

15 Reasons Miracles Still Happen
Pastor Joe Oakley
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We're in a sermon series entitled Miracles - When Heaven Touches Earth.

As I prayed about what to preach this week – I really felt led to preach on the reasons miracles still happen today. I don't want to preach for weeks on a subject without first making a biblical case for the reality of present day miracles. That's because there are some churches and some people who teach that miracles no longer happen today.

So, my goal today is to ground you in what the Bible says about miracles in this sermon entitled 15 Reasons Miracles Still Happen.

There are two main reasons that some Christians do not believe in miracles: an inadequate view of God or an inadequate view of the Bible.

A group of religious leaders in the time of Christ called Sadducees did not believe in miracles or the resurrection. When they tried to trip Jesus up with a trick question, Mathew 22:29 says

Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God."

Misunderstanding the Bible leads people to error – including not believing in miracles. Also – if they never experience the power of God – they may doubt its existence. It's not enough to know God's principles; we must also know His power. And it's not enough to know God's power; we must also know His principles.

These people who do not believe miracles are for today are called cessationists. The root word of cessation is "cease" which means to stop. So, cessationists are people who believe miracles stopped. They differ as to when they think miracles stopped.

Some think they stopped the day the last of the original disciples died.

Some think they stopped the day the last person whom the disciples laid hands on died.

Some think miracles stopped when the Bible was totally written.

The problem with all this is that:

1- The Bible never says miracles will cease on earth

Miracles happened in the Old Testament and in the New. Miracles happened all the way through the Bible – from the creation in Genesis to the signs and wonders in the Book of Revelation.

Some of the events in Revelation have not happened yet – and they include miracles, signs and wonders. So – there’s miracles in the past and miracles in the future – but some theologians want us to believe they stopped for now. There is no biblical reason to believe miracles stopped happening.

The only passage that cessationists use to try to justify their misbelief is 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 which says

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

Cessationists say that the perfect that was to come is the Bible and once the Bible was written, all miracles and spiritual gifts ceased. But there is nothing here that indicates that the perfection mentioned is the Bible. In fact, verse 12 says

Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

The perfect that is coming is Jesus! That’s when we will see God face to face! Perfection comes when we see God face to face in heaven. Full knowledge comes in the hereafter. In this lifetime, we will always see dimly – but in heaven we will see clearly. Obviously, there will be no need for miracles in a perfect heaven. There will no need for prophecy or tongues or any gifts of the Spirit. But we are not there yet! There is absolutely no biblical justification for believing that miracles have stopped happening.

I could stop right there and that one reason is enough to believe that miracles still happen! But I’m going to give you 14 more reasons!

2- Miracles still happen because people still have needs

As long as we are on earth people will get sick and need healing. People will get bound up and need deliverance. Miracles are needed on earth – not in heaven.

Some of these needs cannot be met by any human being. But we should not despair because Jesus said in Luke 18:27

What is impossible with men is possible with God.

3- Miracles still happen because of the character of God

Miracles show the love of God and the goodness of God Many times when Jesus performed miracles, the Bible says He was moved with compassion.

For example - Matthew 14:14 says

When Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

Is Jesus still moved with compassion? Yes!

Is God still good? Yes!

So miracles are still happening!

4- Miracles still happen to glorify God

Whenever Jesus did miracles – people glorified God. Matthew 15:30-31 says

And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them. So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

Miracles glorify God – not man. When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, He said in John 11:4

"This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

Jesus glorified God when He raised Lazarus from the dead. After that, the Bible says that Lazarus appeared at some meetings with Jesus. But there are no recorded words of Lazarus. Why? Because all he had to do was show up and people glorified God because Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

And to this day – whenever God heals or reveals His supernatural power, people give Him glory!

5- Miracles still happen to prove that the Gospel is true

The gospel is true whether there are miracles or not. But God uses miracles to authenticate who Jesus is. Jesus said in John 5:36

The very works that I do — bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.
He also said in John 14:11

Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

Jesus is pointing out that miracles are a reason to believe in Him.

6- Miracles still happen to open the door for evangelism

Miracles draw a crowd. Huge crowds came out to see Jesus do miracles and when they did – He preached and many believed in Him.

This happened to others, too. When Peter raised a woman from the dead, Acts 9:42 says

This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

Miracles are one of God's tools to get people's attention and show them that they need Him!

