

Grace and Miracles

Luke 4:22-30 leads us to make 3 helpful comments about miracles:

1. Miracles are hindered by _____, verses 16, 20-24, 29

(Mark 6:5-6) "Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. {6} And He marveled because of their unbelief. ..."

(Philippians 4:13) "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

(Romans 1:21-25) "because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. {22} Professing to be wise, they became fools, {23} and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man; and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. {24} Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, {25} who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."

2. Miracles are granted by _____, verses 25-27

(1 Kings 17:7-16) "And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

{8} Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, {9} "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." {10} So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." {11} And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." {12} So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." {13} And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. {14} "For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'" {15} So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.

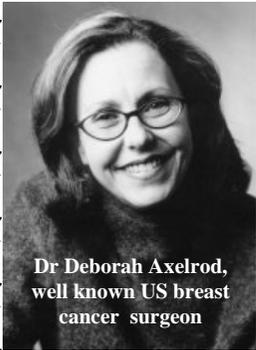
{16} The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah."

(2 Kings 5:1) "Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and



honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper."

(2 Kings 5:9-15) "Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. {10} And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." {11} But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' {12} "Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. {13} And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" {14} So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. {15} And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; ..."



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(2 Kings 5:17) "... your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD."
(Matthew 5:45) "... makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

3. Even when miracles are granted the _____ do not _____ them, verses 28-30

(John 5:17) "... My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

(Deuteronomy 28:64) "... Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, ..."

(Deuteronomy 28:66) "... Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life."

(Deuteronomy 29:24-25) "... All nations would say, 'Why has the LORD done so to this land? ...' {25} 'Then people would say: 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD ...;'"

(Jeremiah 31:35-36) "Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, ... {36} "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."

(Amos 9:14-15) "I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; ... {15} I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them," Says the LORD your God."

(Zechariah 12:2-3) "... Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. {3} "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it."

(1 Timothy 4:1) "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,"

(2 Timothy 3:1-5) "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: {2} For

men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, {3} unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, {4} traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, {5} having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"



Ann Fonfa: an example of
"spontaneous remission"

John MacArthur comments on Miracles:

Theologians prior ... the Pentecostal movement .., were united in the understanding that miracles did not happen randomly, they did not happen through historyThere wasn't a continual flow of miracles at all times and places through church history, but rather, miracles, that is God stepping in to the natural world, suspending natural law, doing something that had no natural explanation, pulling back out again and letting natural law then run its course, did that only in certification of especially commissioned teacher.

And the types of miracles that are being claimed today are absolutely nothing like New Testament miracles, absolutely nothing like them. In fact, the types of miracles today could be distinctly seen as different than New Testament miracles. Jesus and the apostles instantly and completely healed people born blind, a paralytic, a man with a withered arm. All obvious and indisputable miracles, even Jesus' enemies didn't challenge the reality of His miracles that He had the people there to verify them. He raised the dead, of course, as we well know. They never did a miracle that was slow, they never did a miracle that took time, they never did a miracle that was less than permanent. By contrast, most modern miracles are partial, gradual, temporary, sometimes reversed, and almost impossible to verify.

..the only instant miracles today seem to be those that deal with psycho-somatic diseases. Does God promise miracles for everybody? No, He never has; it's not their purpose. You hear Charismatics say, "God has a special miracle for you today." No, He doesn't. .. By the way, Jesus didn't do any private miracles. They were all public, and they were as I said, to authenticate the one who spoke for God.

Don't buy into the deception that there's something beyond the Scripture because that's what this deception is saying. That there's somebody getting a revelation, that there's somebody with apostolic authority, that miracles are supposed to be happening all over the place. It's not true. It's not consistent with Scripture.