



*Tracy Hester*

BREAK FREE. LIVE FREE.

# Do You Believe in **Miracles?**

## 5-Day Challenge

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# 01 DAY

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## Introduction

What is the first word that comes to your mind when you hear the word miracle? You might think, yes, I want one. Or you might not be too excited because you are unsure if miracles are still happening. After all, you haven't observed a miracle in your situation because nothing has changed. Well, keep reading because this investigative study will prove that miracles are for today and for you!

As I was preparing for this investigative study, I heard the Holy Spirit say, "God wants his people to expect miracles." Simply put, this means we should not be surprised when miracles happen in our lives. Instead, we are expecting miracles and looking for ways God might want to use us to be a miracle for someone else. God wants his supernatural power to become natural!

## What Can You Expect As You Go Through This Investigative Study About Miracles?

1. An in-depth discussion about miracles. We will look at miracles from a more profound vantage point. Address any questions you might have about how God might want to work a miracle in your life.
2. Increased faith to believe God's power is available and can be released in and through you to receive the miracles God has for you and for you to be a worker of miracles for others. I Corinthians 4:20 says that the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but power.
3. Prove that miracles are not as uncommon as we might think. They are still happening today.
4. Unlock some biblical factors that seem to release miracles.
5. Understand our faith position, how we can stand in faith for our miracle.

## What Is a Miracle?

Miracles are unexplainable and extraordinary occurrences that God divinely performs in our lives. They are supernatural events that happen beyond our natural ability or power. You will know that you need a miracle when you have tried everything in your strength, and you have consistently failed. Can anyone relate? If so, you are a candidate for a miracle?

### **Making It Personal:**

Miracles are beyond what we can see! As Christians, God wants us to believe, and then the seeing follows. Do you have to see something to believe something? Explain your answer:

2 Corinthians 4:18 says - "So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."

Sometimes our miracles will harvest in a different season. For example, a farmer plants seeds in the fall or winter, and typically the harvest season starts about one year later, in September or early October. So frequently, we might have to sow seeds of faith and prayer for a season while we wait for our miracle to come.

## My Testimony

I'm in sales, and I've been working at my current job for over 13 years. For years it seemed as if the effort I was putting into my job wasn't paying off. I felt something was blocking or holding me back from achieving my goals. Others on my team were also working hard, but they harvested a greater return on their efforts. Despite my frustrations and discouragement, I continued to pray and press forward with doing all the right things I knew to do. Recently, I've seen a fantastic breakthrough at work! I'm finally starting to see the harvest come from my labor. I see the return on my investment (ROI), and it's been a bountiful harvest.

Be encouraged because whatever you might be sowing now, you will reap—this is a Biblical and a natural principle. Galatians 6:7 tells us, "Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant" (NLT). This is the law of sowing and reaping.

## What Is the Purpose of a Miracle?

In scriptures we read miracles were for the unbelievers to convince them that God was real. They confirm the reliability and truth of God the Father.

### **Miracles are:**

- Proof that God is real.
- Evidence of his love for us.
- Proof that we serve a supernatural God.

For example, in I Kings 18:17-24, 28-29 (NLT) - there was a showdown between Elijah and the 450 prophets who served Baal to prove who was the real God. The contest was this—both prophets would put a bull in a firepit with no fire, and each would call on their God to light their bull on fire. The God who responds by lighting the bull on fire would be the true God.

The 450 prophets called on Baal to light their bull on fire, and nothing happened. Elijah began to call on Yahweh. Yahweh answered and set the bull on fire. All the people saw this and fell on their faces and said "The Lord is the real God".



# 02 DAY

## Do You Believe in Miracles?



### **A Miracle Mindset:**

A miracle mindset is when we continue to believe what the Bible says as our final authority instead of our challenges and unfavorable circumstances. A miracle mindset is when we have enormous faith to believe in what God says 100% of the time.

