

40 Days *WITH* the HOLY SPIRIT

Small Group Curriculum

Session Six THE POWER GIFTS (C)

The Gift of Working of Miracles

*I Corinthians 12:10 (nkjv) to another the **working of miracles**, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

Signs, Wonders and Miracles

- Peter declares that signs, wonders and miracles were present in the ministry of Jesus.

*“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by **miracles, wonders and signs**, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know.” Acts 2:22*

- Signs, wonders and miracles were present in the ministry of the apostle Paul.

*“When I was with you, I certainly gave you proof that I am an apostle. For I patiently did many **signs and wonders and miracles among you.**” 2 Corinthians 12:12*

- Signs, wonders and miracles together with the gifts of the Holy Spirit support and reinforce the Gospel of Salvation. (see *Hebrews 2:1-4*)

*^{3b}...This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴God also testified to it by **signs, wonders and various miracles**, and by **gifts of the Holy Spirit** distributed according to His will.*

We can define these three terms as: **Miracle** = power. **Sign** = direction. **Wonder** = worship.

Miracles = power

Dr Barry Chant defines a miracle as: “an inexplicable (unable to explain), dramatic, supernatural act of God that is both beneficial to the recipient and a sign to others of His glory, power and love”.

1 Corinthians 12:10 ... to another the working (GK: energema) of miracles (GK: dunamis)...

“Energema” - Energy, activity, effective working.

“Dunamis” - Ability power, a mighty force, strength.

A miracle is an ‘act of power’ by the Holy Spirit.

- It is clear from the Scriptures that various kinds of healing are classified as miracles.
- The Holy Spirit’s gift of healings and the gift of working of miracles work together.

These acts of power are promised to us through the Holy Spirit.

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you... acts 1:8

- A miracle is an effective demonstration of the love and power of God to do what is normally impossible to do!

Signs = direction

- When Jesus performed signs, they validated His powerful ministry.
- When others performed signs in His Name, they validated Jesus’ powerful influence in their ministries.

Acts 4:10 (ncv) “We want all of you and all the people to know that this man was made well by the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. You crucified Him, but God raised Him from the dead. This man was crippled, but he is now well and able to stand here before you because of the power of Jesus.”

- When people see and witness miracles, hopefully they are alerted to listen to the saving gospel of Jesus.
- Signs are still signs. We choose whether we will follow them or not?

Wonders = worship

- A miracle is a sign from God of His power.
- It is a sign that causes wonder and amazement in those who witness the miracle.

Mark 7:37 (nkjv) And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He (Jesus) has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.

- When Peter and John healed the lame man those who witnessed it.
...were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to Him. Acts 3:10 (nkjv)

Jesus said that miraculous signs would accompany the ministry of those who believe.

Mark 16:17-18 (nkjv) And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Jesus also declared that those who believe in Him would do even greater works than He – through the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:12 (nkjv) “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”

DISCUSSION

- Ask questions for clarification or provide comments from the teaching and discuss as a group.
- Share with your group examples of your own experience with a miracle/s.
- As a group, you may wish to discuss some of the points in the 'Further Study' section below to generate further discussion.

PRAYER

Please take time before you finish your discussion to pray for any needs that those in your group may have and in particular those who need healing or a miracle.

FURTHER STUDY

1. Miracles are not '*magic tricks*'

Compare Simon's magic tricks to the miracles of that followed Philip's preaching.

Acts 8:9-13 Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, 10: and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." 11: They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. 12: But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13: Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

2. Miracles are Beneficial

The result is always provision, health, safety, and encouragement etc.

1 Corinthians 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the **common good**.

1 Corinthians 14:12 So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that **build up the church**.

3. Miracles Always Honour God

Miracles should never honour or promote man. Compare the following Scriptures.

- Honouring Self

Acts 8:9 (niv) Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. **He boasted that he was someone great,**

- Honouring Jesus

Acts 3:16 (niv) 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.**

4. Miracles either awaken faith or confirm people in their unbelief

John 12:37 (niv) Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, **they still would not believe in Him.**

Ultimately, we must believe God's Word. For those who do not believe, no proof is possible; for those who do believe, no proof is necessary