fed five thousand, caused Peter to go back out and fish after he spent all night catching nothing, but then catch so much that the net was breaking.

Jesus had Peter get money from a fish's mouth to pay the tax, caused a fig tree to wither away, and the most important miracle was that JESUS was raised from the dead!

As you read through the bible, you will see thousands of miracles God is doing.

And remember that the same Holy Spirit that fell upon Jesus and all the disciples is the same Holy Spirit you have right now as a believer.

Just trust in the Lord with all your heart and let Him do what He wants to do.

If you look at yourself as a believer, you can personally see a miracle. Because you now have access to God, and you will be with Him forever in heaven.

As much of a sinner as I was and still am, that is a miracle in itself!

Let's look at what the word miracle means in the original Greek.

Greek Word: *dunamis*: "power, inherent ability," is used of works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means.

So the gift of miracles is doing something that would not normally happen of our own ability, like healings, or walking on water.

So what is the purpose of miracles?

- **1 Cor 12:28-29** *And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?*
- **Heb 2:1-4** *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?*
- **Acts 14:3** *Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.*

Here we see that the purpose of miracles was to confirm the message of the gospel. But sometimes people want to see the miracles before they say that they'll believe.

Jesus says to that:

- **Matt 12:38-40** *Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

Here Jesus just cast a demon out of a man and still they said to Him, "*Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.*" Wasn't the fact that a demon was cast out a sign in itself? But they would not have believed even if Jesus did do a miracle (which He already did). It's not by signs or wonders that we believe, but by the Holy Spirit convicting us of our sins and we realizing that we are sinful, and that without Jesus we will never have eternal life with Him in heaven.

Did you need a sign when you accepted Jesus, or did you see the Lord at work in someone else's life that caused you to believe?

I saw it in my dad, and how the Lord changed his life. It was a miracle that only the Lord could do!

I could almost hear my dad say these next words, knowing that his life was a witness to others, and me and knowing that it wasn't by his own power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit in his life.

- **Romans 15:18-19 (NLT)** *I dare not boast of anything else. I have brought the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I lived before them. I have won them over by the miracles done through me as signs from God--all by the power*

of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ all the way from Jerusalem clear over into Illyricum.

How are you living your life before others? Are you just like the world, only having the title of a Christian? Or are you living differently, being a witness with your life?

How many people want to make money by doing signs and wonders, some even using the name of the Lord for their own personal gain

- **Acts 8:18-21** *And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! "You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.*

Simon wanted to be able to lay hands on others to receive the Holy Spirit so that he could charge others to receive the Holy Spirit. He basically saw a gold mine, thinking he could get rich off of God.

That's the way it is now a days, where people go from town to town supposedly healing others and saying they are not charging, but wanting an offering not only once, but over and over until they receive enough money from their so called crusade.

Even TV evangelists say to send money and you will receive a love gift in return.

Almost bribing the people like Simon tried to do, to have the people receive from the Lord.

If you have to beg for money for a ministry, then it's not from the Lord, because He will always provide for the calling He has for you.

Here is Jesus' first recorded miracle in the New Testament:

- **John 2:1-11** *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "**Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.**" His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "**Fill the waterpots with water.**" And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "**Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.**" And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" This*

beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

- **Acts 8:5-8** *Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.*

We see that by the doing of miracles, it caused people to pay attention. But we must use wisdom and not bring people to see a sideshow. Notice it says that the crowd first heard the word along with the signs, not signs alone.

If you just give people signs without a teaching, then you are entertaining them and not giving them the gospel of Jesus Christ. They will always return for the signs and not the word of God.

- **Matt 24:24** *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*
- **Acts 9:32-35** *Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.*

Here people believed, after the healing or the miracle took place. But notice once again that Peter said, “*Jesus the Christ heals you.*” before he said, “*Arise and make your bed.*” putting the Lord first, then the healing.

Some people say, “*I’ve seen things like that before, what’s so special about them?*”

- **Ex 7:10-11** *So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.*
- **Ex 7:20-22** *And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.*

- **Ex 8:6-7** *So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.*

But they may be able to imitate, but they can't do everything the Lord does:

- **Ex 8:16-19** *So the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.' " And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said.*

After this the magicians did not try to duplicate the miracles because as we see in verse 19 that they knew it was God and not a trick by Moses.

Just like some people can do tricks to fool people, and people think it's a miracle, but it's only a trick.

But with GOD it's never a trick, GOD is in control of all things and HE doesn't need so called magical powers.

- **John 1:3** *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

So if He made all things, He can also change all things and no magician can do that!

If you do signs or miracles, you're not guaranteed you'd get into heaven.

- **Matt 7:21-23** *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

This could be a scary passage if you don't know Jesus as you Lord and Savior.

Remember that it's not by your works that you are saved, but by the grace of God.

Wouldn't you rather hear the Lord say?

- **Matt 25:21** *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

The question now comes up, are you saved? Do you know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?

Do you have a relationship with Him or do you just have religion?

You can have a relationship with Him right now. Just pray this simple prayer by faith and you will be saved.

Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe that you died for me on the cross and paid for all my sins. I believe that you rose again the third day as you said you would. Please forgive me of my sins, and let me now have a relationship with you. I'm tired of playing church and having religion. Thank you for dying for me and for accepting me. I pray this in your precious name Jesus. AMEN.

No more religion. You now have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

So how do we know if the miracle is from God or not?

- ***1 John 4:1-6 (NLT) Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. This is the way to find out if they have the Spirit of God: If a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ became a human being, that person has the Spirit of God. If a prophet does not acknowledge Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist. You have heard that he is going to come into the world, and he is already here.***

But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won your fight with these false prophets, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. These people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them. But we belong to God; that is why those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

So don't believe everything you see or hear, even from any teacher, or even me.

Test what they are saying or the sign they are performing. Does it stand up to the word of God, or fall flat on its face?

And the only way we know is to stay in the word daily, seeking the Lord and doing His will. not our own.

- ***1 Tim 4:13-16 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.***

- ***2 Tim 1:6-9 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.***

So stay in the word everyday. Go to a bible study at least once a week so you can ask questions. Go to church on Sunday being fed the word of God.

Stay in the word so you are not ignorant of any lies you are being taught.

Take what I teach here each week and study it to make sure it's from the word of God and not my own doing.

And finally, pray without ceasing!