

MIRACLES?



Pastor, teacher, and author **Adrian Rogers** has introduced people all over the world to the love of Jesus Christ, and has impacted untold numbers of lives by presenting profound biblical truth with such simplicity that a 5-year-old can understand it, yet it still speaks to the heart of the 50-year-old.

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the broadcast ministry of Adrian Rogers
and remains the exclusive provider of his
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only reach non-Christians with the hope
of Jesus, but strengthen and encourage
everyday Christians in their faith as well.



DOES JESUS MIRACLES?

TRUTH WORTH SHARING

Following Jesus' last words of earthly instruction to us in Matthew 28:19, Love Worth Finding's *Truth Worth Sharing* collections are designed to be used both in your own personal growth and, more importantly, in your assignment to "Go therefore and make disciples..."

God can use you, with what you have, where you are. And He will supply your every need.

ADRIAN ROGERS

This booklet is taken from Adrian Rogers' message series *A Parade of Miracles Series* (CDAI21), available online at the link below.

lwf.org/products/a-parade-of-miracles-series



Are you looking for a miracle?

Have you ever considered the miracles Jesus did in the four Gospels, and asked, "Why don't I see Him walking on water today?"

If you look closely, you will see that God still works through people today to heal diseases and feed starving people. We see the Church at work meeting needs all over the world.

While this is often plausibly explainable in human terms, sometimes people are prayed for and experience healing that defies medical understanding. Sometimes people pray, disaster is mysteriously avoided, and we know that God has intervened.

Such stories are wonderful, and often captivating, but not every story ends with a supernatural healing or a storm that blows off course and misses populated areas. Even when Jesus was ministering on Earth, He didn't heal every sick individual or calm every blast of wind. That wasn't His mission. He came to make us not just eternally well but eternally HIS!

Just like the people who followed Him around Galilee because they were looking for miracles, if we focus our eyes on signs, wonders, and sensational events, we will miss the greater miracle: Jesus Himself.

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THE MIRACLE WORKER'S MISSION

The miracles Jesus did during His earthly ministry did more than meet immediate physical and emotional needs. They testified about who Jesus is, revealing His deity, His supremacy, and His power. They also demonstrated His mission and His ability to bring about the most astonishing feat of all—the regeneration of the human heart.

In this booklet, we're going to examine seven literal New Testament miracles. In each case, meeting the physical need was the lesser miracle; the greater miracle was Jesus' demonstration of His power and ability to meet a deeper spiritual need. These miracles show us that Jesus is the answer to all our questions and troubles in this life. Jesus Himself is the miracle that reverses disappointment, removes doubt, overcomes disability, fulfills desire, defeats despair, banishes darkness, and cancels death.

As you look at these miracles, and the metaphors behind them, you will see that they carry with them great transformative power for your life *right now*.

So, yes! Jesus still does miracles. Maybe He wants to do one, or more, in you today!



The Miracle That Reverses Disappointment

Jesus' first miracle, described in John 2, took place at a wedding in Cana, where Jesus turned water into wine. On the surface, one might think it was just a display of His power to perform miracles. But when we look deeper at the metaphor behind the miracle, we see that Jesus used this miracle to offer His followers abundant life.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ...And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" (John 2:1, 3-10).

The fact that He performed His first miracle at a wedding tells us that Jesus loves life's celebrations. The biblical accounts don't mention the identity of the bride and groom, so they were probably common people. Jesus loves ordinary people and cares enough to be involved in their day-to-day lives.

Jesus worked with six waterpots. In the Bible, six is the number for Man. Wine is symbolic of joy and strength. Jesus filled the pots to the brim with the best wine anyone had ever tasted. This is about Jesus offering abundant forgiveness and filling Man all the way up with joy and strength—with abundant life!

Part of that abundant life is collaborating *with* Jesus. The servants were in on the secret. He let them participate in the miracle...to be the bearers of joy!

