

Gift of Working of Miracles

Biblical

I Corinthians 12:10

Workings - *energema* (ἐνέργημα, 1755), “what is wrought,” the effect produced. occurs in 1 Cor. 12:6, RSV, “workings” (κιν, “operations”); v. 10. denotes intr. “to be at work,” “to act or start to act,” and trans. “to set at work,” “to effect.” ἐνέργημα means “what is effected,” the “act” or “action.” ἐνεργής (from the time of Aristotle) means “active.”¹

Miracles - *dunamis* (δύναμις, 1411) is (a) “power, ability,” physical or moral, as residing in a person or thing; (b) “power in action,” as, e.g., when put forth in performing miracles. It occurs 118 times in the NT. It is sometimes used of the miracle or sign itself, the effect being put for the cause, e.g., Mark 6:5, frequently in the Gospels and Acts. In 1 Cor. 14:11 it is rendered “meaning”; “force” would be more accurate²

Agnes Stanford on the Gift of Miracles

The gift that most testified to the heathen world of the reality of the Holy Spirit was not the gift of tongues, but the gift of miracles. “And when they saw the mighty works that were done... “How often do phrases such as his run through the whole Bible! For in the New Testament, God showed forth His Being and power by moving not only upon the souls and bodies of men but upon nature itself to do His will.”

The primary definition of “miracle” in Webster’s unabridged dictionary is: “An event and effect in the physical world deviating from the known laws of nature and transcending our knowledge of these laws... brought about by superhuman agency.”

What again, of the multiplying of food? Have I ever known cases of actual expansion of matter? Yes, I have. There is the well-authenticated case of Corrie Ten Boom a prisoner of war and woman great in prayer and in forgiveness, who kept many prisoners alive with one bottle of vitamins which never decreased – so that she doled out the golden drops’ day by day, and as the next day came, she could dole them out again...

Chuck Smith: The Gift of Miracles

A miracle is something that is humanly impossible but divinely simple. Difficulty always has to be measured by the capacity of the agent that is doing the work. When God is the agent doing the work, talk of difficulty is absurd.

¹ Bertram, G. (1964–). [ἔργον, ἐργάζομαι, ἐργάτης, ἐργασία, ἐνεργής, ἐνέργεια, ἐνεργέω, ἐνεργημα, εὐεργεσία, εὐεργετέω, εὐεργέτης](#). In G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 652). Eerdmans.

² Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In [Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 2). T. Nelson.



Paul the Apostle said to King Agrippa, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" ([Acts 26:8](#)). It is no problem for God to raise the dead. He breathed life into Adam when he was just inanimate matter made out of mud. God breathed life into him and so, for God to raise the dead, as Paul was preaching about the resurrection of Jesus Christ - "Why should you think it a thing incredible that God should raise the dead?"...

Now we know certain laws. We have observed how they operate in our universe. But we do not know all the laws. And God is knowledgeable of laws of nature that we do not even know. As far as Paul the Apostle was concerned it would have been a miracle to see a 747 to take off from the ground-that huge plane with all of its cargo and passengers. The apostles would have said, "That cannot happen. You cannot get something that big into the air." But we have learned laws of aerodynamics. We have learned how the air flowing over the airfoil creates a lift. And thus, by the use of other laws, we are able to seemingly defy the law of gravity. But in reality, there are other laws-we could call them higher laws-that do not negate the law of gravity, but when they are in operation, they can seemingly defy the laws of gravity.

So, God knows other laws of nature and laws in the universe that He is able to make operative. And as we behold the event we say, "What a miracle!" And we say that is impossible-that cannot be! Yet God is only using laws that He knows and understands, that we are not yet knowledgeable of. Maybe one day we will develop even greater knowledge of some of these laws in nature and we might be able to do other things that, at this point, we would look at and say, "It is a Miracle! It is Impossible!"

This gift of the working of miracles, it would seem, is one of the requirements for apostleship. When Paul was writing to the Corinthians defending the title of apostle, he said to them in [2 Corinthians 12:12](#), "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds." So, Paul is pointing to the miracles that were done through his ministry while he was there in Corinth. And he used those as a badge to attest to the fact that he was an apostle. And thus, it seems that it was one of the requirements of apostleship in the early church to have this gift of working of miracles.

Now I believe that there are incumbent dangers to one who would possess the gift of working of miracles. And I think the first danger would be the using of the gift for your own personal benefit. And this is pretty much what Satan suggested to Jesus in the temptation. In [Luke 4](#), Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness and there He fasted for forty days. And afterwards He was hungry. Satan came unto Him and he said, "Since You are the Son of God..." The King James says, "If you are the son of God," but the case is not in the indicative but rather in the subjunctive case, and so it properly translates as "Since You are the Son of God, command these stones to be made bread." In other words, use Your miraculous powers to satisfy Your own physical needs. Use Your powers in order to just satisfy the flesh. And you remember Jesus refused to do so. He said, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of the Father" ([Matthew 4:4](#)).

