

# A Day of Miracles - Pentecost 2019

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 6/9/2019

In today's sermon we will be looking at miracles and answering the question, "Does God still work miracles?"

The answer is, a **miracle** takes place every time God suspends and overrides the laws of nature to do His will. Do we have any idea of how busy God is – doing just that?

Beginning on the Day of Pentecost in the New Testament, God worked many, many **miracles** among the Church brethren. On that front, absolutely nothing at all has changed—God is still working many **miracles** today.

Since that is the case, where are the many **miracles** today? It has become a common saying, that God does not work miracles any more. Some people go so far as to say that prayers are not being answered, either. Brethren, do not believe it.

God is constantly working in the lives of His saints according to His purposes. From **earth moving** events, down to the healing of a common cold, God is intimately and intricately and constantly involved in the lives of His people. Even when God's people are making plans for their lives, it is God who is bringing about the outcome according to His great purposes:

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart devises his goings: but the Lord establishes his steps.

As members of the Body of Christ, God is bringing His Plan to reproduce Himself to fruition through us. In doing so, He utilizes **miracles**—seen and unseen. We, the Church brethren, will be a part the **early** firstfruits **harvest** that begins shortly after the Wave Sheaf offering and lasts up to the Feast of Pentecost – also known as the **Feast of Harvest** (Exodus 23:16).

Pentecost shows clearly that God is working directly with His called out people at this time, while the outside world remains on its own until God works with them in a latter harvest—pictured by other Feast Days. God very decisively made that first New Testament Pentecost a day of sights, sounds and **miracles**. He did so purposefully so that the Church brethren would know positively that the promise of the Father's Holy Spirit had come in a very special and powerful way.

These events are recorded in the Scriptures for the Church brethren to know assuredly how God is now working among His people. The miracles are not as flamboyant today because men would be inclined to walk by **sight** and not by faith.

If a man rose up today, overtly – openly, working great **healing miracles** – people would flock to **him** and his church by the multiple thousands. That's true! People would flock **to him**, - but, **not to God!**

God has not changed one iota. He is still working many miracles today – not overtly – not so openly – with a lot of noise and sights – like He did on the Day of Pentecost, in order to punctuate His newly established Church.

God's powerful miracles are cloaked today – hidden away – apparently subdued today, but they are **there** none-the-less for those who have the eyes to see and the will to give **God the credit** for his interventions. Make no mistake about it, God's calling at this time is definitely a **miracle** in itself – though unseen by the world.

A Christian must look for the **miracles** that have touched his life. Converted brethren recognize how unceasing God's miraculous intervention is in their lives today. One good friend in the Church, counts the times that God has intervened and literally **saved his life** over the years – and he gives God the credit and the thanks.

God's Church began on the day of Pentecost some seven weeks after Jesus died. Except for a few names from the Old Testament period, like righteous Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and the prophets, God is calling the **firstfruits** of the **better resurrection** at this time—in the period between the New Testament Day of Pentecost and the Pentecost when the **last trumpet** is sounded at the time of Christ's return.

1Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trumpet**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Thessalonians 4:16 The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the **trumpet** of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

The fifty-day period between the Wave Sheaf offering and the Day of Pentecost pictures God's calling of the firstfruits—the Church brethren—to be given to the first of the firstfruits, Jesus Christ. The Wave Sheaf offering begins the early harvest of which the Church brethren are a part.

Leviticus 23:11 And the priest shall **wave the sheaf** before the LORD, to be **accepted** for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

On the day of the Wave Sheaf offering, Jesus said unto Mary Magdalene:

John 20:17 ...Touch me not; for I am not yet **ascended** to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Just as Jesus was **accepted** by His Father on the day of the **Wave Sheaf** offering, the resurrected Church brethren will be raised on the day of the **Pentecost** offering and presented to Jesus Christ (Leviticus 23:16-17; Revelation 19:9). What greater **miracle** could God work in our lives than giving us of His Holy Spirit?