The master of the feast remarked that it was odd for the bridegroom to offer the best wine last. Satan offers his best first—all the empty pursuits of this world that ultimately cause disappointment. But Jesus offers the best last—once we've had our

fill of what the world has to offer, we come to Him and He, Himself, is the wine that satisfies and never disappoints!

Jesus transformed worthless water into delicious wine, and He is still at work transforming human hearts today. This miracle was a demonstration of salvation that brings transformation!!!

If that doesn't reverse 100% of your disappointment today, consider that another wedding feast is coming.

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" (Revelation 19:7-9a).

The wine that the hosts served at the beginning of the wedding feast was their best, but it was inferior and limited because it would eventually run out. Through this miracle, Jesus demonstrated that He is a well of joy, marked not only by quality, but also by endless quantity. This is the abundant life we will enjoy *in eternity* with Jesus!



The Miracle That Removes Doubt

In John 4, we read the story of a wealthy, prestigious man and his dying son. This man had difficulty believing in Jesus. But Jesus stepped in and addressed the man's disappointments and his doubts.

When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"

Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!"

Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better.

And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household (John 4:47-53).

As we look at the metaphor behind this miracle, let's consider how Jesus helped this man overcome four doubt-filled obstacles to strong faith: second-hand faith, self-centered faith, strong-willed faith, and sign-demanding faith.

SECOND-HAND FAITH

When the nobleman first came to Jesus, everything he knew was hear-say and rumors that Jesus could perform miracles. "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'" (Matthew 16:13-15). Jesus requires that we develop our own faith.

SELF-CENTERED FAITH

"The nobleman said to Him, 'Sir, come down before my child dies!" (John 4:49). This man was interested in the physical, not the spiritual—in the temporal, not the eternal. Sometimes we are more concerned about our health, welfare, children, families, and future than we are about worshiping God. It is not a sin to ask for God's blessings, provision, and healing. But strong faith is primarily interested in glorifying God by living a life that pleases Him. Jesus knew

this, and had a plan to strengthen the man's faith, centering it on God and not on Himself.

STRONG-WILLED FAITH

The nobleman didn't ask Jesus to come and save his child; he demanded it. He started out treating Jesus like a servant who must obey him. Jesus did heal his child, but He did not submit to his demand to "come." Instead, Jesus told the nobleman, "Go your way; your son lives" (John 4:50). Jesus gave a command, and the nobleman was obedient. Weak faith is strong-willed and demanding. Strong faith waits upon God and listens to hear His will.

SIGN-DEMANDING FAITH

Jesus said he knew this man wouldn't believe unless he saw a miracle. "Then Jesus said to him, 'Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe" (John 4:48). When we demand signs, we don't take God at His Word. We make our faith conditional. We tell God to stoop to our level and prove Himself. Nothing is wrong with asking for a miracle; just don't make your faith conditional on seeing it happen.

The real miracle in this story is not what happened to the nobleman's son but what happened to the nobleman's faith. This miracle led him to a saving belief in Christ as the Messiah.

In a way that only Jesus can, He did something incredible in the nobleman's heart. His faith went from weak to strong. When Jesus told him that his son was healed, the man responded in faith. "Jesus said to him, 'Go your way; your son lives.' So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way" (John 4:50, emphasis added).

Because Jesus didn't give into his demands, the nobleman developed true faith and became captivated by the character of Jesus. We were not created to hunger after miracles, but to hunger for God Himself.

Jesus is not physically here to speak His Word to us like he did to the nobleman, but He has provided us with the living Word of God. When you read Scripture, you read Jesus' words for you. Read it, believe it, obey its precepts, and rest in its promises.

Jesus doesn't heal everybody physically, but He does save everybody who calls upon Him.



The Miracle That Overcomes Disability

Have you ever felt like you were in a position that you just couldn't get yourself out of? In Acts 3:1-10, Peter and John encountered someone who had no ability to change his situation.