## How Do We Begin to Flow in Miracle Mode?

### 1. Pursue Unity- We need to become unified with others and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1 says, "On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability." (NLT)

The apostles performed miracles, signs, and wonders because they were united. Acts 5:12-16 says - "The apostles performed many signs, wonders, and miracles among the people. And the believers were wonderfully united as they met regularly in the temple courts in the area known as Solomon's Porch. No one dared harm them, for everyone held them in high regard. Continually more and more people believed in the Lord and were added to their number—great crowds of both men and women. When people knew Peter was going to walk by, they carried the sick out to the streets and laid them down on cots and mats, knowing the incredible power emanating from him would overshadow them and heal them. Great numbers of people swarmed into Jerusalem from the nearby villages. They brought with them the sick and those troubled by demons—and everyone was healed!" (NLT)

### 2. Changing our Mindset to Make Room for a Miracle

We can prevent miracles from manifesting in our life when we don't believe, and when we deny God's power. To believe, sometimes we must remove our unbelief, biases, blinders, doubts, fears, and other limitations that might block us from believing our impossible situations can become possible.

## Removing Our Mindset of Unbelief is Crucial for Three Reasons?

### 1. It despises God:

Numbers 14:11 says, "And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?" (ESV)

### 2. Unbelief is sin:

2 Timothy 3:1-5 reminds us, "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people." (ESV)

### **3. Unbelief grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit:**

James 4:17 says, "Remember, it is a sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." (NLT)

1 Thessalonians 5:19 reminds us not to quench the Spirit. This mandate focuses on our need to follow the Holy Spirit's leading. When we quench the Holy Spirit, we "stop his flow." Instead, as the Holy Spirit is ready to bring salvation, healing, and deliverance, we should flow with him. When we don't, it can hinder him and us from flowing in the supernatural.

If the Holy Spirit is free to move in our lives, we will see the supernatural work in our lives.



## Making It Personal:

What impossible situation(s) are on your prayer list?

What do you believe about God related to this impossible situation you are facing right now?

Do you believe in the power of God? And, that power, which is the Holy Spirit, is residing in you?

## Miracles Are for Today!

Based on scripture and testimonies, let's investigate three common miracle questions and prove miracles are still for today. But, more importantly, we want to understand how we can position ourselves not to miss the miraculous in our lives and how we can even be a miracle for someone else!





# 03 DAY

## Do You Believe in Miracles?

### **Question 1: Does God Work Miracles, or is Our Life a Series of Random Coincidences?**

Yes. God works miracles today, and our life is not a series of random coincidences. How often have you heard someone say it was fate or the stars aligned or that it was a coincidence, probability, or something strange just happened? Science has tried to pare down and eliminate God's supernatural and divine power so they can understand and make life all about science, mathematics, and facts. For example, we all studied the Big Bang theory in school. Astronomers believe the universe was created by a phenomenon known as the Cosmic Microwave Background. In other words, the universe began with an explosion of a hot matter. I've always had this question, "who created this matter"? The laws of physics say there must be matter to make matter. God was the creator of this matter which came into existence over 14 billion years ago, at creation. Astronomers have tried to discredit that God was the creator of the universe. Creation is the most astonishing supernatural miracle. How the world was formed goes against the logical mind. We will never be able to explain the supernatural based upon our human understanding.

## Scriptural Proof Our Life Isn't a Coincidence:

**1.** Creation was not random, which means our life is not random. On the contrary, creation was well thought out, designed, and executed by God. Our scriptural proof that our life is not random is highlighted in the seven days of creation (Genesis 1:1-31). We are part of God's creation, he created us on the sixth day, and he even gave us delegated authority to care for what he had made.

**2.** God is ordering our steps, not random events, or the cosmos.

Jeremiah 29:11 says God has a plan for our life, and that plan is good. God is directing our steps so we can fulfill the plan he has for us. As we allow, God will show us the right choices and lead us down the best path. He will show us which steps to take to keep us going in the right direction.

## Other Scriptures Proving Our Lives Are Not Coincidences:

- Psalm 40:2- "He stooped down to lift me out of danger from the desolate pit I was in, out of the muddy mess I had fallen into. Now he's lifted me up into a firm, secure place and steadied me while I walk along his ascending path. A new song for a new day rises up in me every time I think about how he breaks through for me!"
- Proverbs 19:21 - "Many are the plans in the mind of man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. God is directing our lives."
- Proverbs 3:5-6- "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not unto your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your path."

When we walk in God's plan and path, there will always be miracles chasing us down. Creation is a miracle, and because God created us on the 6th day, this means we are all walking miracles.

