

# The Purpose of Miracles



Psalm 99 Acts 10:34-43 Mark 2:1-12

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If you did an Internet search of **Jesus' miracles**, it would tell you that Jesus did **37 MIRACLES<sup>1</sup>** that are recorded in Scripture. You know a lot of these miracles, such as **walking on water**, **healing the blind**, **casting out demons**, and **raising the dead**. Miracles are displays of God's power and grace that prove that Jesus is the Son of God, and that His Word is true. Miracles also are signs of Jesus' love and compassion as He sets people free from their afflictions.

There are **MANY MIRACLES** recorded in the Gospels, but the actual number of miracles that Jesus did would be in the **thousands!**

He told His disciples to have a boat ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush Him, **for He had cured many**, so that all who had diseases pressed upon Him to touch Him. Mark 3:9-10

And wherever He went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged Him that they might touch even the fringe of His cloak, and **all who touched it were healed**. Mark 6:56

But there are also **many other things that Jesus did**; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. John 21:25

<sup>1</sup> This number is subjective and debatable ... commentators count Jesus' miracles in different ways. For instance, some count His Resurrection as a miracle and some do not. The number of miracles is irrelevant; the fact that Jesus did them is relevant.

When you think about miracles, it's important to remember **why** Jesus did miracles. Jesus was not trying to entertain the people; He's not putting on a show nor was He collecting money. *Jesus works miracles for three reasons*<sup>2</sup>.

#### MIRACLES PROVE JESUS IS GOD

First, miracles prove that **Jesus really is God Himself**. Jesus does things that only God can do, such as *walking on water*, *healing the blind*, *casting out demons*, and *raising the dead*<sup>3</sup>. These awesome displays of power teach us that Jesus is not just a Man, nor a Prophet; but that He really is God Himself<sup>4</sup>.

God Himself, born in a manger in Bethlehem, has come into the world to do the work of salvation for us and in our place. You can have **absolute assurance** that your sins are forgiven because it's based on Jesus and His power; and not on you and your weakness. Salvation was earned by the Son of God Himself, through His perfect life, His sacrificial death, and His miraculous resurrection from the dead<sup>5</sup>. Today **be assured** that your sins are forgiven, that you are reconciled with the Father, that you have peace with God, and that you have been given eternal life because of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Jesus' miracles prove that He is the One, True, and Only God!**

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<sup>2</sup> The Gospel of John describes miracles as "signs" (John 2:11) -- there are signs that point to something greater than themselves. What they point to is the theme of today's sermon.

<sup>3</sup> Notice that today's alleged "miracle workers" are **NOT** doing any of these kind of miracles; nor are they doing them out in the public like Jesus was, travelling from place to place.

<sup>4</sup> Jesus teaches this understanding of miracles to us in the Gospel of John. Here is an example: John 10:37-38: "Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, **believe the works**, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

<sup>5</sup> This is the core of the gospel: that God Himself suffered and died for you and in your place! Jesus was **not** just a good man who found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time and ended up crucified. God Himself intentionally came into the world, born in Bethlehem, in order to suffer and die on a cross in Jerusalem for you and for your salvation. The miracles prove to us that Jesus is God, and not just a good man. The Resurrection is the greatest miracle of all; proving for all time that Jesus is both our God and our Savior!

Not only is your salvation secure because of Jesus, but you have the **confidence** *that you're believing in the right person.* Jesus is the One that you put your faith in. He is True Man and True God; the One God sent for you. Your faith is placed in Jesus alone; not in yourself, a false god, or anything of this world. Check yourself, and make sure that your faith is placed in **CHRIST ALONE** for your eternal salvation.

#### MIRACLES CONFIRM HIS WORD IS TRUE

A second thing that miracles do for us is that it confirms that **Jesus' Word is true.** We saw that today in the gospel lesson.