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them-walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him (Acts 3:1-10).

This miracle could not be humanly explained. Peter acknowledged that there was no inherent power in him. He did not claim to be the one who healed the man; Peter gave glory instead to the power that is in the name of Jesus. Peter turned the attention away from this lame man, away from the apostles, and toward Jesus.

As a result of this miracle, about five thousand men, as well as unnumbered women and children, came to the Lord (see Acts 4:4). If you want to get a lot of people saved, don't try to reach a lot of people. Instead start reaching individuals. When someone is supernaturally transformed, it will touch multitudes.

When we look at the metaphor behind this miracle, we learn four things about Jesus who caused this man to rise and walk. As you examine these things, consider that Jesus wants to help you rise up over the circumstances of your life and walk.

JESUS IS THE RISEN LORD

Just a few weeks earlier, Peter had denied Jesus in front of a little girl (see Luke 22:56-57). Following this healing, in Acts 3, he was preaching in Solomon's portico, standing resolute in front of the Sanhedrin, the highest court of the Jewish land, and the chief priests, who had the civil authority to have him arrested. Why was he so bold? Once the disciples had seen Jesus Christ come out of the tomb, once they knew that He was alive, they could not be intimidated; they were absolutely certain Jesus was

the Prince of Life (see Acts 3:15.) The risen Lord has the power to make you rise and walk.

JESUS IS THE RESIDING LORD

He is active and present in our lives. Peter acknowledged this in his testimony before the court. "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all" (Acts 3:16). The Book of Luke was all that Jesus began to do and to teach. In the Book of Acts, we see all that Jesus continued to do and to teach, even after He ascended to Heaven. Peter said that he didn't do the miracle. It was done by the holy nature of Jesus Christ in these men. Jesus, who is alive, lives in you and has the power to make you whole.

JESUS IS THE REDEEMING LORD

This miracle went way beyond the healing of one man; it was a platform to preach salvation. "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it (crucified Christ) in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled" (Acts 3:17-18, words added for context). Jesus is the redeeming Lord; give Him the broken parts of your life.

JESUS IS THE RETURNING LORD

Look at what Peter says is coming. "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:19-21). Jesus was received into Heaven at the ascension. But He is coming again to restore all things.



The Miracle That Fulfills Desire

Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 in John 6 pointed to Jesus' unique ability to meet not only the common physical need of those in the multitude, hunger, but also the greatest spiritual need: the hunger to be made right with God.

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world" (John 6:1-14).

In this miracle, we see that no problem is too big for Jesus, that no person is too small to be used by Him, and that Jesus—the Bread of Life—eternally satisfies our souls.

The people had a problem: they were hungry and didn't have food. We often try to solve problems in our own strength. But problems are opportunities to run into God's strength. No matter how big your problem is, God is bigger.

When Jesus solves problems, He uses people. There was one small boy with a lunch. Jesus used this little boy in a bigger story that would display His glory for generations to come.

The big metaphor behind this miracle is that Jesus is the spiritual, supernatural, satisfying, sustaining Bread of Life. There is no hunger too deep for Jesus to satisfy.

JESUS IS THE SPIRITUAL BREAD

The miracle was not significant because Jesus fed 5,000 men (plus women and children), but because He showed that He could also meet the deepest spiritual hunger of hearts and minds. After Jesus fed the 5,000, He explained the miracle this way:

And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent" (John 6:25-29).

Jesus taught them that they needed to shift their focus from what was temporary to what was eternal. They needed spiritual bread—salvation in Christ.

JESUS IS THE SUPERNATURAL BREAD

The 5,000 thought they needed another miracle. They came to Jesus looking for manna from Heaven. But their spiritual need was greater than their physical need.

Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" (John 6:30-33).

