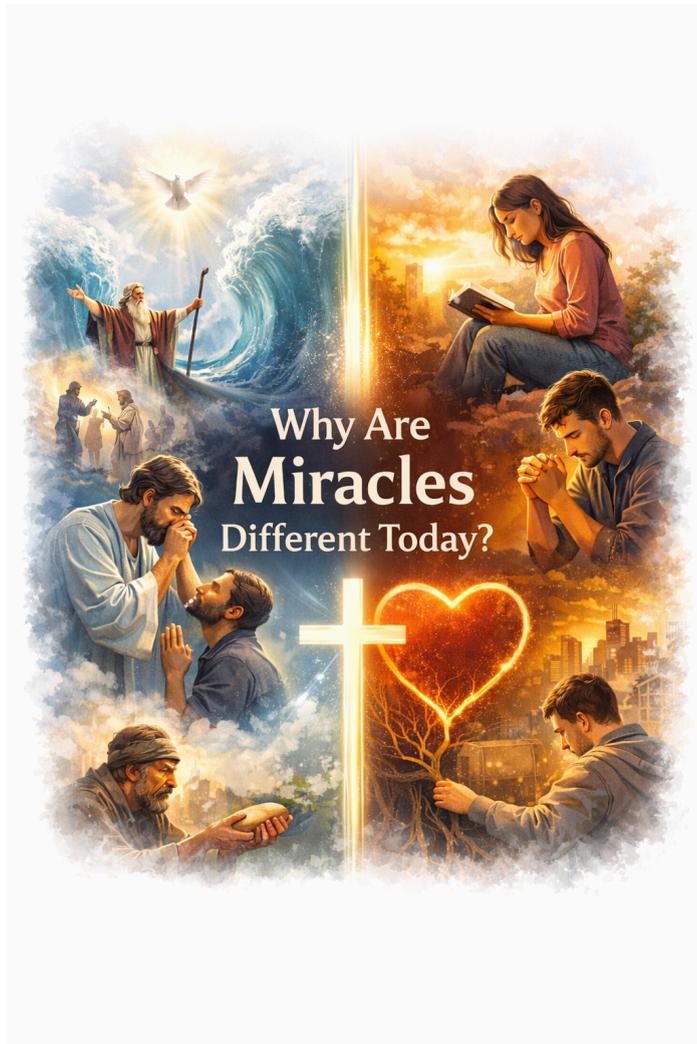


## Lesson 11 WHY ARE MIRACLES DIFFERENT TODAY?



### Introduction

God is still working powerfully today — but more often in hearts than in front of everyone’s eyes.

When we read the Bible, we see dramatic miracles: the Red Sea divided, the sick healed, the dead raised. In those times, God was establishing His revelation through prophets and apostles and laying the foundation of His truth.

Today that foundation has already been laid, and we now have the completed Scriptures — something believers in those early days did not yet have. Because of this, God’s power is displayed in a different way: not so much through outward signs, but through deep inner transformation.

When a hardened heart becomes soft — that is a miracle.

When someone trapped in addiction finds freedom — that is a miracle.

When a person chooses forgiveness instead of revenge — that is a miracle.

When a young man or woman chooses purity in a corrupt world — that is the power of God at work.

When someone overcomes sin and becomes a true disciple of Jesus Christ — that is the greatest miracle.

Being born again is the greatest miracle of all times and all nations.

Jesus said:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3, NKJV)

And the Lord declares:

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26, NKJV)

God has not become less active.

Today He more often changes not the laws of nature, but the direction of a human life — and that miracle is no less powerful than a divided sea.

## I. Miracles in the Bible Were Never a Daily Norm

**Main idea:** God has always worked through miracles **selectively**, at key moments in the history of salvation—not constantly.

Throughout Scripture, there are long periods when God did not act through visible signs, yet He remained alive, present, and sovereign.

### **Example 1: The period before Samuel — “silence” without signs**

“And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.” (1 Samuel 3:1, NKJV)

#### **Conclusion:**

God did not stop ruling or existing, but supernatural revelations and signs were rare.

👉 This describes Israel’s spiritual condition before Samuel’s calling, not God’s absence.

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### **Example 2: The intertestamental period — 400 years without prophets or signs**

“The law and the prophets were until John...”  
(Luke 16:16, NKJV)

“We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet...”  
(Psalm 74:9, NKJV)

Between Malachi and John the Baptist—about **400 years**—there were:

- no prophets,
- no miracles,
- no new revelation.

