

## Where's MY Miracle?

### The Story

Acts 19:1-12

### Three Elephants In The Room

- Two \_\_\_\_\_?  
Acts 19:3-5/ Matthew 3:2-15/ Matthew 28:19-20/ Romans 6:3-4
- Spoke in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?  
Acts 19:6/ Acts 2:1-21/ Acts 10:44-46
- Magical \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?  
Acts 19:11-12/ Acts 5:12-16

### The Question We All Ask Sooner Or Later *Where's MY Miracle?*

#### Five Things to Remember

1. My greatest need is not \_\_\_\_\_.  
It's \_\_\_\_\_ and the power of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Romans 6:23/ John 16:7-11
2. The purpose of a miracle is not to make my \_\_\_\_\_.  
It's to make eternity better by bringing \_\_\_\_\_ to God and \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel.  
Mark 2:10-12/ Matthew 11:2-6/ Acts 14:3
3. Supernatural power \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as God wills.  
We can't \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
1 Corinthians 12:7-11
4. Earnestly seek and pray for your miracle.  
But \_\_\_\_\_ God's answer.  
Luke 11:5-10/ Job 1:22 & 2:10/ Hebrews 11:35-40
5. The only true judge of God's \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_,  
not my \_\_\_\_\_.  
Romans 5:8/ Psalm 73/ John 3:16

## Where's MY Miracle?

### The Story

Acts 19:1-12

### Three Elephants In The Room

- Two **BAPTISMS?**  
Acts 19:3-5/ Matthew 3:2-15/ Matthew 28:19-20/ Romans 6:3-4
- Spoke in **TONGUES** and **PROPHESIED?**  
Acts 19:6/ Acts 2:1-21/ Acts 10:44-46
- Magical **HANDKERCHIEFS** and **APRONS?**  
Acts 19:11-12/ Acts 5:12-16

### The Question We All Ask Sooner Or Later *Where's MY Miracle?*

#### Five Things to Remember

1. My greatest need is not **TEMPORARY HEALING**.  
It's **FORGIVENESS** and the power of the **HOLY SPIRIT**.  
Romans 6:23/ John 16:7-11
2. The purpose of a miracle is not to make my **LIFE BETTER**.  
It's to make eternity better by bringing **GLORY** to God and **AUTHENTICATING** the Gospel.  
Mark 2:10-12/ Matthew 11:2-6/ Acts 14:3
3. Supernatural power **COMES** and **GOES** as God wills.  
We can't **CONTROL** or **MANUFACTURE** it.  
1 Corinthians 12:7-11
4. Earnestly seek and pray for your miracle.  
But **HUMBLY ACCEPT** God's answer.  
Luke 11:5-10/ Job 1:22 & 2:10/ Hebrews 11:35-40
5. The only true judge of God's **GOODNESS** is the **CROSS**,  
not my **CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES**.  
Romans 5:8/ Psalm 73/ John 3:16

## Life Group Study Questions

For the week of November 1, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### MY STORY

1. This weekend we looked at Acts 19 and processed what miracles are all about. As followers of Jesus, we know God can do the miraculous. The fact that a person can be forgiven through Jesus' death and resurrection and spend eternity with Him is the greatest miracle any of us will ever experience. What miracles, if any, have you prayed for or seen others pray for? Are any of these miracles something you have seen happen? Are there any that didn't happen and you struggled with why God did not cause it to come about?

2. Looking back at the "Five Things to Remember" about miracles in your sermon notes, which one catches your attention the most and why?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Perspective means a lot when we find ourselves in need of a miracle, big or small. Sometimes when we want God to give clear guidance, give us power to overcome an incredible difficulty or open a door of opportunity, it can seem like He doesn't come through. The Apostle Paul found himself in similar situations. He asked God multiple times for a miracle to remove his "thorn in the flesh," (2 Corinthians 1:3-10) but God said no. He also finds himself on house arrest, restricted from going out to share the Gospel the way you might think God would want (Acts 28). Yet, Paul managed to still thrive even in incredibly difficult circumstances without getting the miracle he hoped for.

This week we're going to dive into the book of Philippians to help us understand how Paul was able to do this. As you read the verses below, imagine Paul writing these words to you. Jot down what Paul is saying and how it can give you hope even when you are not seeing miracles happen or life is seemingly not going the way you planned.

#### **Philippians 1:6 *New International Version (NIV)***

<sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

#### **Philippians 1:9-10 *New International Version (NIV)***

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ

**Philippians 1:12-14 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

**Philippians 1:27-30 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>27</sup> Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

**Philippians 2:12-16 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. <sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

**Philippians 3:7-8 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

**Philippians 4:4-7 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:8-9 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Which three passages above are most helpful to you?

2. When life is difficult and it seems we're not getting the miracle or guidance we need from God, we can fall into the trap of thinking we have to be positive in order to show we're remaining faithful. Psalm 73 shows how we can be real about what's going on and what we think in the midst of a tough situation and still remain faithful. As you read the Psalm, jot down the thoughts and emotions Asaph, the writer, is speaking about, then answer the questions below.

**Psalm 73 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. <sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. <sup>4</sup> They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. <sup>5</sup> They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills. <sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. <sup>7</sup> From their callous hearts comes iniquity, their evil imaginations have no limits. <sup>8</sup> They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression. <sup>9</sup> Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. <sup>10</sup> Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. <sup>11</sup> They say, "How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?" <sup>12</sup> This is what the wicked are like— always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. <sup>13</sup> Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. <sup>14</sup> All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. <sup>15</sup> If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. <sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply <sup>17</sup> till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. <sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. <sup>19</sup> How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! <sup>20</sup> They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies. <sup>21</sup> When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, <sup>22</sup> I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. <sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. <sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. <sup>27</sup> Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. <sup>28</sup> But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

Which thoughts/emotions from the verses above do you relate to most? Which do you relate to least?

Have you ever found yourself in a similar conversation with God? If so, explain.

Can you think of any reasons why being honest with God about what's really going on could be better than just putting on a positive face?

How could you balance this with Philippians 4:4?

**Philippians 4:4 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

## TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what's the most important thing to remember?
2. Is there a miracle (large or small) you'd like your group to pray about?

*<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:3-7*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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### COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

COVID-safe community service projects have been created for your group. To see what our high need projects are, visit our website at [NorthCoastCommunityService.org](https://NorthCoastCommunityService.org)  
Video from our Community Service Pastor: [northcoastcommunityservice.org/community-service-impact/](https://northcoastcommunityservice.org/community-service-impact/)