Jesus never did miracles as publicity stunts; He performed miracles to teach spiritual lessons. This crowd had just watched Jesus supernaturally provide food for them that temporarily satisfied their physical hunger, but they also had a deep spiritual hunger that needed to be satisfied supernaturally.

JESUS IS THE SATISFYING BREAD

People search everywhere for satisfaction by feasting on power, reputation, and status. But they will never be truly satisfied until they find salvation in Christ. Physical bread satisfies us for a few hours, but Jesus is our only eternal satisfaction. Jesus is the complete fulfillment of our spiritual hunger; we don't need to seek anything else. We don't need a miracle, a denomination, a church membership, a creed, or a code. Those things enrich our lives, but they don't save us, and they don't satisfy like Jesus.

JESUS IS THE SUSTAINING BREAD

If people could purchase a magic pill that would keep them in perfect health for 125 years, people would spend their life's savings on it. But we have something better; Jesus is our eternal sustenance. He gives us eternal life.

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world" (John 6:47-51).

Jesus fed the 5,000 to teach them that He was the true bread of life. They could have physical bread that satisfied them for a little while, but through Christ, they could have spiritual bread that would satisfy them forever.



The Miracle That Defeats Despair

We all have a companion we may not recognize as a friend. This "friend" causes us to draw closer to Jesus, gives us more strength, and gives us the opportunity to develop a mature faith. His name is "Trouble."

After Jesus fed the 5,000, He used a moment of trouble to teach the disciples a valuable lesson.

Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going (John 6:16-21).

Jesus taught the disciples six valuable lessons, through a literal storm, that we can also learn from in our metaphorical storms today. The metaphor behind the miracle is that Jesus is the answer to your despair.

YOU ARE GOVERNED BY HIS PROVIDENCE

The storm did not take Jesus by surprise. He was the one who created the Sea of Galilee in the beginning. Psalm 107:25 says, "For He commands and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea." Jesus knew the storm was coming. In fact, He commanded His disciples to sail into the coming storm.

YOU ARE GROWING BY HIS PLAN

The Lord Jesus engineered the storm for His disciples because He wanted to develop them. The difficult moments grow us into stronger Christians.

YOU ARE GRACED BY HIS PRAYERS

When Jesus sent the disciples across the Sea of Galilee, He had a vantage point from the top of the mountain. He saw the storm brewing. He saw them rowing, toiling, and growing distressed as the waves swelled. As He watched them, He prayed for them.

And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray. Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them (Mark 6:46-48a).

YOU CAN BE GLADDENED BY HIS PRESENCE

Jesus came and dispelled the disciples' fears.

Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid" (Mark 6:48b-50).

Jesus came to them between 3:00 AM and 6:00 AM (see Matthew 14:25). It was dark, and they were exhausted and frightened. Jesus could have come sooner, but He wanted to teach them to trust Him. They had just watched Jesus perform multiple miracles, yet they didn't trust that He was bigger than the storm. Jesus strategically waited to come to them in order to deepen their faith. The problem was not that Jesus had forgotten the disciples, but that the disciples had forgotten Him.

YOU ARE GUARDED BY HIS POWER

Jesus was so powerful that even the wind and the waves obeyed Him. As the waves crashed against the disciples' boat, they were terrified. They didn't know what was going to happen. Suddenly, a figure appeared out of the mist. "But He said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid" (John 6:20). In the Greek translation, Jesus literally said, "I AM" as He approached the disciples. He used the powerful name Jehovah.

YOU ARE GUIDED BY HIS PURPOSE

God did not promise you smooth sailing; He promised you a safe landing. After Jesus sent the disciples out into the storm and came to them, He brought an end to their tumultuous journey. "Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going" (John 6:21). Jesus suspended the law of gravity and overruled the laws of time and space when He brought them to the shore. He had a purpose in their trouble, and He accomplished it.

If you are tempted to despair, remember, Jesus governs you by His providence, grows you by His plan, graces you with His prayers, gladdens you with His presence, guards you by His power, and guides you by His purpose. That sounds pretty miraculous!