## Testimony That Our Lives Are Not a Coincidence:

A woman who was doubting her salvation phoned my church and wanted prayer. I called her and shared some scriptures to remind her of her salvation, and I prayed with her. At the end of our conversation, I asked her if we attended the same church, and she said no. I asked her how she got the number for the church, and she said, "I googled it, and your church was the first church to come up." I was amazed at how God set up this divine conversation. It's a miracle how God set this woman up to be restored, set free, and delivered. God wants us to be available to work miracles in other people's lives.

# 04 DAY

## Do You Believe in Miracles?



## Question 2: Can I Expect a Miracle in My life?

In short, the answer is an absolute Yes! But although it's a quick yes, I want to make sure that we challenge some of our mindsets and actions that invalidate our belief that miracles are for today. We must be careful about becoming double-minded, which is when we are wavering in our minds or faltering between two opinions. Here are some examples of how we can sometimes waver in our mind:

- We have faith in others but not in ourselves
- We try other ways to solve issues instead of trusting God completely
- We ask others for their opinions and advice instead of God
- We get discouraged, and we stop believing in what God's Word says
- We operate as lukewarm Christians
- We speak more negative talk than God-talk

## Scriptural Proof You Can Expect a Miracle:

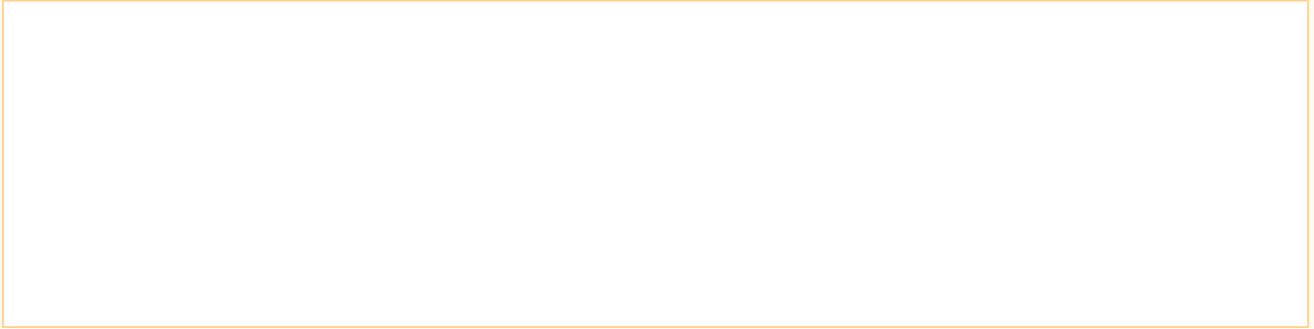
- Jeremiah 32:27 - "I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?" (NLT)
- Mark 10:27 - "Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God." (NLT)
- Mark 16:17-20 - "These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed." When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs." (NLT)
- Ephesians 3:20-21 - "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen." (NLT)
- John 14:12 - "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." (NLT)

## Common Factors with Five Miracles Jesus Performed:


Jesus performed 37 healing miracles and seven miraculous signs. Let's look at some of the healing miracles Jesus performed to determine if we can identify any patterns or similarities that we can apply to our life to increase our faith to also believe for a miracle. Note what resonates with you as each miracle is summarized.

## Jesus' Miracles:

**1.** He healed the woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8:40). This woman was bleeding for 12 years. She had spent all her money on healers. She pressed through the crowd. She came behind Jesus and touched the tassel of his prayer shawl. Instantly, her bleeding stopped, and she was healed.



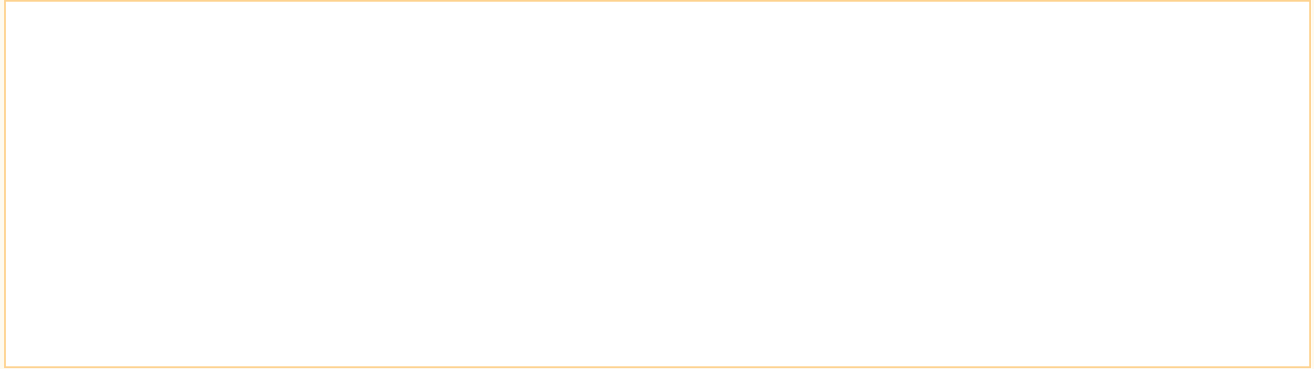
**2.** The healing of Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15). A woman was very ill, bedridden with fever. The moment Jesus touched her hand, she was healed. She got up and began to serve him.



