

“Miracles Are Our Daily Routine”

Almost everything in the world relies on human reason and common sense. As a result, we spend much of our lives being thoroughly trained to use these tools effectively. The ability to adhere to this principle is called knowledge. However, in our daily lives, there are many situations that human reason and common sense cannot resolve. It is in these moments that people often hope for miracles—and, in some cases, experience them.

Have you experienced miracles through your faith? Do you think it is reasonable to expect miracles as a normal part of the Christian life? Or do you believe Christians should live solely based on reason and knowledge?

In the realm of God, beyond the limits of the human world, we witness many miracles. The Creator God we believe in has spoken of countless miracles throughout the Bible, and He leads us to experience them through faith. Through these miracles, God desires to reveal His nature and glory to the world.

Today, through the three scriptures, let us reflect on the miracles God is performing.

Let us first look at Isaiah 62:1, which says, "I will speak out to encourage Jerusalem; I will not be silent until she is saved, and her victory shines like a torch in the night." This is the proclamation the prophet Isaiah made regarding the word of God. This message reflects the unchanging will of God, the Creator, who was determined to save Israel. Here, Israel symbolizes all who have faith.

In Isaiah 62:5b, we see how deeply God loves us: "As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so your God will rejoice over you." This relationship is made possible through His omnipotence and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, His Son.

For those of you who have ever been married, do you remember the absolute joy you felt when you looked into your significant other's eyes during the wedding ceremony?

I'm not talking about the times afterward when you may not have even wanted to look at each other anymore. I mean that moment when you felt pure joy and hope for your future together. That is how God feels about us—despite our sinfulness and imperfections. The all-powerful and perfect God offers us His eternal love. This is the impossible miracle that marks the beginning of many miracles He performs in our lives.

What does He want from us in return? Only one thing: our trust and faith in Him. Through faith, we can enjoy the incredible privileges He has prepared for us. When we fail to trust Him, it grieves His heart—not because His love diminishes, but because we miss out on the wisdom and blessings He intends for us.

We must also remember that our mistakes and feelings of guilt should never prevent us from returning to Him. His love remains constant and unwavering.

When the love of a couple first begins, it often reflects the heart of God, at least in thought and words. Every bridegroom tells his bride, "I'll give you everything in this world." Wives, is this ever truly the case? I am purposely not looking at Euni as I ask this question because I already know the answer. The answer, without a doubt, is 100% no.

Why? Because it is simply not possible. Either circumstances make it impossible, or our minds change. There is only one being whose mind never changes and whose love never wavers—and that is God.

God's love for us is the foundation upon which His miracles are built. It is through this love that we can experience His transcendent power—power that goes far beyond the limits of human ability and understanding.

Let's examine the text from John's Gospel. In today's passage, "The Wedding Feast at Cana," Jesus demonstrates the miraculous transformation of water into wine. As Jesus instructed, the servants filled the stone jars with water.

Then He told them to draw some out and take it to the chief steward. Acting in what may have seemed like blind obedience, the servants brought the water to the steward. Yet, what the steward drank was undeniably wine.

The chief steward wasn't so intoxicated that he couldn't tell the difference between water and wine. I'm no expert on alcohol, but it's safe to say most people can distinguish between the two, right? Remarkably, the steward even remarked, "You have saved the best wine until now."

Let us remember that the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus are all examples of God's incredible miracles and wonders. The word "miracle" is a human term. God doesn't require such words, as any action—even creating the universe—is possible for Him.

Although I used the word "miracle" in today's sermon title, the original language of the Bible reveals that the term "sign" is more fitting. The Greek word for "sign" is "semeion." It refers to a sign that reveals God's will to humanity. A "sign" is always accompanied by "the glory of God" and serves to proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God.

The purpose of Jesus' ministry was not merely to perform miracles. Rather, through these signs, Jesus revealed His messianic identity to the world and expanded the kingdom of God. The Bible shows us that regardless of their wealth, rank, or social status, many people experienced the signs of God.