The Miracle That Banishes Darkness

When light enters a darkened space, darkness immediately gives way; there is no coexistence. Jesus is the light of the World. When He enters the human heart, darkness is banished; one day, the entire world will be illuminated.

In John 9, Jesus miraculously healed a blind man to demonstrate that He is the light of the world—the cure for our spiritual blindness.

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated,

Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing (John 9:1-7).

God used the blind beggar as an illustration of Man without a Savior. The beggar was physically blind, but spiritual blindness makes beggars of us all.

When the Lord went out of Adam's spirit, the life went out (see John 1:4). When the life went out, the light went out and darkness entered.

Every man and woman has the nature of Adam; we are born separated from God in spirit. Each of us is spiritually blind until we accept the light of Jesus into our spirits through salvation. We are naturally depraved, dead, and darkened without Christ. You don't have to be a murderer, a bank robber, or an arsonist to be lost; you just have to be separated from God. The Bible makes this clear: "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5).

You might see physical, material things, but you cannot see true, spiritual things without Jesus. In this miraculous story, Jesus healed both the man's physical and spiritual blindness.

After Jesus revealed Himself as the Light of the World, He anointed the man's eyes with clay. The clay represented the man's humanity, weakness, and dependence on God. God made Adam from the clay (see Genesis 2:7), and Jesus sealed the blind beggar's eyes with clay, which blocked out the light.

Then the Lord told the blind man to wash in the pool of Siloam, which means "sent." John showed us why this was significant by recording Jesus' defense of His actions to the Pharisees. In John 8:23, Jesus made it clear that He was sent by the Father: "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world." Jesus further explained, "And He who sent Me is with Me" (John 8:29a).

Jesus said that He must do the work of the One who sent Him. In the same way that Jesus sent the blind beggar to wash in the pool of Siloam, God sent Jesus into the world.

Once healed, the man could see physically, but not yet spiritually. Opened eyes can perceive the light, but they must learn to see. The formerly blind man was still ignorant of the fullness of who Jesus was. When the man shared what happened, he was cast out of the synagogue because the spiritually blind Jewish leaders were afraid that others would follow Jesus. But consider how Jesus responded when He heard this:

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him (John 9:35-38).

The Pharisees shut the man out, but Jesus sought him out. They were the blight of the world, but Jesus was the light of the world. Not only did Jesus want the man to know who He was, but He also wanted the man to believe. He pursued this man so that He would be saved.

When God saves someone, it's a process. God brought the blind man through a progression of understanding. First, he just thought Jesus was a man who could perform miracles. Then, he thought He was a prophet. Finally, he determined that Jesus

must be sent from God. Then he had a personal encounter with Jesus that gave him spiritual sight. He experienced the miracle that banishes darkness.



The Miracle That Cancels Death

Scripture records three instances in which Jesus raised a person from the dead. The first was when a ruler came and asked Jesus to resurrect his sickly daughter (see Matthew 9:18-26). The second was when Jesus came to a funeral and resurrected the only son of a widow (see Luke 7:11-17). The third resurrection miracle was when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (see John 11).

Each person was physically dead. But there are people all around us who are worse than these three; they are physically alive but spiritually dead. The only thing that brings eternal life is salvation in Christ. Eternal, abundant life can't be gained by anything we can accomplish on our own, but by receiving life from the death of Christ. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead to teach us that we can only experience true life through the saving power of Jesus Christ.

And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and

his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go" (John 11:41b-44).

The Word of God is the only way to spiritually raise a man from the dead. God's Word raised Lazarus from the dead, and it is what raises us to eternal life today.

Jesus said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

The miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus was about teaching us that Jesus Christ is the resurrection; we will live eternally if we are alive spiritually—but it is also about teaching us that Jesus Christ is the life, the abundant life, we can live NOW.