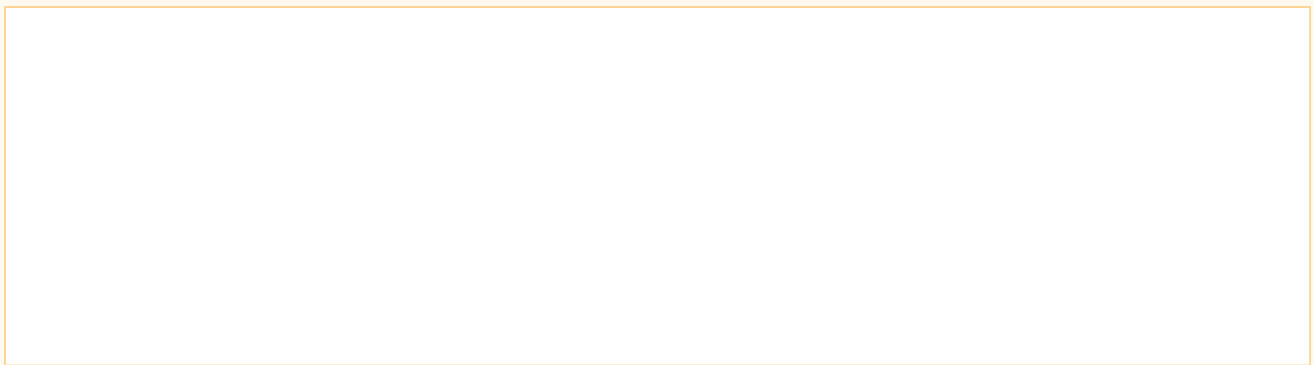
**3.** Jesus heals a deaf man with a severe speech impediment (Mark 7: 31-37). The people pleaded with Jesus to lay his hands on the deaf man and heal him. Jesus led him away from the crowd, and then he stuck his finger into the man's ear and put some of his saliva on the man's ear and tongue. Jesus gazed up to heaven and said, "Ethpathakh," which means in Aramaic, Open Up Now!



**4.** Healing of the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5). This man was crippled for 38 years. The angel of God would periodically descend into the pool, and whoever was the first person to jump into the pool would receive a healing miracle. The crippled man would try to crawl to be the first in the pool, but someone would beat him every time. Finally, Jesus saw this man needed some help, and Jesus asked him one question, "Do you want to be healed?" The man replied yes. Jesus told him to stand up, pick up his sleeping mat, and he would walk. Immediately the man stood up, and he was healed.



**5.** Healing of the seriously handicapped woman on the Sabbath ( Luke 13:10-17). The woman was seriously crippled and doubled over for 18 years. A demonic spirit caused her condition. When Jesus saw her need, he called her over and gently laid his hands on her. He told the woman, "you are free. I release you forever from this crippling Spirit." Instantly, she stood straight and tall and overflowed with glorious praise.



## **Here Are the Common Factors I Gleaned From the Five Healing Miracle Stories:**

1. Jesus recognized the need - he was compassionate.
2. People were severely ill- near death in some cases, they were suffering.
3. The people healed all encountered Jesus somehow – hands laid, Jesus spoke a word, Jesus put saliva on their tongue and ear.
4. The people were desperate to get healed.
5. Their healings were immediate for most.

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## Do You Believe in Miracles?



### **Question 3: How Do We Get Ready and Get Accustomed to the Miraculous?**

Every miracle and breakthrough have an appointed time. Get ready to receive the miracles God has for you!

