

## How is God With Us Today?

Why doesn't God perform miracles today like we read about in Scripture? That's a popular question, and I don't believe that he doesn't, but I do know that He performs miracles His way and not our way. Everything He does is for our good and our salvation. The problem is that people today are like the people in the Old & New Testaments. They want God to perform miracles to prove Himself to them. I occasionally hear people saying, "If only God would perform some miracle, some sign, or wonder, then I would believe." Many, even in the Bible, when God did perform a miracle, it really didn't make their faith any stronger.

Stop and think ... the same people who saw God part the Red Sea, later doubted whether God was able to give them food or water in the desert or conquer the inhabitants of the Promised Land. Jesus performed countless miracles, healed the sick, changed water into wine, fed 5,000 people with a few fish and biscuits, stopped a storm, walked on the water, yet the vast majority of people loved the miracles, but didn't believe in Him.

It's really no different today. Isn't it true God is still performing miracles today? We hear of cancer patients who couldn't be cured with any of today's treatments, but they're miraculously cured or lives are miraculously saved in terrible accidents. These miracles, however, are not the stuff on which we are to depend and place our faith. We rather depend on God's promises! We put our trust in His promises of unconditional love, forgiveness, strength, patience and peace even in times of trouble, illness and calamity. Sadly, people are amazed and perhaps even thankful for a while, but then they forget how God intervened in their lives.

There's something even more sad. We know that many of His miracles simply go unnoticed or they are denied. It's even more personal: Faith itself is a miracle and believers in Jesus know that whatever He does in our lives, the greatest miracle is that we'll live forever with Him because we believe in Him. Our faith is not based on special miracles, it's based on the miraculous life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as God's gift of grace to all who believe.

God performed miracles in the Old Testament and Jesus performed miracles in the New Testament because the miracles were specific events to testify that God was uniquely in the world to save it. The miracles then were not extraordinary gifts because people had earned them or had deserved them, but to prove to the people that it was God who was

working among them in the person of Jesus.

Jesus was God in the flesh, among humanity to save humanity. Therefore, all the Old Testament miracles pointed to Him. The miracles that He performed testified that He was the Messiah who was come into the world to save it. Just listen to Acts 2:22, "***Men of Israel, listen to this. Jesus of Nazareth is a man accredited to you by God with mighty works, wonders, and signs.***" So, these miracles were done to prove that God was God, Jesus was the Son of God, and the Father's work of sending his Son was the work to save the world. Therefore, we have no need of miracles to prove this. We now have all these miracles recorded for us in Scripture and the purpose of that writing is to point us to Jesus who is the greatest miracle of all. The message of Jesus has already been attested to, and accurately recorded in Scripture. The foundation of our faith is not the miracles that are performed, but the miracle, Jesus Christ who came to perform the miracle of our salvation. Knowing that, there's really no reason why we would need miracles today for God to prove himself. He's already done it and He's recorded it all for us to read in the Scriptures.

God still does perform miracles. There are times He alleviates suffering miraculously, protects miraculously, but even if that doesn't happen, He promises to never leave us, not forsake us, and literally resurrect us to an eternal life with Him where there'll be no more pain, sorrow, or death, and that miracle is certain for everyone today, everyone who believes. His miracles in the past pointed to Jesus. His Word today has the same power. Our faith is centered on Jesus and all that He has done for us.

That's the View from Here.

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