

Outline

- I. The same principle of learning to walk in blessings rather than beg for miracles is also true in the area of finances.
 - A. There are laws that God created about how provision works.
 - B. The Lord said that He would bless the work of your hands (Deut. 28:8 and 12).
 - C. If you set your hand to something, God can multiply that.
 - D. But don't settle for less than God's best.
 - E. Start believing God to be a producer and a contributor.

- II. We shouldn't have this mindset of not needing to work.
 - A. Looking back, I realize now that I wasn't cooperating with God's laws:

Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:14
 - B. Since I wasn't ministering to anybody, I shouldn't have expected to "live of the Gospel."
 - C. Jamie and I lived from miracle to miracle.
 - D. After moving to Colorado, I was driving and thinking about all of these things and said, "God, we used to see miracles all the time. We'd have to pray every day or else we didn't eat. But now it's been decades since I've had a miracle. It's been a long time since I've had to lay hands on our car and see it run without gas, or since we've been hungry and received a miraculous provision of groceries."
 - E. Then the Lord spoke to me, asking, "Would you like to go back to those days?"
 - F. I answered, "No, Sir."
 - G. If you are going to live from miracle to miracle, you're going to be living from crisis to crisis.

Living in God's Best

- H. There aren't only natural, physical laws; there are also spiritual laws, such as those in the financial realm:
 - 1. What you set our hands unto, He'll bless (Deut. 28:8).
 - 2. If you don't work, you don't eat (2 Thess. 3:10).
 - 3. A hundred times zero is zero (Gen. 26:12).
 - I. The miracles may give you provision when you need it, but if the root of your financial problem remains, then you're going to need another miracle next month and next year because you aren't learning to cooperate and flow with the laws of God.
 - J. You learn what the Word of God says about how to prosper and you just put it into practice.
 - K. The spiritual laws God created are for your good.
- III. Walking in the blessing of God requires your cooperation.
- A. You have to access it by faith.
 - B. Receiving a miracle, on the other hand, is basically dependent on how desperate you are.
 - C. If you don't give up or quit and you're still looking to God, you can have a supernatural intervention, but it's going to be after a crisis.
- IV. In contrast to a blessing, a miracle is only temporary; it's never going to become your norm.
- A. When you get a miracle—a temporary intervention—God's going to eventually return everything back to the natural, spiritual laws.
 - B. This is what happens with some people when they get cancer or some other disease.
 - C. In the natural, it's a life-or-death situation, so they have a surge of faith, believe God, and get miraculously healed.
 - D. But whatever it was that allowed the illness to come in—wrong thinking,

unforgiveness, bitterness, or whatever (there are multiple things that can cause this)—isn't dealt with.

- E. They leave the root intact, and over time, the physical ailment comes back with a vengeance.

V. By far, the longest miracle recorded in the Bible is the miracle of the manna (Ex. 16).

A. God's people were in a desert, and there wasn't any food to eat.

B. God granted them this manna, and it was absolutely supernatural:

Man did eat angels' food.

Psalm 78:25

C. But it was temporary and lasted only during those forty years in the wilderness (Josh. 5:10-12).

VI. Here's another difference between a blessing and a miracle: a miracle is always just enough to get you by.

A. Manna met a need, but it wasn't an abundance.

B. Contrast this with the Promised Land: there, they had all kinds of fruit and meat available to eat.

C. The blessing of God comes through natural things:

1. It grows and takes time.

2. You have to plant a seed and then weed and water it.

3. This takes some effort.

VII. God's plan is for you to live in the blessing.

A. The blessing is more abundant and prevents a crisis, whereas a miracle occurs in response to a crisis.

B. The blessing isn't temporary; it's eternal.

Living in God's Best

- C. Later in this book, I'll show you that once you access the blessings of God, you cannot reverse it, and Satan can't stop it.
- D. God gives you miracles because He loves you so much, He's trying to help you.
- E. But you need a miracle because you've been violating spiritual or natural laws.

VIII. Miracles should be for other people, like those who are just coming to the Lord who don't know how to walk in the blessing yet.

- A. They haven't gotten their hearts right and lives conformed to the Word yet.
- B. They aren't walking in joy.
- C. They still have bitterness and unforgiveness.
- D. However, if you understand what is being shared, you ought to get to a place where you say, "God, help me to never need another miracle in my life. Father, teach me what I need to know so that I can walk in Your blessing and prevent crisis. And as I live in the abundance of Your blessing, make me a vessel through whom You can bring miracles to others who need them. Amen."

Discipleship Questions

1. The same principle of learning to walk in blessings rather than beg for miracles is also true in the area of what?
 - A. Cleaning house
 - B. Ordering takeout
 - C. Finances
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

2. According to Deuteronomy 28:8 and 12, what did the Lord say He would do?

3. *Discussion question:* How has the principle of being a producer and a contributor played out in your life?

4. According to 1 Corinthians 9:14, “*they which _____ the gospel should _____ of the gospel.*”

5. True or false: If you are going to live from miracle to miracle, you’re not going to be living from crisis to crisis.

6. What are some spiritual laws (Deut. 28:8, 2 Thess. 3:10, and Gen. 26:12)?

7. The miracles may give you provision when you need it, but if the root of your financial problem _____, then you’re going to need _____ miracle next month and next year because you aren’t _____ to cooperate and flow with the laws of God.

Living in God's Best

8. The spiritual laws God created are for _____ .
9. Walking in the blessing of God _____ your cooperation.
- A. Requires
 - B. Eliminates
 - C. Diminishes
 - D. Replaces
 - E. Multiplies

10. What do you have to access by faith?

11. True or false: If you don't give up or quit and you're still looking to God, you can have a supernatural intervention, but it's going to be before a crisis.

12. In contrast to a blessing, a miracle is what?

13. *Discussion question:* Share a story about a miracle you or someone you know has experienced.

14. How long did the miracle of the manna last?

15. What is another difference between a blessing and a miracle?

16. True or false: There was abundance in the Promised Land.

17. The blessing of God comes through what natural things?

18. The blessing _____ a crisis, whereas a miracle occurs in _____ to a crisis.

- A. Produces / route
- B. Postpones / relation
- C. Prolongs / respect
- D. Prevents / response
- E. Patterns / revolt

19. Why does God give you miracles?

- A. Because He knows He will make you pay for it later
- B. Because He wants to appear as good sometimes
- C. Because you caught Him at just the right time
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

20. True or false: If you need a miracle, it's because you've been violating spiritual or natural laws.

21. True or false: Miracles should be for people who have been saved for a while.

22. *Discussion question:* What will you do to start walking in the blessing of God?

Scriptures

DEUTERONOMY 28:8

The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

DEUTERONOMY 28:12

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:14

Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

ACTS 18:3

And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:10

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

GENESIS 26:12

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

PSALM 78:25

Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

JOSHUA 5:10-12

And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. [11] And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day. [12] And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

NUMBERS 21:5

And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

NUMBERS 13:23

And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs.