

Outline

- I. God has different ways of getting His supply to us.
 - A. The two primary ways He uses are blessings and miracles.
 - B. Most Spirit-filled believers—those who speak in tongues and understand that God is real, supernatural, and can do anything—have a tendency to go for the miracles.
 - C. Miracles are for other people (unbelievers) primarily.
 - D. Jesus used miracles like a bell to draw people to Himself, arrest their attention, and confirm His preaching.
 - E. More of the supernatural miracles of God are needed in our services to help encourage people and show them that God is real.
 - F. But our lives aren't going to be sustained off miracles.
 - G. God wants us to walk in blessings because blessings are better than miracles in the long term.

- II. By definition, a miracle is an event that supersedes or suspends natural laws.
 - A. Miracles are supernatural.
 - B. When God created the heavens and the earth, He also spoke into being the natural laws that govern them (Gen. 1:3-5 and 31).
 - C. Unfortunately, the world has been influenced by unbelievers to such a degree that even Christians think that creation evolved, that the earth and the heavens “just happened” naturally.
 - D. When God said, “*Let there be light*” (Gen. 1:3), “*Let the dry land appear*” (Gen. 1:9), and “*Let the earth bring forth...the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself*” (Gen. 1:11), He had already spent much time thinking about these things and conceiving them in His heart—perhaps even eons.
 - E. When He spoke, His words encapsulated everything that He had been thinking and brought those things into being.

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- F. I believe that God thought creation through all the way down to the tiniest detail, the smallest cell and atom.
- G. So, when He supersedes or suspends these natural laws that He created, it's an exception, a miracle.
- H. Miracles aren't the way God really intended for you to live.
- I. He wants you to learn how to operate within the natural laws of creation.

III. Choosing to rejoice does our souls and bodies good:

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Proverbs 17:22

- A. This is one of God's laws in creation.
- B. He created us for fellowship with Him and to be full of joy: "*In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore*" (Ps. 16:11).
- C. Stress, worry, fear, and care are all a result of the Fall.
- D. Medical science has recognized that stress shuts down the immune system, making people susceptible to all kinds of things.
- E. But if we walk in joy with the presence of the Lord, our merry hearts will be like medicine.
- F. Many sicknesses and health conditions won't be able to stay in our bodies when we cooperate with this law God has spoken.

IV. Exodus 20:12 says that if we honor our fathers and mothers, it will prolong our days and cause us to live long in the land that God has given us.

- A. Ephesians 6:2-3 confirms this:

Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) [3] That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

- B. Yet there are many people who are rebellious and don't respect their parents.
- C. I'm not saying that our parents did everything right, but we can still choose to honor them.
- D. The quality of a person's health is linked directly to whether or not they honor their father and mother.
- E. Unfortunately, researchers don't factor this in because they're only looking for physical, tangible things.
- F. There's great benefit to cooperating with God's laws in creation.

V. God's Word is life and health:

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. [21] Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. [22] For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Proverbs 4:20-22

- A. Having a merry heart, honoring our parents and elders, and studying the Word of God are all major factors contributing to good health.
- B. Our humanistic world doesn't consider spiritual things, so they focus on diet, exercise, and other natural things—which is a part of overall health—while ignoring and overlooking these more important factors.
- C. They're majoring on minors and completely missing the majors.
- D. God fashioned our bodies to function a certain way.
- E. When our hearts are full of stress, fear, worry, unforgiveness, and bitterness, God's whole system is corrupted.
- F. But if we walk in joy, peace, and freedom, meditating in the Word and keeping our minds stayed on God, we would discover that the blessing of God would flow (Is. 26:3).
- G. Everything in life would work so much better!

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- VI. The church has twisted prayer into something it was never intended to be.
- A. Prayer is primarily relationship with God.
 - B. Granted, there is a place to intercede for others and rebuke the devil, but that should constitute a very small percentage of your prayer life.
 - C. Prayer ought to be loving God, thanking Him, and fellowshiping together.
 - D. Do you realize that Adam and Eve didn't have anything to pray for?
 - E. They probably met with God every day and said, "Thank You for this beautiful day. It's awesome! I just saw some trees today that I have never seen before. I ate fruit from them and saw animals near them. God, You are awesome!"
- VII. If you fellowship with God, you'll find that things work supernaturally.
- A. But if you aren't walking in what God has instructed in His Word and you're stressed out, miserable, bitter, in strife, and full of unforgiveness, then you'll have all kinds of problems.
 - B. If you are walking in love, joy, and peace, you won't need a miracle.
 - C. God loves you so much that He will supply miracles for you, but if you learn how to cooperate and walk in the blessings, you wouldn't even need miracles.

Discipleship Questions

1. What are two primary ways God gets His supply to you?

2. Why did Jesus use miracles?

3. *Discussion question:* Since blessings are better than miracles, why are miracles needed?

4. What is a miracle?

5. When God created the heavens and the earth, He also spoke into being the natural laws that _____ them (Gen. 1:3-5 and 31).

6. When God supersedes or suspends these natural laws that He created, what is it?
- A. A violation
 - B. An anomaly
 - C. An exception
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

Living in God's Best

7. Since miracles aren't the way God really intended for you to live, what does He want?

8. True or false: According to Proverbs 17:22, choosing to rejoice does your soul and body good.

9. *Discussion question:* How has this law operated in your life?

10. _____, _____, _____, and _____ are all a result of the Fall.

11. If you walk in joy with the presence of the Lord, what will your merry heart be like?

- A. Venom
- B. Honey
- C. Music
- D. Medicine
- E. Mush

12. If you honor your father and mother, it will _____ your days and cause you to live _____ in the land that God has given you (Ex. 20:12 and Eph. 6:2-3).

13. True or false: If your parents did something wrong, you shouldn't honor them.

14. There's great _____ to _____ with God's laws in creation.

15. According to Proverbs 4:20-22, God's Word is what?

- A. Love and grace
- B. Tedious and irrelevant
- C. Yes and amen
- D. Life and health
- E. Harsh and condemning

16. What three things are major factors contributing to good health?

17. *Discussion question:* Why is it important to major on the majors?

18. If you walk in joy, peace, and freedom, meditating in the Word and keeping your mind stayed on God, you would discover that the blessing of God does what (Is. 26:3)?

19. True or false: Intercession for others and rebuking the devil should constitute a large percentage of your prayer life.

20. Prayer ought to be _____ God, _____ Him, and _____ together.

21. True or false: If you are walking in love, joy, and peace, you won't need a miracle.

22. *Discussion question:* How do you plan to better cooperate with God's natural laws?

Scriptures

MATTHEW 14:22-33

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. [23] And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. [24] But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. [25] And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. [26] And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. [27] But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. [28] And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. [29] And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. [31] And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? [32] And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. [33] Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

GENESIS 1:3-5

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. [4] And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. [5] And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

GENESIS 1:31

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

GENESIS 1:9

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

GENESIS 1:11

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

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GENESIS 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

PROVERBS 17:22

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

PSALM 16:11

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

EXODUS 20:12

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

EPHESIANS 6:2-3

Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) [3] That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

PROVERBS 4:20-22

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. [21] Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. [22] For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

PSALM 107:20

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

ISAIAH 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.