

Miracles – Part 1
“3 Ways Miracles Happen”
February 2-3rd, 2019

- Welcome to our “Miracles” series!
 - Let me go on record right up front & say that
***** We believe Miracles still happen today!**
- I believe the worse our world gets, the more we are going to see God use miracles to prove Himself to others!
 - It is strategic in the Lord that our 21 Days of Prayer starts on Monday!!!

*** Theme: “Expect More... Receive More.”**

- Come on Church... let’s raise our level of Expectation as to what we believe God wants to do on our behalf!
- I believe if we will, we will see Miracles!

PRAY

- To get our series started, I want to look at...
3 Ways Miracles Happen in our Lives:

1. By Spending Time in God’s Word. (SOAP)

- A. There is power in the Word of God.
 - John tells us that Jesus is the Word become Flesh!!!

John 1:1-2 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

v. 3-5 “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

B. When we spend time in God’s Word, our Hearts are changed!!!

- Think of *THAT* miracle! God changing our hearts on a daily basis!

C. Explain SOAP.

- Don’t overthink it...

- If you’ve never journaled b/f... start during these 21 days!

- You’ll be amazed at how God shows up in your daily life!

D. MIP: I want to challenge you during these 21 days to spend time in God’s Word Everyday!!!

- Set a Goal – Read through all of John (21 chapters) or follow the SOAP Guide!

- Then set a goal to Journal Every day!!!

2. By Spending Time in God’s Presence. (SOAK)

A. Throughout the Gospels, Miracles happened in the Presence of Jesus.

- It’s no different today... We are changed by spending time in God’s Presence.

B. When Jesus ascended into Heaven, He left us with His Holy Spirit!

John 14:26 “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

C. Here's what that means... when we spend time in God's Presence, b/c the Holy Spirit lives within us, we can actually hear Him whisper to our heart.

- I believe the voice of God is actually very loud... the problem is we allow the voices of the world to be louder.
- When we get still in God's Presence, we can actually hear His still, small voice.

D. MWK ILL – For me, it usually takes me about 2 -3 worship songs b/f I feel like the distractions are gone & I can begin hearing the voice of God clearly.

- I have a scratch pad near me.
- I'm casting my cares on Him actively.
- Then there's this moment... where I say, *"God, my heart is clear & my mind is open, if You have anything you want to say to me, I'm listening..."*

E. Pushback: *"Yeah, Matt, I tried that once... I didn't hear anything..."*

- I tried Shooting Clay Pigeons once & I didn't hit one either.
- Learning to hear God's Voice is a Trained skill, just like learning a new program on your computer at work.
 - The first few times, it's clunky & a struggle, but over time, you start to learn what God's voice sounds like.

F. Remember: God's still small voice will never contradict God's Word!

G. MIP: I challenge you during this 21 days of prayer, SOAK in His Presence & spend time learning to listen to His voice.

SIDEBAR: This is the power of Fasting, BTW!!!

- Fasting clears out the Noise & Distractions & causes us to focus our human cravings & desires on God instead!
- In my opinion, everyone needs to “Give Up” something...
 - Netflix, TV, Social Media,
- Fasting food is powerful!
 - A Meal / day. - Saturday or Sundays.
 - Mondays. - Pray instead...

3. By Spending Time Seeking God Fervently. (SEEK)

A. TEACHING AT STAFF RETREAT – ATTACK THE ALTAR!!!

B. The Bible makes it clear that when we pray, God hears us!!!

James 5:16 (NLT) “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

? How do we do this?

(Here’s what I taught our staff...)

1. We Pray... Out Loud.

A. The ability to pray out loud is a HUGE component of maturing in our faith.

- Fervent prayer is not about quiet & sheepish whispering of our requests to God.

- Prayer is a full body sport!!!

B. MWK – I walk & pray!

- It's full contact baby!!!

2. We Travail.

A. WOMAN GIVING BIRTH ILL .

- Labor pains & pushing are Hard Work!

Galatians 4:19 “My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...”

- Paul makes it clear that there are some needs that require us to “travail” in prayer for!!!

