

A Simple Guide to Experience Miracles

Instruction and Inspiration for Living Supernaturally in Christ

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Chapter 5 – Understanding the Nature and Importance of Miraculous Healing

[Prayer for Jewish woman, pp. 88-89]

“Healing was central to the ministry of Jesus, our incarnate Lord. Healing is central to the ministry of the Church, the Body of Christ. Spoken prayer, anointing with oil, and the laying on of hands are the principal outward means employed by the Church for its ministry to those whose health is in any way impaired. The rite of Reconciliation and the reception of the Holy Communion are also gifts through which healing takes place. All Christians are called to be agents of healing.” (*2019 Book of Common Prayer*, p. 222)

Healing in Church History

“If we were to remove all the exorcisms and physical healings from the Gospels and the book of Acts, we wouldn’t have much left. We would have no coherent picture of Jesus’ life and the spread of Christianity from his death in AD 33 to the end of Acts in 62. Moreover, it would be impossible to explain how the tiny Jesus movement ever got off the ground.” (p. 90)

“The historical record indicates that ordinary Christians who were members of the newly planted churches had the power to perform miracles (see Galatians 3.5).” (p. 90)

For various reasons there was a declining emphasis on miracles from AD 400 to 1800.

- *cf.* the lives of the Saints
- *cf.* the protestant reformation (dev’t of doctrine of cessationism)—p. 93
Note: “the overwhelming majority of believers around the world are **not** cessationists.” (p. 101)

“The period of the Enlightenment...in Europe led to an increasingly secularized West, and consequently belief in miracles and demons waned, especially among the intellectual class. Doctrinal propositions replaced divine power and the Word

replaced the Spirit, when really a both/and position should have been upheld.” (pp. 93-94)

“Miracles were intended by God to be a central, ongoing part of the Christian life and ministry, and their continued presence is well-documented in the historical record.” (p. 94)

“It is widely recognized by missionaries, leaders of missionary organizations (irrespective of their denomination), church growth experts, professors of missiology, and many informed Christians that since around 1970 there has been an exponential explosion of “book of Acts” type miracles—far, far beyond anything that has happened since the first century.” (p. 95)

An Objection: Healing Claims Need But Lack Medical Verification

“Atheists [often]...contend that only if miracle claims are medically verified by strictly controlled empirical experiments can they be accepted as rationally justified....

If we were to accept this extraordinarily high bar for assessing the evidence related to an alleged event, then the majority of court cases, virtually all of history, and numerous other fields of study would have to be dismissed....

One does not need ‘proof,’ whatever that means, to know a miracle has taken place.... Rather, all one needs is to show that it is more reasonable to believe a miracle happened than it is to reject that interpretation or to remain agnostic on the issue.” (pp. 103-105)

“I have noticed again and again that an opponent of an assertion will label it with a perjorative name as a substitute for a legitimate argument against it. Such a move is a conversation stopper that undermines rational dialogue about a topic. “Your view is racist!” is an example of what I mean.” (p. 106)

- *i.e. ad hominem* fallacy
- *cf.* “straw man” fallacy

“In my experience and that of others I’ve spoken with, the percentage of people who get completely well, or at least experience some improvement, is somewhere between 5 percent and 25 percent, the latter figure being rare.” (p. 111)

- *cf.* Dennis Bennett testimony

“Most of the people I talk with who have never seen a miracle are people, by and large, who never take the trouble to go and lay their hands on sick people in believing prayer.

Conversely, I have yet to find anyone who regularly lays hands on the sick in believing prayer who doesn't see at least some miraculous healings." (*Jack Deere, quoted on p. 111*)

"Today science has demonstrated there is a deep body/soul connection such that our health is affected by what we believe and do." (*p. 113*)

"Our attitude should always be miraculous prayer *plus* medicine, not one in opposition to the other." (*p. 114*)

- *cf.* family history

Chapter 6 – Encouraging Credible Testimony of Cases of Miraculous Healing

"When a supernatural healing occurs, it can be documented and will stand up to medical scrutiny. While we do not have to have scientific evidence that God is a healer, documenting medical healing...gives glory to God, and confirmed testimonies...give hope to others and instills faith in God as our Healer." (*Dr. Reginald Cherry, quoted on p. 121*)

Cases I Have Personally Verified

[Two short stories of miraculous healing—pp. 123-124]

"My wife and I attended a small gathering where we heard reports from a missionary couple who had returned after several years in China.... When I asked if he had witnessed any miraculous healings, he replied that he had seen so many medically inexplicable healings in the underground Chinese church that he didn't even know where to start. According to him, miracles were *the* main way the church there was expanding." (*p. 124*)

[Prayer for restoration of vision – p. 131]

"So far, every account I've shared is one that I, someone I know, or someone I personally interviewed experienced first-hand.... These healings were experienced by ordinary folks in regular church or missionary activities. There are no superstars here! These things can happen today to and through you and your close friends." (*p. 135*)

"There are no completely lost, hopeless cases—no matter what the situation or how long we have prayed about it." (*p. 146*)

[Time permitting: Breaking the Silence, Focus on the Family Broadcast (1994)]