

Making miracles normal for your life, #1 of 3 - 20210717

Hi all,

A miracle is defined as something that can't be explained by the laws of nature, so is attributed to being an act of God. I have also seen miracles (incorrectly) defined as something that violates the known natural laws.

A miracle is defined as a singular event. Jesus multiplied food. Blind eyes were opened. These have happened in our day too, but they are not a common occurrence.

The subject of this series, Making miracles normal for your life, is not about seeing 'big' miracles all the time. It is about living in a flow of miracles. Living such a finely tuned life that God's orchestration of one's life constitutes living in the miraculous.

From what I've observed, miracles are often divine timing where the Father orchestrates several good things coming together at the same time to benefit a person. What if this were a way of life? This is grace at a level unbelievers don't have, and many Christians don't seem to walk in it either. Can miracles become a way of life for us?

Roller coaster Christian life

A miracle doesn't violate natural laws, the Father just uses higher laws which supersede the lower ones. An airplane lifts off the ground in this way; it doesn't violate the law of gravity, it uses a higher law, the law of lift, to supersede gravity for a time. But the airplane is never free from gravity, it just uses higher laws to fly through the air. But then the plane lands and the lower law takes over again. But what if the plane lived in the higher laws and never had to land?

In my teen years and now as an adult I often see Christians living 'big' miracle to 'big' miracle with a deep valley in between. I wondered as a teenager: What if you could live within the realm of miracles? Then miracles would be a way of life, a lifestyle, an expectation for every day.

I reasoned I would have to start by shortening the time between miracles and valleys so I could step over the valleys and walk mountain top to mountain top. Hopefully one day I could just step miracle to miracle as a way of life.

I also wondered if living at the top of the curve just meant that I was going to grow to the point valleys didn't seem so deep, the way Paul valued hardship and even seemed to value being weak in the flesh so His grace could be perfected within him?

Knowing His ways

When I was a teenager Psalm 103:7 was something I longed for: "He made known His ways unto Moses; His acts to the children of Israel." If I knew His ways, the acts (miracles) would follow.

The acts that Israel saw included manna in the wilderness, water from a rock, a miraculous catch of quail and more. They went from hunger to thirst and back to hunger again as a way of life. They saw His acts.

I wanted to know His ways, which are: "The ways in which He Himself walks" and "The steps and methods He takes to show forth His glory." (Gill's Exposition of the Bible on Ps 103:7) That was my heart. Still is.

I saw most every Christian, my teen friends and my mom's adult Christian friends running around looking for a miracle. Their Christian life was getting manna one day, starving the next several, then water from a rock, then starving, then a flock of quail so they could eat again, then lack - in a never ending cycle as a way of life. They lived a roller coaster Christian existence. I didn't want that. I wanted to know the ways of the Father. If I knew the ways, the acts would follow.

Can we live on the mountain top? An invitation

About the time I was asking if I could know the ways of the Lord like Moses, which would then lead to living in miracles instead of a roller coaster existence, our Saturday night 'prayer and praise' meeting introduced a new song.

It was 1975, so imagine an autoharp and guitar playing as we sang, based on Isaiah 55:6-13:

"You will go out with joy, and be led forth with peace, the mountains and the hills will break forth before you. There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands. And the trees of the field will clap their hands. The trees of the field will clap their hands. The trees of the field will clap their hands, and you'll go out with joy."

Upon studying that text I saw something I never had before - an invitation which proceeded all that joy and the reason all those trees were clapping their hands:

"Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him **return to the Lord** and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God for He will abundantly pardon."

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts," 55:6-9 (And you will go out with joy, and be led forth with peace, and the mountains and hills will break forth before you...)

Suddenly I saw it - the wicked, unrighteous man is extended an invitation to forsake his ways to return to the higher ways of the Lord! Yes, I saw it! God was not making a statement that He is so high and lofty that we mere humans can't relate. He was saying to leave your ways and thoughts, return to the Lord and His higher ways and thoughts! Read that passage in its entirety and you'll find hope and joy, yes, you can know His ways and live there!