As Children of God we should expect and depend on God working miracles on our behalf (Luke 11:13; Psalm 84:11). We should seek and expect His miracles every day! Look for them, and acknowledge them as such. In today's sermon – **A Day of Miracles** – we will be looking at how God worked many, many miracles among the early Church brethren so that we will be able to recognize His **miraculous** hand in our lives today. Jesus worked miracles to get the **disciples attention**: His first miracle was at a wedding in Cana:

John 2:11 This **beginning of miracles** did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on Him.

Just after that:

John 2:23 When [Jesus] was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in His name, when they **saw the miracles** which He did.

Much later:

Acts 19:11 God worked special miracles by the hands of Paul: And healed people far away by Anointed Cloths.

Put your **marker** here in Acts

Let's look at the Great miracle of establishing the Church of God:

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

It was a spectacular day!

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost shows that Peter was a changed man – after receiving the Holy Spirit. Peter concluded his sermon with:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about **three thousand souls**.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many **wonders and signs** [that is **miracles**] were done by the apostles.

Acts 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

That was a lot different than we find in God's Church today.

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Peter encounters a common beggar.

Acts 3:2 And a certain man **lame** from his mother's **womb** was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to **ask alms** of them that entered into the temple;

Acts 3:3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

Acts 3:4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

Acts 3:5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise **up and walk**.

Notice the **faith** that Peter is now exhibiting.

### Miracle

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Acts 3:8 And he leaping up stood, and **walked**, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and **leaping**, and praising God.

Acts 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

Acts 3:10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

Jesus had worked many miracles – but now God was working through the apostles, too.

### Peter Speaks

Acts 3:11 And as the lame man which was **healed** held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's porch, greatly wondering.

Note this: Peter and John give God the full credit for the healings:

Acts 3:12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, **as though by our own power or holiness** we had made this man to walk?

It was God who healed this man:

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

Acts 3:14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

Peter is not timid and cowering any more like the night that he denied Christ.

Acts 3:15 [you] killed the Prince of life, whom God has raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Peter and John sure had faith!

Acts 3:16 And His name **through faith** in His name has made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, **the faith** which is by Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Acts 3:17 And now, brethren, I know that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

Acts 3:18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Messiah should suffer, He hath so fulfilled.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 3:20 And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Acts 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Acts 3:24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

Acts 3:25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindred of the earth be blessed.

Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Peter and John get hauled Before the Council

Acts 4:1 And as they spoke unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

Acts 4:2 Being upset that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

Acts 4:3 And they took them into custody, and put them in jail unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about **five thousand**.

Acts 4:5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

Acts 4:6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and **John**, and Alexander, and as many as were of the **kinfolks** of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

Acts 4:7 And when they had set [Peter and John] in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Acts 4:8 Then **Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit**, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Acts 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Peter is bold and fearless now – by the power of God’s Holy Spirit:

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom **you** crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even **by Him** [giving God the **credit**] doth this man stand here before you **whole**.

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there **salvation** in any other [except Jesus]: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the **boldness** of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men [not university men], they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

The High Priest and Caiaphas are evil conspirators – we'll see that they are not believers.

Acts 4:15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

Acts 4:16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

Acts 4:17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straightly **threaten** them [to shut them up], that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

Acts 4:18 And they called [Peter and John], and commanded them not to speak at all nor **teach** in the name of Jesus.

Peter and John were not intimidated in the least:

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto **you** more than unto God, - you judge.

Acts 4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

Acts 4:22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

The Believers Pray for Boldness

Acts 4:23 And being let go, they went to their own [Church brethren], and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

Acts 4:24 And when the [brethren] heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threats: and grant unto thy servants, that with all **boldness** they may speak thy word,

Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that **signs and wonders – Miracles** - may be done by the name of thy holy [servant] Jesus.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place **was shaken** where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit**, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

They Had Everything in Common

Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

Acts 4:35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Acts 4:36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

Acts 4:37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

God does not **slap people instantly dead** very often today.

**God** has not changed, but He **records here how He feels** about those who would lie and oppose to His **ordained** servants;

Acts 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

Acts 5:2 And **kept back** part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

They said, "Here is all the money we got when we sold the property."

