

End-time Miracles

'You are the God who performs miracles'
(Ps.77:14 – NIV)

The Christian faith is built upon miracles

**But often the very culture which should be most
miracle-friendly limits God**

They, 'limited the Holy One of Israel'
(Ps.78:41)

Counterfeit miracles will play a major part in the end-time deception

'The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness'

(2 Thes.2:9-12)

God's miracles will supersede Satanic counterfeit miracles

'Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was'

(2 Tim.3:8-9)

'Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God"'

(Ex.8:18-19)

'Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper. And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel." Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel"...

'...So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, "Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy." And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me"'

(2 Kings 5:1-7)

Myths About Miracles

Myth#1 God does miracles on demand

- ✓ **The king of Syria sent a letter to the king of Israel demanding a miracle for Naaman**
- ✓ **God intended a miracle for Naaman, but He is not obligated to perform miracles on demand**
- ✓ **The Jews said to Jesus: *'Show us a sign and we will believe'***
- ✓ **This same spirit of sign-seeking exists today**
- ✓ **We have miracle junkies and miracle pushers**

- ✓ **Jesus refused to bow to the pressure of miracles on demand**
- ✓ **It didn't stop Him performing miracles, but He refused to perform on demand**
- ✓ **He never did miracles for those who tested Him, *'An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah'* (Mt.12:39) i.e., the resurrection**
- ✓ **God has revealed Himself miraculously in many ways e.g., Creation, God's Word, but He doesn't produce miracles for people who test Him**

Myth#2 Miracles only happen in a predictable way

- ✓ ***'But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy'"' (2 Kings 5:11)***
- ✓ **We can miss miracles because of wrong ideas about *when* and *where* and *how* miracles occur**
- ✓ **Even prayer for revival can be an attempt to confine God to a specific 'season' in which He will move. Visitations are short-term stays**
- ✓ **God is not looking for a place to visit, but a place to dwell. The Church is God's home**
- ✓ **That's why the greatest miracle is you!**

Myth#3 Miracles are always spectacular

- ✓ *'But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy'"' (2 Kings 5:11)*
- ✓ **Naaman believed that for something to be supernatural it would be spectacular**
- ✓ **God had a miracle for him, but he nearly missed it**
- ✓ **We expect God to use big things but it's often not His way**
- ✓ **The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. The plant grows out of proportion to the size of the seed**

***Naaman's miracle began long before with a small Israelite slave girl**

***The most powerful sermon can fall on deaf ears, and the quietest words of a little girl can be heard by kings when God is in control**

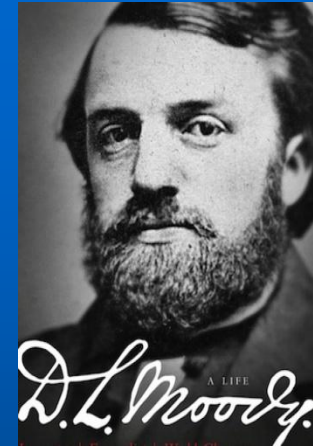
'The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made both of them' (Prov.20:12)

***So, Naaman's miracle was relational; it began in his own house, and so might ours**

***But like Naaman we may be looking for a dramatic event while our miracle is in something quite ordinary**

In 1858 a Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball, led a Boston shoe clerk to Christ. The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist. In England in 1879 his ministry impacted F. B. Meyer, pastor of a small church. F. B. Meyer, preached to an American college campus and a student named J. Wilbur Chapman came to Christ. Chapman, engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work. Billy Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, N.C. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another evangelistic campaign, bringing Mordecai Hamm to town to preach...

During Hamm's revival, a young man named Billy Graham heard the gospel and yielded his life to Christ. We know about Billy Graham, DL Moody, FB Meyer, Billy Sunday, but how many have heard of Mr. Kimble?



Myth#4 If we are going to see miracles, there is a price to pay
(2 Kings 5:5)

***Examples - More prayer, fasting, sacrifice, giving, marching around a city, etc.**

***We are too self-conscious and man-conscious**

***When Peter performed the first miracle in Acts he asked, *'Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why do you look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?'* (Acts 3:12)**

***Jesus did miracles because of His relationship with the Father. He only did what He saw the Father doing**

***The Father loves the Son and shows Him what He is doing**

'O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

(Gal.3:1-5)