I think there is a danger in having the gift of the working of miracles. The danger is in taking personal glory unto yourself for what God has done. Because if a person sees a miracle and you seem to be the instrument through which that miracle was accomplished, people are very ready to put you on some kind of pedestal. They look up to you in awe as some kind of mighty man of God. And there is a danger in accepting that adulation and that wonderment and awe of the people.



It is a very embarrassing thing when God uses you as His instrument and people seek to extol or exalt you. I really have been blessed of God. Yes, to a great extent I admit that. But I have actually had people come up and sort of touch me and say, "Can I touch you?" And I say, "Pet my dog. He appreciates it."

There is a danger any time God uses you as His instrument to do His work of love and grace in another person's heart and life. People want to respond to the instrument, many times, rather than to God. They are so grateful for what God has done; they want to reward the instrument that God used. And thus, unless a person had really come to the place in their own life where they do not have personal ambition or personal desires for glory, one of the worst things in the world would be for God to give to them the gift of working of miracles. It could absolutely destroy them. It is not an easy gift to have.

Derek Prince: Gift of Miracles

Healings and miracles are closely related; nevertheless, they are distinct. Perhaps it will be good just to begin by pointing out some differences between healings and miracles. Healings may be gradual. For instance, you may be healed of a disease like emphysema; it may take maybe hours or days or weeks. Often, too, healings are invisible. They take place in areas of the body which cannot be seen by the eye. On the other hand, miracles are normally visible. The result that they produce can normally be seen in some way. And frequently—they are not necessarily—they're instantaneous. So let's just make those two points. Healings may be gradual and are often invisible. Miracles are normally visible and frequently instantaneous.

However, the gifts of the Spirit are like the colors of the rainbow. They are distinct colors and yet they shade off, one into the other. And so, healings shades off into miracles, miracles shades off into healings and both of them, in turn, are in some way related to faith.

Let me give you examples of physical conditions that would require a miracle. For instance, if a person has had a middle ear removed by surgery. There's no way to heal a middle ear that isn't there. But I remember years back, in my ministry praying for a man—all he said to me was, "It's my ear." So, I prayed. Later I met him. I said, "How's your ear?" He said, "It's fine." I said, "Tell me, what was wrong with it?" He said, "I'd had the middle ear removed by surgery." He said, "I went back to the doctor to be checked up, who didn't know my problem and he told me I had a perfectly normal and healthy ear." Looking back, I was rather glad that I didn't know what I was praying for when I prayed because I think I didn't just question what God would do, I just released the power of God.

Again, a person may have a short leg or a short arm—say maybe even a couple of inches shorter than the other. Well, there's no way to heal a short leg or a short arm. It isn't a sickness. And yet, I can testify to the glory of God, I've seen hundreds of people whose legs and arms have been visibly and physically lengthened through the working of miracles.

Or, another example: A person may have a broken bone that was set crooked and is permanently crooked. You can't heal a broken bone but a miracle can straighten that broken bone. And, again, I've seen that happen on a number of occasions.

One of the interesting things about the working of miracles is that it often takes a specific, inspired act to release God's miracle-working power. There's a principle here that faith, without works, is dead. Faith must be expressed by some appropriate and corresponding act to be released. I'll give you an example from the ministry of Jesus. In John 9:1–3 & 6–7, it says:



“...as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him.’ When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to the man’s eyes. And said to him, ‘Go and wash in the pool of Siloam.’ (which is translated, Sent). And so he went away and washed, and came back seeing.”

Now, that was a miracle. Not just a healing. The man had never been able to see. His disease—his eyes were not diseased—they probably weren’t totally there. They may have been just empty sockets. And Jesus performed a very unusual action. He sat on the ground, made clay, and smeared the clay on the place where the man’s eyes should have been and told him to go and wash in a certain pool. In faith and obedience the man washed, and as a result of that act of obedience, the miracle-working power of God was released through the clay on his eyes and his eyesight came to him.

You might ask yourself, “Well, why did Jesus do something so unusual.” I cannot seek to explain everything, but what impresses me about that is that clay is the original material of creation. When God made man’s body in the first place, He formed it out of clay. And then the Spirit of life from God breathed into that clay and made it a living person. And I think when Jesus performed that miracle, he was serving notice on the people of His day, the creator is still with you. He took the original material of creation, put it on the man’s eyes, and when the man, by his act of faith and obedience, released the power of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit made out of that clay two perfect eyes.

What are some miracles from the Old and New Testament?

Discernment

Bibliography

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- [3] D. Prince, “The Effecting of Miracles | Podcast | Derek Prince Ministries.” <https://www.derekprince.com/radio/232> (accessed Nov. 17, 2021).



