

Introduction to Miracles

Jeremiah 32:17, 27

Verse 17 is the beginning of a prayer by Jeremiah to God and verse 27 is the beginning of God's answer to Jeremiah. I wanted to start with these two verses because they express truth that we want to keep in mind. God has great power and there is nothing that is too hard for God. We want to keep that in mind because we are going to look at the working of miracles in God's Word.

First a disclaimer: whenever we discuss one of the manifestations of the spirit (listed in I Corinthians 12:8-10), it can be easy to overlook the truth that the manifestations are designed to work together and not separately. We really can't discuss working of miracles without also considering (at least) the revelation manifestations and the manifestation of believing.

There are many things that are called miracles today (the miracle on ice, Miracle-Gro, Miracle Ear, etc.) Sometimes you will hear people refer to anything that seems to work out in their favor as a miracle. We are going to see that in God's Word, miracles are preceded by information and instructions from God (revelation manifestations) and brought to fruition by the manifestation of believing. They are instantaneous supernatural manifestations in the natural realm – not contrary to natural law but from a higher law.

Excerpt from *The Bible Tells Me So* chapter 3, "Are You Limiting God?":

"We have been so schooled to revere the knowledge that comes to us through our five senses that we fail to recognize the knowledge that comes from the higher realm, the spiritual, where the Word of God and not reason, has first place.....The truths of the spiritual world are absolutely not dependent upon the senses, but rather on the spirit of God in man."

To begin to see some of this, let's read a record from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 1:26-33

There is no promise in the written Word of God that when a young woman reaches marriage age and gets engaged, that she will receive revelation knowledge about a future child. This was a revelation specifically to and for Mary. Since this occurred before the Day of Pentecost, the gift of holy spirit was not yet available. God had to do something to get this information to Mary so that she could receive it by her five senses. But it was still a revelation from God. And this information from God to her did not seem possible to Mary and she expressed this in verse 34.

Luke 1:34

Before a woman becomes pregnant and brings forth a child, she must first engage in certain activities with a man (preferably her husband). Mary knew that she had not engaged in these activities with any man so how could it be that she would conceive and bear a son? The angel Gabriel explained to her.

Luke 1:35-38

Gabriel's explanation was that God, the Holy Spirit, was going to bring this to pass. It would be an instantaneous supernatural action in the realm of the natural. In verse 37, the word "nothing" is translated from a Greek word that refers to a spoken word. It could be translated "not anything spoken" or "not anything declared". Nothing that is declared by God is impossible – He backs up His Word.

Luke 1:38

This was Mary's response to the information (from God) presented by the angel. When she said "be it unto me according to thy word", Mary was accepting the spiritual information that came from God instead of the information that was from her senses (that she had not known a man). This is believing.

Did Mary become pregnant? She certainly did.

Did she bring forth a son? She certainly did.

Is he all that the Word of God says he would be? He certainly is.

This passage sets for us a basic pattern for the working of miracles. Information specific to the situation comes from God. This information may seem impossible to the five senses, but this information from God is accepted over the information

from the five senses. Then God, with a supernatural intervention in the natural world, brings His Word to pass. Let's look at some other examples.

Exodus 14:15, 16, 21, 22

Moses accepted and acted upon the information that came from God in verses 15 and 16 (word of knowledge, word of wisdom, manifestation of believing) and God caused the sea to go back by an east wind and the children of Israel went through on dry ground in verses 21 and 22.

Joshua 6:2-5, 12-16, 20

Joshua received information and instructions from God in verses 2 – 5 (word of knowledge, word of wisdom). He accepted it and carried it out exactly as verses 12 – 16 show us (manifestation of believing). The promised result came to pass (working of miracles) in verse 20.

I Kings 17: 2-6

Elijah received information and instructions from God (word of knowledge, word of wisdom). He accepted it and carried it out exactly (manifestation of believing) and the promised result came to pass (working of miracles).

Again, we see the basic pattern for the working of miracles. Information specific to the situation comes from God via the revelation manifestations. This information may seem impossible to the five senses, but this information from God is accepted over the information from the five senses by the manifestation of believing. Then God, with a supernatural intervention in the natural world, brings His Word to pass and the result is the miracle.