

Why Miracles Happen - The Fingerprints of God's Love: Pt 2 By Todd Bentley

7. FAITH

Faith is one of the vital reasons why miracles happen. James 5:14 and 15, describe the power of faith: "The prayer of faith will save (or heal) the sick." The faith of the person praying is important, not necessarily the faith of the sick person. As we pray for others in faith, they are healed. When we pray for healing, we are to believe for it before we see the healing manifested in the natural realm (Mark 11:24). In other words, believe before we receive.

This is a powerful principle. That's why it's so important to develop the eyes of our hearts--to see by faith, things that don't exist yet on earth (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Faith of the sick makes them well, too. Often Jesus told people that their faith had healed them. Consider the woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:22). Another person's faith is very important too. Believers can stand in the gap for others who may be too weak or beaten down to fight in faith. By standing in the gap, they exercise faith on the other person's behalf. Consider the nobleman's dying son, healed because of his father's faith (John 4:47-50). Faith in Jesus, with His desire and ability to heal is a vital ingredient for miracles.

8. HEALING ANOINTING

This is the power of God's manifest presence. When it comes, it drives sickness and disease out. It doesn't have anything to do with people's own ability to believe God for their healing. It has everything to do with how much of God's presence is manifest on the person ministering healing. With a strong anointing, sickness comes under the authority of the presence of God.

On one occasion, Jesus was ministering and the "power of the Lord was present to heal them" (Luke 5:17). Read about Peter (Acts 5:15). People who were sick on beds in the street, waited for Peter's shadow to touch them. He carried so much of God into the street, that miracles happened. Some of the Old Testament prophets described how this anointing will be seen in the last days (Habakkuk 3:3-5; Malachi 4:2, 5). The presence of Jesus drives away sickness.

9. TO PROVE THE MINISTRY

The release of healing power is an important way of proving or validating the ministry of God's people. How will people know that we truly serve a living, powerful God, unless they see the demonstration of His power in our lives? Peter said to the crowd at Pentecost: "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested (proven) by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst" (Acts 2:22). What proved the ministry of Jesus? Miracles, signs, and wonders did.

10. TO KNOW HIM

Here's a wonderful reason for God's power: every miracle is an invitation to know Him! Jesus rebuked the people because they didn't recognize the true purpose of the signs, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled" (John 6:26). There is nothing wrong with signs as long as we understand the reason for them.

According to Jesus, signs should prompt us to seek Him. The sign is a whole lot more than the "Wow." He didn't rebuke the people for seeking signs, but for seeking physical blessings like bread, instead of the Bread of Heaven--Himself. He was saying, "The signs were an invitation to know Me. I revealed Myself, My love, and My goodness by healing you." You've had a touch of the divine when you have a massive cancer, and a finger reaches from Heaven, touches you, and the cancer is gone.

It leaves you with a greater desire to know this awesome God. Jesus ultimately wants us to seek Him, not for the loaves or the benefits, but to know Him personally. He wants a relationship with us. In John 6, the Lord spoke of Himself as the Bread of Life, and called people to eat His flesh and drink His blood. This was His call for us to come into intimate relationship with Him. It's His desire that when He heals us, we will want to know Him--the Source of healing--not just want more of His blessing.

11. HE IS STILL THE SAME TODAY

We can also expect miracles because Jesus is risen and alive today. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He acts the same as He did two thousand years ago. He still does miracles and wonders today, because He is alive and He is the same. That's why miracles happen! Miracles couldn't have passed away with the apostles, because then, He wouldn't be the same today. He is the "Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

God's methods may change, but His nature never does. He is the God "who heals you" (Exodus 15:26). If He doesn't heal the sick today, then He has changed. But God cannot deny His own name and nature.

Jesus made this powerful statement: "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death" (Revelation 1:18). God heals today to demonstrate His resurrection power and sovereign dominion over the influence of hell and death.

12. HEALING COMMISSION

Miracles happen today because Jesus commissioned us to work the miraculous in His name. He heals us and works in power through us because of this commission (John 14:12). He also gave us another healing commission in Mark 16:15-18, telling us to go into the entire world to preach the gospel, and promising that signs would follow those who believe. Signs and wonders don't automatically follow us because we are Christians. It's a belief in signs and wonders--in the unseen--that releases the miraculous. It's "according to your faith let it be to you" (Matthew 9:29).

13. REPENTANCE

Repentance! With every miracle comes a responsibility to change. Healings can actually bring a judgment against entire cities. I believe God does miracles in some cities in North America, as a sign to them that they don't know God--that they are godless.

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to Heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day." (Matthew 11:21-23)

God does miracles in cities, and in the lives of believers, in the hope that they will repent of their sin and unbelief. Supernatural signs demonstrate how real and awesome our God is--they call us back to the Father so our hearts are totally after Him.

14. SO THAT WE MIGHT BELIEVE

God does signs and wonders today, so that we will believe in His power to do the impossible. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, so that people would believe He was from God (John 11:42).

The apostle John confirmed this purpose for the miraculous: "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30, 31). John was saying that Jesus performed signs to make people believe. And it is clear, from Mark 16:17, 18, that healing and miracles are some of the signs that provoke faith.

15. GOODNESS

Miracles happen because of God's goodness. Jesus said, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in Heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:11). Our Heavenly Father is a very good God--the Scriptures and nature testify to this over and over. He wants to lavish good gifts on us. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17).

God gave His only Son to die for us, then He gave us the Holy Spirit to teach, comfort, and empower us. He also wants to continually pour Heavenly blessings on us who will receive them by faith. God is so good that He wants to do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).

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