



Praying for Miracles

I. What can we learn from the stories in the Bible?

1 Kings 18

So Ahab sent *orders* among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹ Then Elijah approached all the people and said, “How long are you going to struggle with the two choices? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him *so much as* a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left as a prophet of the LORD, while Baal’s prophets are 450 men. ²³ Now have them give us two oxen; and have them choose the one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire *under it*; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire *under it*. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” And all the people replied, “That is a good idea.”

²⁵ So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose the one ox for yourselves and prepare it first, since *there are* many of you, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire *under the ox*.” ²⁶ Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it, and they called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice

and no one answered. And they limped about the altar which they had made. ²⁷ And at noon Elijah ridiculed them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, since he is a god; undoubtedly he is attending to business, or is on the way, or is on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep, and will awaken." ²⁸ So they cried out with a loud voice, and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until blood gushed out on them. ²⁹ When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come forward to me." So all the people came forward to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down. ³¹ Then Elijah took twelve stones, corresponding to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." ³² And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed. ³³ Then he laid out the wood, and he cut the ox in pieces and placed *it* on the wood. ³⁴ And he said, "Fill four large jars with water and pour *it* on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time," so they did it a second time. Then he said, "Do it a third time," so they did it a third time. ³⁵ The water flowed around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water.

³⁶ Then at the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached and said, "LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant, and *that* I have done all these things at Your word. ³⁷ Answer me, LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that You, LORD, are God, and *that* You have turned their heart back." ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood, and the stones and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw *this*, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God!" ⁴⁰ Then Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slaughtered them there.

¹⁴ And when they came *back* to the *other* disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and *some* scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and *began* running up to greet Him. ¹⁶ And He asked them, “What are you disputing with them?” ¹⁷ And one *person* from the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought You my son, because he has a spirit *that makes him* unable to speak; ¹⁸ and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground, and he foams *at the mouth* and grinds his teeth and becomes stiff. And I told Your disciples so that they would cast it out, but they could not *do it*.” ¹⁹ And He answered them and *said*, “O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!” ²⁰ And they brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, the spirit immediately threw him into convulsions, and falling to the ground, he *began* rolling around and foaming *at the mouth*. ²¹ And He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²² It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to kill him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!” ²³ But Jesus said to him, “‘If You can?’ All things are possible for the one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, “I do believe; help my unbelief!” ²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again!” ²⁶ And after crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and *the boy* became so much like a corpse that most *of them* said, “He is dead!” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him, and he got up. ²⁸ When He came into *the* house, His disciples *began* asking Him privately, “*Why is it* that we could not cast it out?” ²⁹ And He said to them, “This kind cannot come out by anything except prayer *and fasting*”

Acts 4:23-

²³ When they had been released, they went to their own *companions* and reported everything that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard *this*, they raised their voices to God with one mind and said, “Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND EVERYTHING THAT IS IN THEM, ²⁵ who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said,

‘WHY WERE THE NATIONS INSOLENT,
AND THE PEOPLES PLOTTING IN VAIN?
²⁶ THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND,
AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER
AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.’

²⁷ For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and purpose predestined to occur. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant *it* to Your bond-servants to speak Your word with all confidence, ³⁰ while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

³² And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one *of them* claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

II. What can we learn from the promises of Jesus?

John 14:12-14

¹² Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.

Mark 11:22-24

²² And Jesus answered and *said* to them, “Have faith in God. ²³ Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is

going to happen, it will be *granted* to him. ²⁴ Therefore, I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be *granted* to you.

III. What can we learn from the New Testament letters?

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷ Because of the extraordinary *greatness* of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! ⁸ Concerning this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me. ⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in distresses, in persecutions, in difficulties, in behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

James 5:13-18

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer of faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

IV. What is our take away?

1. God does miracles and we should pray for miracles
2. God is sovereign over the answers to our prayers
3. God may redirect how we pray
4. We should seek to develop greater faith and deeper experience in prayer
5. We should ask our spiritual leaders to pray for us and with us