

The Gift of Miracles

1Corinthians 12:1-11

I think that it is fair to say that all of us enjoy a good strong wow factor, do we not? This longing for the wow factor has been around for a long time, to such an extent that many have made millions and become extremely famous because of it.

Everyone is highly familiar with the name Houdini, David Copper Field, etc. These and many others have wowed the world with their abilities and talents. These men and women have taken a great deal of time to learn the art of deception. Deception, being the ability to take a person's attention and direct it away from what is really happening and make something impossible seem possible.

Although some of this art may seem like a miracle, by no means does it fall in the same category as a miracle. The Spiritual gift of Miracles is not based on deception, nor is it given with the intent to simply wow the individual or the audience. The spiritual gift of Miracles is first and foremost a gift from God to His disciple or disciples for the sole purpose of glorifying "God" not the individual. It is given so that an individual so others may see God at work in such a unique way that they will know beyond the shadow of a doubt, that God has done a miraculous work.

This miraculous work of God has been on display for hundreds of years. As a matter of fact, it has been around from the beginning. Each and every time that a miraculous work takes place it reveals the heart of God. It reveals His Mercy, His compassion, His willingness to stretch out His hand and be our everlasting strength.

From Genesis to Revelations we can read about the miraculous works of His hands. We see it in Genesis and the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, we see it in the testing of Abraham, we see it Joseph, the Exodus through the plagues, in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, in the parting of the sea, in the manna from heaven, water from the rock, we see it in

1 Kings when Elijah calls on the Lord God to set fire to his altar of offering and that is only to name a few. We see it all throughout the New Testament as well. The spirit of God coming and resting on Jesus as a sign to John the Baptist that He is the messiah. We see each and every time Jesus heals people and or raises them from the dead, so that they may believe that he is the one who was and is to come. Each and every time we see a miracle and or a miraculous sign is done, it is performed not as a show, but as a means to prove that God is here, in our midst.

Because of the miraculous work that takes place, part of what we need to look at is the familiarity between the gift of healing and the gift of miracles. Often we find people looking at both of these gifts as one; although they intertwine with one another they are highly distinctive. As we have already discovered the gift of healing has to do with the bringing the soul to a healthy relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The gift of miracles on the other hand provides proof, evidence that God is the one at work, so that believers may be affirmed and nonbeliever may believe.

*How do we know this/ we know this because when we look at the story of Lazarus we are told why this must be...let us take a look “Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.” ⁴ **When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”** ... verse 11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” ¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, **“Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”** ... ³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus*

*looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² **I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.**”*

Call the Worship Team

Rest assured that each and every time God and Jesus performed a miracle or a miraculous sign; they did so for the sole purpose of affirming who was at work, God. Jesus said it time and time again “unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders...you will not believe.” John 4:48

Benediction

In today’s day in age we might turn around and say something like “I would love to see a miracle” as though God is no longer at work in our midst. The truth is that God continues to work day in and day out. The fact that you believe and follow Jesus is a miracle in and of itself.

Sometimes we may have difficulties seeing God at work in our midst, but rest assured that just because we may not see it, it does not mean it is not happening. Too often we look for God to give us that wow factor, forgetting that God is not a God of expectacles; He is the God of Miracles. So let me share with you how God is performing miracles today in our church...Holly please come up and share with the congregation what happen Thursday Night at Youth...

God continues to work His wonders in our church ministries, in our lives and in the lives of others who need Him. I am just glad that He allows me to be a part of his work and witness to the work of His hands.