### **It was a Miracle that Peter knew.**

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit**, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Acts 5:4 While it remained, was it not your own? [It was yours to do with as you wished] and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why have thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, **but unto God**.

They were pretending to be holy, righteous and generous – when they were not.

Acts 5:5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and **stopped breathing**: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

Acts 5:6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and **buried** him.

Acts 5:7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

Acts 5:8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yes, that is how much we got for it.

Acts 5:9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry you out, too.

Acts 5:10 Then fell she down straightway at [Peter's] feet, and yielded up her breath: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

God did not mess around then – and He does not mess around now – look for it.

Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Many Signs and Wonders were being done - **Miracles**

Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many **signs and wonders** wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

Acts 5:13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

Acts 5:14 And believers were the **more added** to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

Acts 5:15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the **shadow** of Peter passing by might overshadow **some of them**.

Acts 5:16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and **they were healed every one**.

The Apostles Arrested and Freed

Acts 5:17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,

Acts 5:18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

### **Miracle**

Acts 5:19 But the angel of the Lord by night **opened the prison doors**, and brought them forth, and said,

Acts 5:20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

Preach the Gospel!

Acts 5:21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

Acts 5:22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,

Acts 5:23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

Acts 5:24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

Acts 5:25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

Acts 5:26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,

Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we sternly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 5:33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

Acts 5:34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;

Acts 5:35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.

Acts 5:36 For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to naught.

Acts 5:37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

Acts 5:38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to naught:

Acts 5:39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

Acts 5:40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Acts 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

#### Philip and Seven Chosen to Serve (among others)

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

Acts 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Acts 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Acts 6:6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of **the disciples multiplied** in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

#### Stephen Is Seized

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did **great wonders and miracles** among the people.

Acts 6:9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

Acts 6:10 And they were **not able to resist** the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

Acts 6:11 Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

Acts 6:12 And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

Acts 6:13 And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceases not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

Acts 6:14 For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

Acts 6:15 And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

In Acts 7 review the Story of first Martyr – Stephen – and the scattering of the Church

Acts 8:3 As for Saul [Paul], he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

### Philip Proclaims Christ in Samaria

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

Acts 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Acts 8:6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the **miracles** which he did.

Acts 8:7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and **many** taken with palsies, and that were lame, **were healed**.

Acts 8:8 And there was great joy in that city.

There was a religious leader there - Simon the Magician – and he was a **believer**. Brethren, I want to **issue a warning about miracles** right here:

Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city [Samaria] used **sorcery**, and **bewitched** the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

Acts 8:10 To whom they **all** gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, **This man is the great power of God**.

The Samaritans did not look to God nor recognize His work through the Holy Spirit.

I want to **issue a warning about miracles** right here because we in the Church have encountered some serious problems in the past, and there will be those who will be carried away **from the truth** when they see miracles being worked in the future. We have had high ranking evangelists who literally had their congregations fast so that the evangelist would receive the ability to work miracles. He wanted the people to look to him as the great power of God and be loyal to him. Brethren, that is not the way it works! A true minister only points people to God – not to himself.

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

Revelation 13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Satan works miracles—but they are not of God.

Revelation 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

Revelation 13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those **miracles which he had power to do** in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Revelation 13:15 And he had **power** to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

The Universal Roman Catholic Babylonian mystery religion is a major factor in end time events. This end time false religious system – and it is getting **really bizarre** already – is going to be a major **temptation** to Church brethren in the Tribulation to worship the Beast because of the **amazing miracles** that he works. Those **miracles** will seem like a great and wonderful thing!

Do not put your **faith in miracles!** We had come to the part where we encountered **Simon the sorcerer** – who was already established in Samaria like a Pope.

Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city [Samaria] used **sorcery** [demonic powers], and **bewitched** the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some **great one**:

Acts 8:10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, **This man is the great power of God.**

The Samaritans did not look to God nor recognize His work through the Holy Spirit. No. They looked to this Simon as the great power of God.

Acts 8:11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had **bewitched** them with **sorceries**.