The transformation of water into wine defies the laws of chemistry and science. How can H_2O be converted into C_2H_5OH (alcohol)? This miracle is an event that violates immutable scientific laws. Furthermore, we cannot scientifically prove this miracle to rationally accept it. Yet, the realm of belief surpasses the realm of science.

Even so, this miracle provides us with evidence for faith. In the Bible, miraculous signs serve as evidence of God's power. No human can break the laws of nature, but if Jesus could, it affirms that He is the one who established those laws. Therefore, He is truly our Savior. As we walk with Him, He enables us to experience His power in our daily lives.

There is, however, one consistent factor among those who experience these signs: faith in God. Whether foreigners, servants, widows, or kings, those who trusted in the Word of the Lord by faith experienced His signs.

The Bible repeatedly demonstrates that everyone who approached Jesus with unsolvable problems found solutions through faith. With faith, anyone can encounter God, experience His miracles, and live an abundant life.

Let us examine the text of 1 Corinthians. The Corinthian church was a congregation where the gifts of the Holy Spirit were abundantly experienced. However, the church members were not using their precious gifts wisely.

This issue stemmed from a lack of understanding of how to use spiritual gifts and from disregarding Paul's guidance. Paul taught that "everything is to build the virtues of the Church of the Lord" and that "all things must reveal the glory of the Lord." Why? Because all gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit.

Among the church's members, some were leaders; some had analytical skills; others were good followers; some were designated to save, while others were designated to donate. These diverse gifts are meant to work together harmoniously, and when they do, the glory of the Holy Spirit is revealed.

In modern times, we often use the term "synergy." Synergy refers to the interaction or cooperation of two or more entities that produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their individual effects. The term originates from the Greek word meaning "to work together." In the church, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are the ultimate example of synergy.

Each of us possesses unique traits and talents. But how do these differ from the gifts of the Holy Spirit? For the children of God, all talents—whether given by the Holy Spirit, inherited, or cultivated by faith—must be used for God's purposes. The same principle applies to all gifts.

The apostle Paul also introduces additional gifts in Romans 12 and Ephesians 4 that are not mentioned in today's text. The diversity of God's gifts is truly astounding, isn't it? God desires for us to live in joy and anticipation, experiencing His miracles through these gifts.

The Church is a community established by Jesus to manifest the miraculous work of God through obedience and faith. Our talents and wealth reach their fullest potential when used for the glory of God. If used solely for our own purposes, they are like ordinary water. But when lifted up to glorify God, they become like rich, exquisite wine.

When we pray to the Lord, the requests we bring before Him often seem almost miraculous to us. Yet, how often do we find ourselves praying out of necessity, unable to truly believe in or expect His answer?

In such moments, we must first reaffirm the boundless power of the Lord to answer our prayers and the absence of any limits to His ability. Our prayers should not be rooted in our own limitations but in the promises of our Creator God, for whom nothing is impossible. We have already experienced His countless miraculous works in our past, are experiencing them now, and will continue to do so in the future.

However, if we shift our focus to ensure that our prayers align with God's vision rather than being confined to the miracles we desire, we will find ourselves walking a faith-filled journey that overflows with life and purpose.

Church, let us use our talents and possessions—whatever they may be—to save souls and proclaim the glory and authority of God to the world through the Gospel. Through our faithful actions, miracles we cannot foresee will occur daily, expanding the kingdom of God! Amen.

Reflections and Applications for Today's Sermon:

- 1) What do you think is the greatest miracle in your life? How has that event affected your faith and life?
- 2) How did you come to understand and accept the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine in John 2? What role do the miracles described in the Bible play in shaping your understanding of God's character?
- 3) Among the gifts of the Spirit, which the Holy Spirit gives to each person for the common good of the church, which one interests you the most? If given the opportunity, how would you use that gift for WCUMC? Please read 1 Corinthians 14 and refer to Paul's guidelines for utilizing the gifts of the Spirit.