

WHY PRAY AND BELIEVE FOR THE MIRACULOUS?

TODAY'S TEXT: Matthew 21:18-22
(Also Matt. 17:18-20; 1 Cor. 12; James 5)

TODAY'S THEME: Prayer for healing and miracles!

Why should we pray and believe for the miraculous to happen?

I. JESUS SAID TO ____ IT

- A. Exercise Your Faith In Christ
> Have faith and do not doubt
- Believers all have a _____ of faith

Matthew 17:18-20

Did Jesus really say, "Nothing will be impossible" and "If you believe, you will receive"? That sure sounds like 'word-faith' doctrine, no?

"Faith, of course, implies _____ to God's wishes, not simply acting on our own." -- Craig Keener, Matthew

> If our faith is in Christ alone, then that faith in action will be predicated upon the character of Jesus. Things go sideways when we inject personal beliefs into faith.

John 14:12-14 – "...they will do even greater things..."

Today: Use your mustard seed-sized faith and ask for 'mountains' to be moved in Jesus' Name!

Why should we pray and believe for the miraculous to happen?

II. THE _____ IS IN US

- A. His Attributes Include Miracles
> The same Lord who called us to do great things, gave us the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11

- > Faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers...
> The Holy Spirit is our _____ ! (Romans 8:11)

Why should we pray and believe for the miraculous to happen?

III. GOD'S WORD _____ US TO PRAY

- A. Prayer Is Powerful And Effective
> Most Christians are not _____

James 5:13-16

- > Bathe your faith in prayer and believe for God's best in you and through you!

CONCLUSION:

Present your needs to the Lord today as we will pray in faith and believe for Him to answer!

LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

“Believing and Praying for the Miraculous”

Scripturalness of Divine Healing:

> OLD TESTAMENT

Read **Exodus 15:25-26** together as a group and see where God made a covenant to Israel as their Healer (Jehovah Rapha).

Have others look up and read for the group other examples of healing:

- **1 Kings 17:17-24**
- **2 Kings 4:18-37**
- **2 Kings 5:1-15**
- **2 Kings 20:1-11**
- **Job 42:10-13**

> NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus freely and frankly presented himself as an object of faith to be sincerely believed. He participated in 27 instances of healing in the Gospels.

Have some group members share a favourite or memorable healing story from the New Testament.

Why is it memorable? How was faith in Jesus involved?

Read the two accounts of when Jesus sent out his disciples:

- **Mark 6:7-13**
- **Matthew 10:1-8**

What is indicative of God’s will to heal, not only a few, but many?

Read **Acts 3:1-10** to see the first Early Church healing.

That began a wave of healings and miracles recorded throughout the Book of Acts, and nothing has changed since those apostolic days as far as God’s provision for mankind.

He is still our Jehovah Rapha – the Lord who heals!

Pray for needs among your group members. **Pray** for big things. **Pray** for people you know who need a miracle. **Pray** with more boldness than you have had in the past. God’s Word is clear about His willingness to heal and to answer, so lay on hands and choose to put your faith into action with words of believing prayer... in Jesus’ Name!