When Lazarus first came out of the grave, he was alive but still covered in the stench and clothes of death.

And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go" (John 11:44).

When you get saved, you need to let go of the grave clothes of your old life: "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:32, 36).

The ministry of the Church is to call the spiritually dead into abundant life and to unwrap the saints from sin, to help them flee sinful desires and to know what a righteous life looks like. Sanctification is a constant progression of becoming more like Christ, and it's not something we can do alone. Just like Lazarus needed help shedding the grave clothes, we need to

help one another let go of our old patterns that keep us trapped in a cycle of sin.

Lazarus shed his grave clothes and then sat face to face with Jesus, simply enjoying His presence.

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him (John 12:1-2).

To live life abundantly, you must enjoy love for Jesus. This means that you spend time with Him and with others who love Him. Jesus wants to fellowship with all those who invite Him into their lives.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me (Revelation 3:20).

Relationship with our Creator, our Savior, our King, this is the miracle that cancels death...even while we are still physically alive!!!



Still Looking for a Miracle?

Jesus did not come to heal physical wounds or even raise people from the dead; He came to save souls.

Jesus turned water into wine because the wines of this world run out while He gives joy that is full and free forever. Jesus is at work despite our doubts! When we can't do what we need to do to be made whole, Jesus heals our brokenness and becomes our strength. Jesus fed the 5,000 to show us that His grace meets our deepest needs and desires. Jesus walked on water to show that everything over our heads is already under His feet. Jesus healed physically blind eyes so that we could recognize our inability to see spiritual truth. He opens our spiritual eyes so that we can be in relationship with Him. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead to show us that He is the resurrection and the life. He knew that what was eternal was more important than what was temporary.

No sign, wonder, or supernatural display will suffice. No physical asset, whether excellent health, material wealth, or a good reputation, is more important than a relationship with Jesus.

The miracle you're looking for is the Miracle Worker!

You can invite Him into your life by praying something like this:

God, I know that You came to give me life, and life abundant. I confess that I have previously rejected You, preferring my own sinful life-governance over your life-giving presence. I turn from my old ways. Please forgive me, live in me, and help me to obey You always, to live for You as my Lord and my Savior, and to grow closer to You day by day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with your pastor or another Christian you know. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to https://linearchy.com/helieve.



Want More About Miracles?



This booklet was developed from messages preached by Pastor Adrian Rogers. You can listen to the complete messages at www.lwf.org/series/audio/a-parade-of-miracles.



Listen to a past interview with Adrian Rogers called a Biblical Perspective on Miracles which contains his insights on the seven miracles presented in the Book of John at www.lwf.org/interview-series.

ADDITIONAL BOOKLETS

BY ADRIAN ROGERS

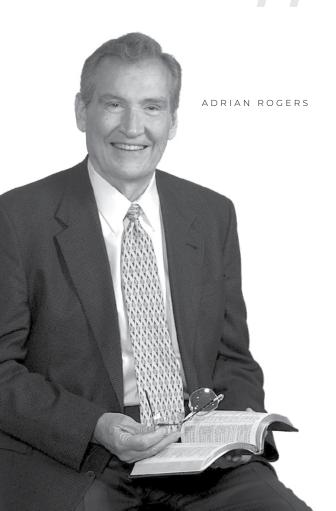
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K184	Innocent Blood

Discipleship

K185

Point people to Scripture and then get out of the way.



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In today's fast-paced, self-focused world, it's difficult to find quality biblical teaching, let alone teaching that simplifies profound truth so it can be applied to everyday lives. At Love Worth Finding, we understand that struggle and seek to help Christians grow deeper in their faith through the timeless teachings of pastor and teacher Adrian Rogers.

We are dedicated to making the plainspoken, biblical wisdom he shared throughout his lifetime easy to access for non-Christians as well as new and long-time believers. Our desire is for all people to strengthen their relationships with God as we spread the Gospel of Jesus.

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