We CAN come up to His ways and His thoughts - we can know His ways! That in turn will lead to miracles. Miracles can be normal, a way of life as we walk in His higher ways and higher thoughts. We aren't seeking miracles, we are seeking to know His ways.

Next week I'll share part of my journey that is key to living in the ways of the Father, rather than living miracle to valley to miracle, always looking for the next big thing which will rescue from the latest situation. Until then, blessings,

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Making miracles normal for your life, 2 of 3 - 20210724

Hi all,

Last week I shared that the Father does indeed invite us up to His higher ways. In fact if we adjust our thinking we will understand that is what Jesus was doing in the gospels - sharing the higher ways of the Father and inviting us to join Him.

So the first step is to know you belong in the higher ways. This is all about adjusting our thinking, putting down thoughts that argue against that New Testament truth, and forcing ourselves to accept the amazing grace of the invitation. Knowing this builds within us an expectation for good, an expectation each day to see what good the Father has planned for us. We arise looking with eager expectation to see what the Father has planned for us.

How are we enabled in this?

"Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints of God in the light. For He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son, in whom we have redemption through His blood, yes, even the forgiveness of sins."
Colossians 1:12-14 (Amplified v12; KJV v13-14)

We are enabled because the Father God has caused us to be recreated in our spirit man by His Holy Spirit, the act of which immediately translated us into His Kingdom. That qualifies us as His children for we were born of Him by the Spirit, and therefore also citizens in His Kingdom - a Kingdom in which His Son is in charge.

We belong in the higher ways. It is now our nature. Stop any arguments you may have to the contrary, which are lying against the truth of what He has done. Bring thoughts and emotions captive to Christ and New Testament realities. Put away guilt and shame and unforgiveness of self and grow up. That's right. Grow up. Let the Life in you change your emotions, your thoughts, the way you think about your past, and who you are.

Be a doer of the Word - bring thoughts captive to Christ and starting thinking correctly: You are a citizen of the kingdom of heaven, you've been translated out of the kingdom of darkness, and you have come up to our King's higher ways. Thinking like Him is part of Kingdom culture.

Don't allow anything other than New Testament thinking or feeling. Every time a wrong thought comes into your mind, reject it and state out loud and in your thoughts, NT reality. Take authority over contrary feelings for they are not New Testament reality.

Christianity is supernatural. Our lives should reflect that.

(Miracles didn't stop in the 1st century. I can recommend 2 books from friends on the subject: "2,000 Years of Charismatic Christianity" by Eddie Hyatt, which is an easy read, and "Miracles and the Supernatural Throughout Church History" by Tony Cooke, which is a detailed history. Both available in Kindle format)

Miracles were so common among the churches that specific miracles and healings were not even mentioned in the letters; because they were such a large part of normal Christianity. Paul asked the churches of Galatia, which was a large area in the middle of modern Turkey: "When God does miracles among you, does He do it by the Spirit or by the reading of the Mosaic law?" 3:3-5

In his first letter to the Corinthians Paul spent all of chapter 12 talking about spiritual gifts including miracles and healings which are in the church.

James, in his letter to the whole body of Christ in the Roman Empire, wrote that if there were any sick, let them call for the leaders of the (house) church and let them pray over him, and they would be healed. 5:14-15

In I Corinthians 14:23-25 Paul writes that their meetings are so full of the Spirit of God that a stranger attending could have the secrets of their heart revealed supernaturally and they would acknowledge God is in their midst.

Is your church that supernatural? Are you part of the lives of others to be able to see first hand all that God is doing in those you fellowship with? Does conversation revolve around the higher ways and thoughts of the Father God and what He has done?

If in a true Biblical house church (not a miniature of the auditorium) you have the opportunity to pray for one another weekly at least, so you most likely do see those things - but if in a Bible study or small group or auditorium church, do you even have the opportunity to pray for one another?

