



Message Five: Miracles *Pastor Mike Chapman*

The Bible is a book of miracles. In fact, the very existence of the Bible itself is a miracle. So, why is the subject of miracles so controversial?

In April 1995, **Time** magazine reported that 69% of Americans said they believed in miracles. Its articles go on to say, "Yet when the faithful are so eager to embrace the possibility of miracles in every day life, prominent American theologians are working furiously to disprove the miracles of the Bible." This just proves one thing: The people in the pews are smarter than most of those in the pulpit.

WHAT IS A MIRACLE?

We must begin by understanding the **providence** of God.

...the continuing action of God by which he is actively involved in preserving, sustaining, caring for, guiding and governing everything in creation, causing all things to achieve the purpose for which they were created.

Ephesians 1:11, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will.

Romans 8:28, We know that in all things God works together for good.

Two aspects of divine providence:

Ordinary acts of divine providence

Extraordinary acts of divine providence

A miracle is an extraordinary act of God's providence that is contrary to the normal course of events.

WHY DOES GOD PERFORM MIRACLES?

A miracle is a "**billboard** for God."

The most common term in the Bible for a miracle is **sign**.

Acts 2:42, Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

Mark 16:17, And these signs will accompany those who believe.

Miracles serve as a sign...

...to attract people to the **message** of Christ.

Acts 8:6, When the crowds saw the miraculous signs Philip did, they paid close attention to what he said.

...to accredit the **mission** of Christ.

Acts 2:22, Jesus was a man accredited by God to you through miracles, wonders and signs.

...to demonstrate the **authority** of Christ.

Luke 10:9, *Heal the sick and tell them 'The Kingdom of God is near you.'*

...to reveal the **character** of Christ.

Acts 10:38, *Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him.*

WHY I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES

I believe in miracles because I believe in **God**.

Psalm 77:13, 14, *What god is as great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.*

I believe in miracles because I believe God's **promises** are true.

Romans 4:21, *God has the power to do what he had promised.*

I believe in miracles because I believe Jesus has not **changed**.

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

I believe in miracles because I believe in **prayer**.

James 5:16, *Pray for each other that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

I believe in miracles because I believe **faith** works.

Mark 9:23, *Everything is possible for him who believes.*

I believe in miracles because I have **witnessed** them.

1 John 1:1-2, We heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands...We saw it happen! (Msg)