

REASONS WHY MIRACLES HAPPEN

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." Galatians 5:6b

GOD IS LOVE

The bible teaches us that God is love; we love because He first loved us. (1 John 3) The Father's heart of love for His people is revealed in miracles and healing. I was in a prison recently sitting next to two inmates. One had the word 'hate' tattooed on his knuckles and in a rather surprising coincidence the man next to him had the word 'love' tattooed on his knuckles! Love or hate is what defines us in life. God's 'agape' love for mankind is the most powerful force in the universe. His love is unstoppable, unquenchable and unconditional. God loved us so much he gave us His one and only Son and whoever chooses to believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour gains eternal life and a living relationship with God.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN

The prophet Isaiah writes that God's ways are not our ways indeed, his ways and thoughts are high above our thoughts. God can (and does) do exactly as He wills and His actions are always in accordance with His nature and character, which is that of a loving, holy, righteous, just and compassionate God.

There are times when God simply shows up and does a wonderful miracle without anyone even receiving prayer by laying on off hands. He is the King of the whole Universe, it belongs to Him and He can "show off" His love in any way He chooses.

DEMONSTRATION OF DEITY

In a world in which there are so many voices clamouring for spiritual authority, it is important for Christian believers to acknowledge that God is who He says He is and the "proof" of His deity is manifested in miracles, signs and wonders. Jesus' ministry was attested to by such signs and wonders, including the greatest of all miracles - that of salvation. There is no way we could ever put a price on the gift of eternal life and relationship with God through Jesus.

Jesus healed the paralytic man and clearly demonstrated His authority to forgive sins and to heal. *"So that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth"*
Matthew 9:6

COMPASSION

God is moved with compassion as our Shepherd King when he looks upon those who are in distress. Many times Jesus' heart was moved by compassion and He reached out to comfort those in need. Jesus wept with those who mourned over Lazarus (before he raised Lazarus back to life); Jesus had compassion on the hungry multitudes who had spent hours on the mountainside listening to the Lord's teaching. Jesus had been teaching and preaching the message of the Kingdom and when he gazed upon the multitudes His heart was moved by compassion and he instructed his apostles to pray for workers for the harvest. (*Matthew 9:35-36*)

Many times when I pray and minister to people I am overwhelmed sometimes even to the point of tears because my heart has become so full of the Lord's compassion. As I reach out with my hands to bring a healing touch or word, wave upon wave of Jesus' compassion sweeps over me.

COVENANT

God is a covenant-initiating, covenant-keeping God. As His people, we therefore benefit as being a covenant-reaping people. What God has sown in love for His children, we are able to reap as every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms (*Ephesians 1*).

A covenant is a binding agreement between two parties. God entered into covenant with Israel and as children of Abraham (by faith) we are also part of the covenant blessing relationship. (Genesis 12, 15, 17; Romans 4; Hebrews 9:15)

GOD IS WILLING

When the leper approached Christ to be healed he asked the Lord if he was willing. The leper already knew Jesus was able to heal him, but he seemed to have some uncertainty in his mind as to whether Jesus would heal him. Often times we have to come to this place of expectant faith, where we realise that healing is not just for others but it is personally available to all.

"I am willing" Luke 5:13; Matthew 8:3

FAITH

- Prayer of faith to heal the sick - *James 5:15*
- Prayer of faith expressed by the person who is sick - the woman who bled for 18 years and reached out to touch the hem of Jesus. (*Matthew 9:22*)
- Prayer of faith expressed on behalf of someone else who is sick - e.g. the centurion (*Luke 8:10*)
- Prayer of faith expressed by the person who is ministering

TO FULFILL PROPHECY

"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried out sorrows yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted." Isaiah 53:4

"When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases." Matthew 8:16, 17

DESPERATION

God meets us in our desperation and answers our sincere and heartfelt prayers.

ATMOSPHERE OF HEALING

In *Luke 5:17* we read that Jesus operated in a healing anointing because *"the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick."* As a result, the paralytic man was healed.

HEALING ANOINTING/GIFT

God heals when a person with a healing gift operates in faith, love and obedience to the will of God. *1 Corinthians 12:9-10*

PRAYER OF AGREEMENT

"Again I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for it, will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name there am I with them." *Matthew 18:19-20*

SO THAT WE MAY BELIEVE

"So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe." *John 11:11-15*

WHEN BELIEVERS OBEY OUR HEALING COMMISSION

"and these signs will follow all who believe ..." *Mark 15:16-18*

THE POWER OF TESTIMONY

Revelations 12:11

TO WIN MULTITUDES TO CHRIST

"and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick." *John 6:2*

FROM HOLY INTIMACY WITH THE LORD/PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

BECAUSE GOD DOES NOT CHANGE

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

THE CROSS AND THE BLOOD

"by his stripes we are healed" *Isaiah 53:5*

HIS NAME IS JEHOVAH RAPHA – THE GOD WHO HEALS YOU

God has always and will always heal his children because He is the Lord who heals.

"If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord who heals you." (Jehovah Rapha)*Ex 15:26*

PRAYER IN THE NAME OF JESUS

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me anything in my name, and I will do it." *John 13:13-14*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 Corinthians 11:17 to end

RECOGNITION OF CHRIST'S DAVIDIC MESSIAHSHIP

Blind Bartimaeus (See *Mark 10:46-52; Matthew 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43*)

A SIGN OF THE KINGDOM

"But if I drive out demons by the finger of God then the kingdom of God has come upon you." Matthew 12:28

FREEDOM FROM CURSE

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree. He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit." Galatians 3:13-14. (see also Deuteronomy 21:23)

REPENTANCE

A miracle can turn a person or a nation back to God: *Jonah 1:1-2; Jonah 3:1-10*

WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AND APPOINTED FOR FRUITFULNESS AND FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other." John 15:16-17

TO VALIDATE MINISTRY

Acts 2:22 Jesus;

Apostolic sign of authority 2 Corinthians 12:12

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