B. SEEKing God's Throne isn't about a List of Prayer Requests.

- It's about Beseeching the Throne of God!

Matthew 9:38 “Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” (NAS 1977)

- Greek 1189 - I want for myself; I want, need; I beg, request, beseech, pray”

3. We must ask, seek & knock.

Matthew 7:7-8 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

4. We must knock and keep on knocking.

Matthew 7:9-10 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?”

v. 11 “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

v. 12 “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

**A. The verb here is Present Continuous...
- Knock & Keep on Knocking!!!**

5. We Must Listen to what the Lord is saying.

A. O.T. Prophets – They would Inquire & they Listen.

B. It’s not enough to just ask, seek & knock, we have to listen as well.

**C. Many people ask but then they never bother to listen.
- If we ask, He will hear from Heaven & answer us.**

**D. Written Word vs. Rhema Word.
- Written Word - Establishes Doctrine & how we are to live.
- Rhema Word - Guides & Directs us actively through the voice of the Holy Spirit.**

E. “He who has ears to hear...” – Jesus said it 14 times!

6. We Must Obey.

A. If we don't obey God, He will stop speaking.

B. We have to go back to the last place of obedience & obey.

C. As we Obey, He will continue to lead us & speak to us & guide us.

- In January, I woke up early 1 morning I sensed in my spirit God saying,
- *"If we seek, He will speak!"*

- This is the kind of church we are going to be!!!

- A church that is passionate about seeking the heart of God to see
Miracles happen in our lives & in the lives of those around us as well!!!

Challenge:

? Do you know the Miracle Worker – Jesus?

? Do you need a Miracle?

- Commit to 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting

- Spending time daily in His Word, His Presence & at His Throne!

PRAY FOR MIRACLES TO BEGIN HAPPENING TODAY!

Miracles – Part 2
“The Kind of People Jesus is Amazed by...”

Intro:

? When was the last time you saw someone & were Amazed by them?

- **ATHLETIC ABILITY**
- **ABILITY TO CLOSE THE DEAL!**
- **SINGER / MUSICIAN**

- We typically are Amazed at Ability, now, when was the Last Time you were Amazed by Someone's Faith?

- **SOMEONE WHO WALKED THROUGH A TOUGH TIME,**
- **SICKNESS / ILLNESS**
- **BELIEVED GOD FOR SALVATION OF A RELATIVE**

- Jesus was "Amazed" by someone's faith in Luke 7...

- A Roman Centurion:

- **Over 100 men**
- **15-20 years experience**
- **Tough, doesn't need God...**
- **A Leader**
- **A Man's Man.**

Read & Explain the whole story... Luke 7L1-10

4 Things that Attract Miracles to our Life!

1. He Valued People. V. 2

A. How we Treat People shows How Much we Value Them!

B. TODD & JULIE - GENEROUS & KIND ALL WEEK!

- **SHOW THEM THE THE TEXT ON THE SCREEN**

C. MIP: ? How are we doing at Valuing People these days?

2. He Loved God's House. V. 4-5

A. Recap House, Body, Family!!!

- You're in the Family of God!!!

B. Mark your Calendars... Vision Weekend - March 16-17th, 2019

C. This man helped build God's Hosue & there was a Blessing that came on him!!!

D. MIP: ? What are we doing to build God's House?

3. He was Humble. V. 6-7

A. We can smell a fake from a mile away, can't we?

- How much more can Jesus???

- So this guy must have been Really Humble!!!

B. Humility attracts Miracles from Jesus to our Life!

C. The Opposite of Humility is PRIDE!

- Pride resists God's Spirit & Movement in our Life!
- Pride shows up as:
 - 1) Arrogance.
 - 2) Insecurity.
- In the middle is Humility!

D. MIP: Some of us are SO PRIDEFUL... it is Pushing away God's Ability to move in us!

4. He had Faith that Jesus could do it!

A. JOURNAL FROM TODD & JULIE -

B. If you need Faith today, you can borrow some of ours!!!

TIME OF PRAYER - HAVE SARAH JOIN YOU!!!