Four men carried their friend to Jesus, dug a hole in the roof, and lowered him in front of Jesus because there was no other way to get close to Jesus. Jesus could have immediately healed the man → that would have been expected. But instead, Jesus tells the man that his sins are forgiven. Everyone is shocked because only God can forgive sins. So in order to prove that His Word about forgiveness was true, Jesus then heals the man and tells him to “*Stand up, take your mat, and walk.*” **The miracle proves that His Word is true.** Jesus does what everyone can see – that is, the *healing* – in order to prove that He can do what you cannot see – that is, *forgive sins.* **The miracle proves that His Word is true! Jesus does have the power to forgive sins!**

If Jesus can *walk on water*, *heal the blind*, *cast out demons*, and *raise the dead* with just His Word, then everything else that He says is True also. **Miracles confirm that Jesus's Word is true and trustworthy.**

*We trust Jesus' Word and Promises as well.*

- When Jesus says that your sins are forgiven; they are forgiven.
- When Jesus says that you have peace with God; you have peace with God.

- When Jesus says that you have eternal life and will rise from the dead; you have eternal life and you will rise from the dead.
- When Jesus says He is always with you and at work in and through you, then He is always with you and at work in and through you.

Every promise Jesus makes to you is trustworthy and dependable.

**The miracles prove and confirm that you can trust Jesus' Word and Promises as well.**

#### MIRACLES DISPLAY THE COMPASSION OF GOD

One other thing about Jesus's miracles → don't miss the *compassion and care of Jesus* when He's working with individuals. Every miracle of Jesus reminds us how much He loves and cares for each of us. Many times Jesus puts a personal touch on His miracles, to emphasize His care and concern to the person<sup>6</sup>. **In the same way, the Lord cares about you personally and individually.** He knows your name. He knows every single detail of your life. He knows what troubles you, what worries you, and exactly what you need. He has promised to work all things for your good, to help you and not to hurt you, to shower you with His goodness and grace. When you read about the miracles of Jesus, don't read them so fast that you overlook and miss His compassion and care.

*The miracles are meant to remind you how much Jesus loves and cares for you; He is kind and compassionate to you!*

Miracles  
teach us about  
Jesus' Deity, His Word,  
and His compassion!

Jesus works miracles to teach us that He is the Son of God on earth to do the work of salvation for us; they show us that His Word is true and trustworthy; and they are reminders of God's individual and personal care and compassion for each of us.

AMEN

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<sup>6</sup> For instance, in Mark 7, Jesus very carefully communicates with a deaf/mute man; and in Mark 5, He is kind and accommodating to the parents of the dead girl; and compassionate to the woman with the unstoppable flow of blood. Also, in Mark 5, Jesus intentionally leaves the crowd behind in order to find a demoniac on the other side of the Sea of Galilee! Frequently, Jesus' compassion and care is seen while He is working miracles.

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**Lord Jesus,**  
we thank you for the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John that teach us about your powerful miracles. Send us the Holy Spirit so that we may have the confidence, conviction, and assurance that you are God our Savior, that Your Word is trustworthy and true, and that You are loving and compassionate to each of us. We pray this to the glory of the Father, Amen!

# Psalm 99

- 1 The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!  
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion;  
he is exalted over all the peoples.
- 3 Let them praise your great and awesome name.  
Holy is he!
- 4 Mighty King, lover of justice,  
you have established equity;  
you have executed justice  
and righteousness in Jacob.
- 5 Extol the Lord our God;  
worship at his footstool.  
Holy is he!
- 6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests,  
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.  
They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;  
they kept his decrees  
and the statutes that he gave them.
- 8 O Lord our God, you answered them;  
you were a forgiving God to them  
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.
- 9 Extol the Lord our God,  
and worship at his holy mountain,  
for the Lord our God is holy.

## Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

## Mark 2:1-12

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them.<sup>3</sup>Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.<sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.”<sup>6</sup>Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts,<sup>7</sup> “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”<sup>8</sup>At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?<sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’?”<sup>10</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—<sup>11</sup> “I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home.”<sup>12</sup>And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”