Yet during that time:

- God preserved His people,
- prepared the world for the Messiah,
- directed history through world empires.

👉 **The greatest act of God—the incarnation of Christ—came after a long silence.**

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### **Example 3: Christ Himself confirms this principle**

“An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign...”  
(*Matthew 12:39, NKJV*)

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”  
(*John 20:29, NKJV*)

Jesus clearly teaches that:

- signs are not the foundation of true faith,
- trusting God without spectacle is a higher form of faith.

### **Conclusion:**

The Bible clearly shows:

- there were long seasons without signs,
- but God never stopped working—  
guiding history,  
preserving His people,  
fulfilling His plan of salvation.

👉 **Silence in signs is not silence from God.**

Miracles appear around decisive moments of revelation, not every generation.

The absence of miracles never meant God was absent,  
and the presence of miracles never guaranteed faithfulness.

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## **II. Apostolic Miracles Had a Unique and Temporary Purpose**

**Main idea:** The miracles of the apostles were not for spectacle or comfort,  
but to **confirm the authority of God’s revealed truth.**

God confirmed the gospel through the apostles because **new, saving revelation**  
was being delivered through them.

They were witnesses of the risen Christ, and that authority does not pass on to later generations.

Signs functioned as God's seal of truth—not a permanent tool for every minister.

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### III. The Foundation of the Church Has Already Been Laid

**Main idea:** What God establishes once does not need to be repeatedly re-confirmed.

The foundation of the Church was laid **once** through the apostles and prophets, not in every age.

With the completion of Scripture, God's final standard of truth was given and no longer requires confirming signs.

Today, God strengthens His Church **through faithfulness to His Word**, not through constant miracles.

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### IV. God Still Heals Today — but He Is Not Obligated to Do So Through “Ministers”

**! This is a crucial point.**

Nowhere in Scripture is it promised that every servant of God will constantly perform miracles.

**Main idea:** Healing depends on **God's sovereign will**, not on a person's spiritual status.

Even the apostles did not heal everyone or heal at all times—showing that miracles are not God's obligation.

#### Three biblical examples

##### 1. Paul left Trophimus sick

“But Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.”  
(2 Timothy 4:20, NKJV)

**Why this matters:** Paul, through whom God worked extraordinary miracles (Acts 19:11), did not heal Trophimus.

Scripture does not describe this as Paul's failure or lack of faith.

👉 **Even the greatest apostle did not control healing.**

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## 2. Timothy was not healed but given medical advice

“No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.”

*(1 Timothy 5:23, NKJV)*

**Why this matters:** If healing were the normal rule, Paul would have simply healed Timothy.

Instead, he offers practical medical guidance.

👉 God allows illness even among faithful servants and often works through ordinary means.

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## 3. Paul himself was not healed of the “thorn in the flesh”

“Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you...’”

*(2 Corinthians 12:8–9, NKJV)*

Paul:

- prayed,
- prayed persistently,
- prayed directly to the Lord,  
yet healing was not given—because God had a deeper purpose.

👉 Sometimes God is glorified not by deliverance, but by strength in weakness.

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## Summary

If apostles did not heal everyone,  
if an apostle's disciple remained sick,  
and if an apostle himself was not healed—  
then healing was never God's obligation, but always His sovereign choice.

God is sometimes glorified through healing,  
and sometimes through endurance, faithfulness, and suffering.  
Lack of physical healing does **not** mean lack of God's love or power.

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## V. The Greatest Miracle Today Is Not Physical

Jesus said: "Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

*(Luke 10:20, NKJV)*

Today God performs miracles such as:

- new birth,
- repentance of hardened hearts,
- freedom from sin,
- faithfulness in suffering,
- holiness in a corrupt world.

👉 These miracles are no smaller—just quieter.

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## VI. The Danger of Chasing Signs

Church history shows that when signs become the center:

- the gospel is distorted,
- spiritual manipulation appears,
- faith is replaced by emotion.

"An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign..."

*(Matthew 12:39, NKJV)*

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## VII. The Main Truth for Us Today

**Main idea:** God has not become weaker or disappeared—He simply works not through spectacle, but through transformed lives.

The apostolic era was a time of laying the Church's foundation, not a pattern to be copied.

Today, God values faithfulness to His Word more than excitement over miracles.

God changes people **from the inside**, not just circumstances on the outside.

👉 The greatest miracle today is a person who lives holy and faithful to God in a broken world.

**Conclusion.** 👉 **God has not become smaller.**  
**Humanity simply desires spectacle more than truth.**

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