

EXPERIENCING THE MIRACULOUS

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Soaring Higher Christian Center
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Harvest Club Edition

John 3:1-2

God's man. His ministry, his teachings, his preaching confirmed with the demonstration of the miraculous. Signs and wonders.

Rom. 15:19 *Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*

Mark 16:20 *And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

Acts 2:22 *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

Miracle defined, Webster; An event or effect in the physical world deviating from the known laws of nature, or transcending our knowledge of these laws.

Signs and wonders.

I. Hearing Of The Miraculous.

A. Testimonies, witness.

John 4:39 *And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.*

B. Sometimes is not enough for the doubtful.

John 20:24-25 *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. :25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.*

C. Have you heard of the miracle power of God?

II. Seeing The Miraculous.

A. Eye witness account.

John 2:23 *Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.*

1. Produces the accounts for those to hear.

B. Some people have to see to believe. Seeing is believing.

John 20:29 *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

1. Jesus says the real blessing and rewards come when believing is seeing.

2Cor. 5:7 *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*

Hebr. 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.*

C. Have you seen the miraculous power of God?

III. Experiencing The Miraculous.

- A. Being a participant and recipient of the miraculous.
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.*
 - 1. Appealed to the basic appetites and needs.
- B. Changed lives.
 - 1. Salvation.
 - 2. Deliverance.
 - 3. Healing.
 - 4. Provision.
- C. As a lifestyle for the believer.
 - 1. Baptism in the Holy Ghost. Acts 1:8
 - a. Operate in the gifts and power. Sometimes translated miracle.
 - 2. Living by the boundless power of the Word. Walking in the spirit.
Gal. 5:25 *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*
 - a. Will produce miraculous results.
 - b. God's ways higher than ours.
Isa. 55:9 *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
 - c. Unlimited and transcends the logic of the five senses.
Touch, smell, sight, hearing and taste.

Conclusion; Expect the miraculous to happen. Believers are not bound by the laws of the natural. Are you experiencing the miraculous power of God? Have you experienced the miracle of the new birth in Christ?

After a few of the usual Sunday morning hymns, the church's Pastor slowly stood up in the service and walked over to the pulpit getting ready for his part in the morning service. Before he gave his sermon, he wanted to briefly introduce his guest who was visiting the church that morning.

The Pastor told the congregation that the guest Minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the church to share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service. With that, an elderly man stood up to the pulpit and began to speak.

“A Father, his son, and a friend of his son, were sailing off the northwest Pacific coast when a fast storm approached and blocked any attempt for the boat to get back to shore. The waves were so high that even the father who was an experienced sailor of many years could not keep the boat upright in the waves. The three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized.”

The old man hesitates for a moment, making eye contact with a couple of teenagers who, for the first time since the service began, were looking somewhat interested in what the old man was saying.

The aged visitor continued his story, "Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life...as to which boy he would throw the other end of the life-line to. He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian, and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves.

"As the father yelled out, "I love you, son." He threw out the life-line to his son's best friend. By the time the father had pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black of the waves and his body was never recovered." By now the two teenagers were sitting straight in the pew, staring, waiting anxiously for the next words to come from the old man's mouth. He continued, "The father knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus, and he could not bear the thought of his son's best friend stepping into an eternity in hell. Therefore, he sacrificed his son to save the son's close friend. Now just how great is the love of God, that He should do the same for us? Our Heavenly Father sacrificed His only Begotten Son, that we could be saved. I urge you to accept His offer of the Life-Line to rescue you today, and take hold of the life-line He is throwing out to you this morning in this service."

With that the old man turned and sat back down in his chair. Silence filled the room. The Pastor walked slowly to the pulpit and delivered a brief sermon with an invitation at the end. No one responded to the appeal.

Within minutes after the service ended the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," started one of the boys politely, "But, I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hope that the other boy would become a Christian in the future." "Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face as he looked up at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm standing here today to tell you that this story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His Son for me. You see son--I am that Father who sailed the boat that day, and your Pastor was my son's best friend."

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Thank you and may God bless you richly,

Pastor David Joe May

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