Part of living in His higher ways is the certainty inside you that miracles, answered prayer, healings are a normal part of your faith. No big deal, just Christianity. Adjust your thinking. Miracles are normal for they are part of the higher ways of our Father and Lord. And be hungry to live in the miraculous if you don't have that now in your life. It starts by thinking New Testament realities.

Are you part of abnormal Christianity?

The stated realities written about in the pages of the New Testament must truly become part of our thinking. The Father has adopted us and seated us with Him in the heavenliness. The Father has therefore enabled us to partake of our inheritance among the saints, in His light. We have already been therefore translated out of the kingdom of darkness, which no longer has any control over me, and into the kingdom where Jesus is King.

This thinking is a must for a believer to walk in the higher ways. The book of Acts is normal Christianity. Seeing and taking part in miracles, healings, casting out demons, seeing angels and the

Lord and all the other things of the Spirit, is normal Christianity. Answered prayer is normal. Sensing the presence of the Lord is normal.

I distinctly remember one day as a teenager standing in my bedroom when that realization hit me: Acts is normal Christianity. What the apostles described as normal in their lives and letters was normal Christianity. Healings, tongues, miracles, angels, the Lord, it was all normal.

If where I attended and if the people's lives around me didn't resemble Acts, it was abnormal Christianity. I didn't want abnormal Christianity. I wanted normal Christianity as God defines normal and would not stop until I found others who believed Acts is normal Christianity. This is key towards coming up to His higher ways and higher thoughts. The invitation remains, how will we respond?

We will pick it up there next week, until then, blessings,
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Making miracles a normal part of your life, 3 of 3 - 20210731

Hi all,

We have settled that the Father has extended an invitation for us to forsake our lower ways and thoughts and come up to His ways and thoughts. He has enabled us to do so through the new birth which places us in His Kingdom, of which His Son Jesus, was appointed by Him as King. Philippians 2:5-11, I Corinthians 15:24-28

How does this work in real life?

In Matthew 11:19 and Luke 7:35 Jesus makes the statement: "Wisdom is justified of her children."

That means a decision made now may not appear to be wise, but the later results will point back to the original decision and prove its wisdom. At the time a wise decision may appear to be stupid. You may have friends asking you what you are doing. You might face criticism. It is the 'children' of wisdom, seen much later, that looks back to confirm and justify the original decision. We might say today, "A wise decision is justified by its results."

Living in the Father's higher ways and thoughts means being willing to see the long term, the big picture, and be willing to be called foolish or stupid by those who don't understand His higher ways.

You're going to pay for it if you decide to walk in His higher ways...

That means walking in His higher ways and thoughts is very often the more difficult of two options before us. From our own lives: When a friend at church used words Barb and I said about the pastor out of context and told him we accused him, Barb and I went directly to the pastor and his wife and apologized. We didn't make excuses though we explained what had happened.

But the relationship was restored because we paid the price of pride, humbled ourselves, and apologized, though in fact we didn't say anything wrong. The other person used our words out of context and weaponized them against the pastor. We had to choose the higher ways of humility, which was the more difficult choice. We could have left that church and told people 'God is leading us elsewhere', but that would have been lying against the truth. It would have been pride.

But it is an internal struggle that begins early in one's life. Does that child admit to eating the cookie, or lie about it? God's higher way is to admit it and apologize, taking the consequences. What will that child do?

Many adults 'eat the cookie' and then blame it on the system, or someone else who did something that caused them to do what they did. Adam said when confronted in Genesis 3:12: "The woman you gave me, gave me the fruit and I ate." Adam sought to implicate Eve and the Lord as partly responsible for his sin. He should have simply admitted he had free will and he ate. We simply need to admit, 'I ate the cookie'. That humbling of oneself even if you know others contributed to you eating the cookie, is a higher way.

Love is God's higher way, but carries with it the risk of being hurt. How many times have you thought your friendship with 'church people' was greater than church attendance, only to discover after you left the church they cut off all contact? Still, you walked in His higher ways, and paid the price.