## Making it Personal:

If your miracle showed up suddenly, would you be ready to receive it?

I believe God is grooming and preparing us to receive and adequately care for our miracles. But what if God was waiting on you to get ready before he sent the miracle? What things would you need to adjust?

We need to move from a place of just hoping for a miracle to a place of expecting a miracle. Here are five ways we can position and prepare ourselves as we wait for our miracles to come.

### 1. Gratitude

Thanking God before the miracle takes place is one way to demonstrate our faith. Remaining in the place of gratitude while we wait on the Lord for breakthrough keeps us full of joy, and the joy of the Lord is our strength. Also, staying in a place of gratitude and thanksgiving protects us from negative self-talk and thoughts that can delay or block the miracle.

### 2. Intimacy

Intimacy means we are near to God. Moses talked to God like a friend. Instead of chasing our miracle,



we are chasing after God. We want God more than our miracle. When we chase after God, miracles are going to happen. Friendship and face-to-face time with God might change God's mind about our circumstances. Psalms 34:18 says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed." (NLT)

Psalms 91: 9-13 says that when we make the Lord God our dwelling place evil will not come near us, no plague will come near us. Instead, God will give His angels charge over us, and when we call on God, he will answer us. He will also be with us when we are in trouble, and he will deliver and honor us.



### 3. Expectation:

Our expectation is in God alone. We understand that God is our source. If we believe God is our source, we can move out of the way and allow him to take control of our life. King David wrote this about his expectation being only on God:

"Truly my soul silently [waits] for God; From Him [comes] my salvation. He only [is] my rock and my salvation; [He is] my defense; I shall not be greatly moved. How long will you attack a man? You shall be slain, all of you, Like a leaning wall and a tottering fence. They only consult to cast [him] down from his high position; They delight in lies; They bless with their mouth, But they curse inwardly. Selah My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation [is] from Him." (Psalms 62:1-5 NKJV)

## 4. Obedience:

Obedience is doing what God tells us to do when he tells us to do it. Deuteronomy 28:2 says, "Blessings will chase us down and overtake us if we heed to the voice of God."

There are many blessings for obedience found in Deuteronomy 28:1:14:

"If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world.

**You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God:**

Your towns and your fields will be blessed.

Your children and your crops will be blessed.

The offspring of your herds and flocks will be blessed.

Your fruit baskets and breadboards will be blessed.

Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed.

"The Lord will conquer your enemies when they attack you. They will attack you from one direction, but they will scatter from you in seven!

"The Lord will guarantee a blessing on everything you do and will fill your storehouses with grain. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

"If you obey the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways, the Lord will establish you as his holy people as he swore he would do. Then all the nations of the world will see that you are a people claimed by the Lord, and they will stand in awe of you.

"The Lord will give you prosperity in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, blessing you with many children, numerous livestock, and abundant crops. The Lord will send rain at the proper time from his rich treasury in the heavens and will bless all the work you do. You will lend to many nations, but you will never need to borrow from them. If you listen to these commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today, and if you carefully obey them, the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you will always be on top and never at the bottom. You must not turn away from any of the commands I am giving you today, nor follow after other gods and worship them."  
(NLT)

## 5. Faith

Faith is not a feeling; it's a posture. It's believing that God is telling the truth. Hebrews 11:1 says- "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."  
(NKJV).

James 2:18-20 says, "But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe-and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?" (NKJV).

## What Can Our Faith Produce?

Hebrews 11:32-33 says, "And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." (NKJV)

Matthew 17:20 says, "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." (NLT)

Faith can make our impossible situations possible. After reading this study, I hope that your trust and confidence have increased to believe that miracles are for today! We have the right to believe in miracles and to operate in the miraculous. Mark 16:17-20 reminds us, "And these signs will accompany those who believe in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; They shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them, they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (NLT)

## Let's Pray

Holy Spirit gives me the power to believe, release your strength in me so that your power is on display in my life. I want to work miracles so that my life is on display for your glory. I am asking for miracles, signs, and before wonders to manifest in and change us to me. Release your healing power in me. I am anticipating and expecting the supernatural intervention of God to break out in me. I expect to hear the testimony of people healed, delivered, and set-free. In Jesus' name, Amen!

