

A THEOLOGY OF MIRACLES 2 MT. 12:38-42; 16:1-4

What does the Bible teach about miracles?

I. Miracles still happen!

God did not die

Prayer is still effective

God still intervenes → in various ways!

There is really no other position for the Christian!

Hebrews 11:6 But **without** faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God **must** believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Psalm 65:2 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

Psalm 81:10 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: **open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: **no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.**

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: **Matthew 7:8** For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. **Matthew 7:9** Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? **Matthew 7:10** Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? **Matthew 7:11** If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Thoughts:

- God is and that changes everything
- God answers prayer!
- God can answer prayer because He has answered prayer
- God never withholds (real & ultimate) good
- God encourages us to pray
- God is good and wants to give us good things

II. The greatest miracle has **already** happened.

Matthew 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign (σημεῖον) from thee.

Matthew 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign (σημεῖον); and there shall no sign (σημεῖον) be given to it, but the sign (τὸ σημεῖον Ἰωνᾶ τοῦ προφήτου) of the prophet Jonas: **Matthew 12:40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater (πλεῖον) than Jonas is here. **Matthew 12:42** The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater (πλεῖον Σολομῶνος ὧδε) than Solomon is here.

Matthew 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, **and** the Greeks seek after wisdom: **1 Corinthians 1:23** But we preach Christ crucified, **unto the Jews** a stumblingblock, and **unto the Greeks** foolishness; **1 Corinthians 1:24** But unto **them which are called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save **Jesus Christ, and him crucified**.

III. The **greatest** miracle for individuals **happens** regularly.

Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. **Luke 10:18** And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. **Luke 10:19** Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. **Luke 10:20** Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; **but rather rejoice**, because your names are written in heaven.

A true miracle could make one heady! God working miracles through you or even around you...!

Jesus brought them, and us, down to earth!

Unless God continually heals us until the rapture – we will all die! **The greatest miracle is the new birth!**

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Ephesians 2:9** Not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his **workmanship (ποίημα)**, created (**κτισθέντες**) in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is **a new creature (καινή κτίσις)**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, **but a new creature (ἀλλὰ καινή κτίσις)**.

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on **the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again **unto (εις)** a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **1 Peter 1:4** To (**εις**) an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **1 Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith **unto (εις)** salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: **for it is the power (δύναμις γὰρ θεοῦ ἐστίν) of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; **but** unto us which are saved it is the power of God. **1 Corinthians 1:19** For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. **1 Corinthians 1:20** Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? **1 Corinthians 1:21** For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. **1 Corinthians 1:22** For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: **1 Corinthians 1:23** But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; **1 Corinthians 1:24** But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. **1 Corinthians 1:25** Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. **1 Corinthians 2:2** For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures (*ἀπαρχήν τινα τῶν αὐτοῦ κτισμάτων*).

Matthew 19:16-22 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Matthew 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily (*Ἀμήν*) I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly (*δυσκόλως*) enter (*εἰσελεύσεται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρανῶν*) into the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 19:24** And again (*Πάλιν*) I say unto you, It is **easier** (*εὐκοπώτερόν*) for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. **Matthew 19:25** When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, **Who then can be saved?** **Matthew 19:26** But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, **With men this** (*τοῦτο ἀδύνατόν ἐστιν*) is impossible; **but** with God all things are possible (*πάντα δυνατό*).

IV. No miracles happened through the **greatest** man who ever lived!

Matthew 11:11 Verily I say unto you, **Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist:** notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, **Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist:** but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

John 10:39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand, **John 10:40** And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode. **John 10:41** And many resorted unto him, **and said, John did no miracle** (*σημεῖον*): **but all things that John spake of this man were true.** **John 10:42** And many believed on him there.

V. Miracles do not happen to convince anybody!

Luke 11:14 And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; **and the people wondered.** **Luke 11:15** But **some** of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. **Luke 11:16** **And others**, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven.

Luke 16:27 Then he said, **I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:** **Luke 16:28** For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, **lest** they also come into this place of torment. **Luke 16:29** **Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.** **Luke 16:30** And he said, Nay, father Abraham: **but if** one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. **Luke 16:31** **And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.**

John 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: **John 20:31** But these are written, **that** ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; **and that** believing ye might have life through his name.

A major drive for miracles is to reach the lost – to demand their attention!

There is a sort of logic to this. Miracles will surely impact an unsaved person more than words alone – right?!

The problems with this logic are as follows:

1. This wasn't true during Jesus' ministry.

John 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, **many believed** (*πολλοὶ ἐπίστευσαν*) in his name (*εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ*), **when** they saw the miracles (*τὰ σημεῖα*) which he did. **John 2:24** **But** Jesus did not commit (*ὁ Ἰησοῦς οὐκ*

ἐπίστευεν ἑαυτὸν αὐτοῖς) himself unto them, because he knew all men, John 2:25 And needed not that any should testify of man (περὶ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου): for he knew what was in man.

John 4:48 Then said Jesus unto him, **Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.**

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.** John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

John 11:45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, **believed on him.**

John 11:46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.

John 11:47 Then gathered **the chief priests (οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς) and the Pharisees (οἱ Φαρισαῖοι) a council (συνέδριον)**, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. John 11:48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

John 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

2. Jesus said this wasn't true!

Luke 16:27-31 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, **They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.** And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

3. The only miracles necessary for faith have already happened.

John 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 1 John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

What exactly could I or anyone do that's greater than this?

VI. Seeking miracles doesn't happen to be good or godly.

Matthew 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, **An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:**

Matthew 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

These texts do not forbid or discourage prayer or seeking God's intervention. This is everywhere encouraged!

Psalms 55:17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. James 5:18 And he prayed **again**, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

However, when "we" demand miracles above / beyond those God has already done (virgin birth, sinless life, cross, resurrection, and recorded miracles) this is not faith but evil, wickedness and even unbelief toward God and His word.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.