Kingdom values are His higher ways and thoughts

His higher ways of honesty and transparency can mean making that difficult phone call to the credit card company you are behind in payments to - going through the fear - trusting the Father has some provision and favor and a plan if you make that call. That plan may be to cut up the card and start to live within your means, but doing so will reveal itself as wisdom on the other side of that debt.

Jesus said in Matthew 25:31-46 when He comes and sets up His kingdom He will separate the nations as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Those on 'His' side will include ones who gave to His brethren, water, clothing, food, hospitality, and who visited the sick and imprisoned (In those days people in prison relied on family and friends for food and clothing).

You have to be in relationships with people to know those situations Jesus described. Look at your life now, do you have genuine relationships? Are you involved with people you know to help them through life?

When Peter and John were released by the authorities in Acts 4, it says in v23: "And being let go, they went to their own people..." Do you have a 'people' you can go to?

His higher ways are not the world's higher ways. They usually are not flashy. They do not draw attention to you or Him. He is meek and lowly of heart. Learn of Him as He said. Learn humility, meekness. That's where you learn. His ways are normal, everyday life, walking in love and looking to do good.

His kingdom laws include valuing a cup of water to a child. Helping a brother or sister in the Lord with food and clothing and shelter. The Great Commission is 'teaching others to observe what I've told you' - it means they have to be close enough to you to observe you implementing God's ways into your own life.

When a person settles in their hearts that they don't care if they are seen of men, but want to be seen by God, they will move about this life humbly, transparently, in His higher ways and thinking His higher thoughts.

As the world becomes increasingly dark, their ways of envy, strife, division, murders, witchcraft, sexual sins and perversions, and other sins listed in Galatians 5:19-21 as works of the flesh, will become more prominent in culture and society. By contrast those walking in the Father's higher ways of love, joy, peace, gentleness, long suffering, patience, meekness, self control, will reflect lives of the opposite values and results.

We will have people come to us asking why we are in such peace, why does our life seem to have an order to it while theirs doesn't? On the one hand you will have people increasingly dependent on the government for things Jesus taught should be shared among one another - care for each other as we walk through life together. When government fails.

When bureaucratic systems clog and grind to a halt, there will be many realizing they are alone with no-one in their life to help. And then they will see their Christian neighbor, their Christian co-worker, their Christian family member, and come running for help.

The early church didn't saturate the sprawling Roman Empire over the course of 300 years by having large evangelistic meetings, or 'invite a friend to church' Sundays. They met in homes, evangelized among family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. They took turns hosting, took turns leading, and walked through life with that group of people. When they outgrew a home, because all who could were used to hosting and all took turns leading, they simply multiplied out to start rotating among themselves, from the ground up filling the Empire, family to family, house to house. As in Acts 4, they had no needs in their lives because they made sure all basic needs were met in their midst.

The typical Roman was dependent on the system for their sustenance, even bread handed out by the government. (Known as Cura Annonae for the goddess Annona, it was the distribution of free grain and later free bread by the government)

The days are coming when the difference between those living in the works of the flesh are notably different from those walking in the higher ways of the fruit of the spirit. The days are coming when people on the outside of the Biblical Christian culture will see those living in the higher ways of God's relationships and kingdom culture, and how their needs are met, how they have peace, how they are prospering - and want to know how they can have this Jesus.

"Let the wicked man forsake his ways and his thoughts, and return to the Lord who will abundantly forgive. For my ways are not your ways, nor your thoughts my thoughts says the Lord." "He made known His ways to Moses; His acts to the children of Israel." "Faith, hope, love. The greatest of these is love."

Don't be among those who continually look for one of His 'acts' (miracles) in your life, living miracle to miracle. Know His ways, and miracles will become so normal, the ordering of your steps so God-controlled, you will have constant daily fellowship with Him and the assurance of His deep and total involvement in your life.

New subject next week. Until then, blessings!

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