Acts 8:12 But when they **believed** Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Even the demons believe... (James 2:19)

Acts 8:13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the **miracles and signs** which were done.

Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Acts 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they **might receive the Holy Spirit**:

Acts 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: **only** they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Acts 8:17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the **Holy Spirit** was given, **he offered them money**,

Acts 8:19 Saying, Give me also **this power**, that on whomsoever **I** lay hands, he may receive the Holy Spirit.

Simon the sorcerer recognized that the power of the Holy Spirit was greater than his so He **wanted** that power and wanted to be associated with the great name, "Christianity."

Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the **gift of God** may be purchased with money.

Simon offered Peter **big money** to be ordained an apostle. Peter recognized that Simon was not converted to the Truth – but was a purveyor of the Babylonian mystery religion. Simon was never **a part** of God's True Church.

Acts 8:21 Thou hast neither **part nor lot** in this matter: for thy **heart** is not right in the sight of God.

Simon was only out for gain, for power, for recognition and for money. A good case can be made that **Simon** the **sorcerer** continued off course in the religion he practiced before he met Peter— and went on to found the Universal Roman Catholic Babylonian mystery religion. To this day it is "False Christianity." See Babylon Mystery Religion - Ralph Woodrow, and Earnest L. Martin's writings. Paul – writing some 20 years later – was aware of this **false religion** and warned the Thessalonians about it:

2Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of **iniquity** is already at work:

John, writing at nearly 100 AD also added to the narrative with the story of the Samaritan woman at the well who **lived** with **Simon** the **sorcerer** – but was not married to him. The Samaritans were NOT worshiping the True God at all. Remember Jesus told Samaritan woman at the well:

John 4:18 For thou hast had **five** husbands; and he whom thou now hast is **not** thy husband:

The Samaritan woman recognized that Jesus was a prophet – this was long before Phillip's encounter with **Simon** the **sorcerer** in the Book of Acts.

Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Acts 8:23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

**Simon** the **sorcerer** did not repent – he had no intention of repenting. He told Peter, "You pray for me."

Acts 8:24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

Acts 8:25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the Gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

We are looking at miracles from God on this Day of Pentecost because they show God's handiwork in our lives every day – from the food we eat, the health we enjoy, and most of all, God's truth **that lives within us** – which is a great miracle!

Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

Acts 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Acts 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

God is working a miracle here – just as He did when He called each of us...

Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, **what wilt thou have me to do?** [that is always the correct question to ask] And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Acts 9:7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

Acts 9:8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man [because he was blind]: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

Acts 9:9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

Acts 9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named **Ananias**; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

Acts 9:11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

This is another **miraculous intervention** by God.

Brethren, are we able to see God's **miraculous interventions** in our lives—and give God the credit for it?

Acts 9:12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

Acts 9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

Acts 9:14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

God knows better than we do. Paul turned out to do a great work for God.

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is **a chosen vessel unto me**, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Acts 9:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Saul Proclaims Jesus in Synagogues

Acts 9:19 And when [Saul/Paul] had received food, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days **with the disciples** [**Miracle**] which were at Damascus.

Acts 9:20 And straightway he **preached Christ** in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Acts 9:21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

God flip-flopped the life of Paul—turned him around through the power of His Holy Spirit. Paul took that gift most seriously. Here is a question to ponder... Where is the power of God's Holy Spirit working today? Are we in a calm before the storm? There are many, many more miracles in the Book of Acts alone – we cannot touch on them all.

Acts 9:32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

Acts 9:33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

Acts 9:34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, **Jesus Christ makes you whole**: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

Please notice, Peter took no credit! Miracle after miracle.

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spoke these words, the **Holy Spirit** fell on all the [Gentiles] which heard the word.

Where are the miracles today??? I have a better question: Where are those who give God the thanks for the **miracles** that overflow us? We've only scratched the surface in the Bible today – looking at the **miraculous** hand of God in establishing and **maintaining** His Church through the ages.

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him;

Hebrews 2:4 God also bearing them witness, both with **signs** and **wonders**, and with divers **miracles**, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

End: A Day of Miracles