7- Miracles still happen as a demonstration of God's kingdom

The kingdom of God is the rule and reign of God. The kingdom of God is where He exercises His authority over sin and sickness and Satan. Acts 10:38 says

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Jesus said in Matthew 12:28

If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

So the kingdom of God comes not just with proclamation, but with demonstration. That's why Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

8- Miracles still happen because there is still power in Jesus' name

When Peter and John healed a man in Acts 3:12 & 16, Peter said,

"Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see."

I submit to you there is still power in the name of Jesus today! It has not faded one iota. The name of Jesus has the power to save – the power to heal – and the power to set people free!

9- Miracles still happen because there is still power in prayer

The book of James was written to Christians scattered around the world. James 5:14-15 says

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.

There is nothing to indicate that this practice should ever stop. We are still to pray for the sick and believe for miraculous healing.

10- Miracles still happen because we are in the last days.

What do I mean by that? We know the last days end with the second coming of Jesus to earth. But when did they begin?

On the Day of Pentecost – after the Holy Spirit was poured out – Peter preached and quoted from the prophet Joel in Acts 2:16-19

This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below...”

So the last days - the days of miracles - began on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out and they will continue until Jesus comes back. This is confirmed in 1 Corinthians 1:7

Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So - spiritual gifts – which include miracles and healing - are given for the entire time between Pentecost and the second coming of Christ! And a study of church history shows that miracles have occurred all throughout that history.

11- Miracles still happen because one the spiritual gifts is the working of miracles

1 Cor. 12:4-11 teaches on the gifts of the Spirit given to the church.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

It goes on the list the nine gifts of the Spirit which includes *the working of miracles*.

12 – Miracles still happen because the Devil still happens!

This world is full of evil and darkness. There is a devil and he uses supernatural power to blind people from seeing the truth – to hold people in bondage – to cause sickness.

The works of the devil cannot be destroyed by mere human power! Jesus said in John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Jesus came to earth to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8 says

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Jesus defeated Satan on the cross, but the devil is still working. He knows his time is short and he is working with a vengeance.

Do you think God would leave us to fight the devil alone? NO! He has given us His Word and the blood of Jesus and spiritual weapons. These weapons are not natural but supernatural! 2 Corinthians 10:4 says

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

God has not left us defenseless against the devil! We have His supernatural miraculous power to wage spiritual warfare and obtain victory!

13 – Miracles still happen because of the Great Commission

Matthew 10:1-7 says

When He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

The Bible then lists the names of the disciples and then says

And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Then, when Jesus left this planet, He told His disciples in Mark 16:17-20 that signs would accompany those who believe. They would heal the sick and cast out devils and speak in tongues.

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and He sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere,

and the Lord worked with them and confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied it.

Folks, some things never change. Jesus is still in heaven. Jesus is still sitting at the right hand of God. And wherever His disciples go and preach His truth, He works with them with signs and wonders.

14 - We know miracles still happen because we've experienced them!

Someone with an experience is never at the mercy of someone with just an argument. This happened to the blind man whom Jesus healed in John 9. The religious leaders were trying to argue with him about his miracle. He finally said this in John 9:25

One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

You can tell me all day long that miracles have stopped but I will never believe you because I've seen too many happen!

I could line up people right here right now who have experienced the supernatural miraculous power of God to save, to heal, to deliver, to set free, to restore marriages and families, to change people completely. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

I love that! Such were some of us, but we've experienced the miraculous, life-changing power of God!

Some people try to explain away the lack of supernatural power in their lives by saying God has changed, but God never changes. And the God who never changes still miraculously changes us!

So - don't try to change the unchangeable.

Don't try to replace the irreplaceable.

Don't try to end the eternal.

God wants to establish us in His Word and His supernatural power!

These priorities will never change and we should never get away from them.

15- Miracles still happen because God never changes!

In Malachi 3:6 God said *For I am the Lord, I do not change.*

God never changes. If He did – we could never count on Him or His promises – because they might change.

But nothing about God ever changes! Two of those things that never change are found in Psalm 77:13-14

Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.

God's holiness never changes and God's miraculous power never changes! Don't be led astray by those who tell you God has changed.

Hebrews 13:8 says *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

The very next verse says *Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.*

What are those strange teachings? A different Jesus. A Jesus who has changed from the Jesus of the New Testament. But the Bible says Jesus does not change.

Whatever He did in Bible days, He does now.

If He saved then, He saves now.

If He healed then, He heals now.

If He delivered then, He delivers now.

If He baptized in the Holy Spirit then, He baptizes in the Holy Spirit now.

If He did signs and wonders then, He does signs and wonders now.

So - let's be a contemporary church established in the ancient truths of the Word of God and the supernatural power of God!