

Filled

We are emphasizing our belief in God of Miracles for the simple fact that it is so easy and tempting to not believe. We have so many reasons to doubt: seemingly unanswered prayers, disappointments, evil in the world, natural disasters, cancer, car wrecks, etc. Yet, there are two reasons why I believe in God of Miracles. First, the God of the Old and New Testament Bible is a God of Miracles, and He cannot change. Second, I have personally witnessed numerous miracles.

I believe in the God of the Bible. I believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe that the church is the Body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit. I believe we are part of the same church founded by the Apostles, empowered by the Holy Spirit, who went about continuing the work that Christ began in the earth. I believe that God confirms the preaching of the Gospel with signs and wonders, with various miracles, gifts of the Holy Spirit (**Hebrews 2:4**).

We have a false assumption that God was constantly performing miracles from the time of recorded history until the last apostle (John) died. Then the time of miracles ceased. This is a false assumption on two counts. In fact, decades and centuries often passed during Bible days seemingly that God did nothing on the earth. The children of Israel, for example, lived in slavery in Egypt for 400 years without any intervention by their God. This is only one example. God's seeming silence was broken when somebody or a group of somebodies began seeking after God in prayer. God of Miracles answered the cry of their hearts and saw their faith.

The Bible is a highlight reel of God of Miracles intervening in the lives of humans. If the Bible were still being written today, we would have the same kinds of miracles recorded. From the ascension of Jesus to heaven until today, people all over the earth have received uncountable miracles. I read daily of miracles.

2 Foundational Scriptures

Ephesians 5.15-21

- Live carefully, thoughtfully
- Make the most of the time {open for business}
- The days are evil {difficult, desperate}
- Evil days provide great opportunities.
- *Message*, "Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him."

Colossians 1.26-27

- God kept a secret for ages and generations.
- Now He is revealing it to a group of people called "saints."
- "Christ in you, the hope of glory"
- Christ (God) lives in me, which gives me great hope.
- Christ living in me gives the world great hope.
- God desires to use you and me bring hope, healing and salvation to a lost, hurting and dying world.

Christ in us

- Begins with the sound of a rushing mighty wind in Acts 2.
- Then fire. Fire represented the awesome presence of God in the Old Testament.
- They began speaking with languages given to them by the Holy Spirit.

- Peter revealed that this event was a fulfillment of Scripture. He began expounding from an obscure passage from Joel 2.28-32, written 800 years earlier in **Acts 2.16-21**.
- During this "last days" window of time, 3 things are true that had never been true before...
 1. Prophetic community made of young and old, male and female. Every fire baptized believer becomes a voice for God on the earth.
 2. Signs appear of the collapsing and chaotic atmospheric heavens above us and in the earth itself. The world is falling apart—physically, morally, functionally.
 3. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

When do most people call out to God?

{In troubling times, end-of-the-rope, end-of-self}

- **John 9.5**, "As long as I am in the world. I am the light of the world."
- **Matthew 5.14**, "You are the light of the world."
- **Acts 10:38** (NKJV) "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."
- On the day of Pentecost, Jesus began anointing his followers with the Holy Spirit and with power. Now, it is the task of believers to bring healing to those whom Satan is oppressing.
- We live in difficult, desperate, evil days. Our world is falling apart. YET, evil days provide great opportunities.
- You have the Spirit of Christ (the Anointed One), the Holy Spirit of God, in you and upon you. Just like Jesus, you are born of the Spirit and anointed by the Holy Spirit. You have gifts and ministries from the Holy Spirit for this moment.
 - We are not just **offering** help. **We can really help people.**
 - We contain the supernatural presence and power of Christ. We have the name of Jesus.
- Everywhere Jesus went, supernatural power was present.
- Everywhere we go, supernatural power is present.

This encounter—

- Ministering as Christ would to one whose world is falling apart, hearing by the Holy Spirit and being equipped to respond—is the purpose for God's power in our lives!
- This is what it means to be Spirit-filled.
- Jerry Cook, "Pentecostalism is not a stylized production to inspire the saints and to attract a few sinners, but a functioning prophetic community strategically placed in the world and open for business."
- We believe in the leadership and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. There seems to be two extremes concerning the Holy Spirit: neglect or hysteria. Let's find the middle of the road. We believe Holy Spirit leads us in all truth and empowers us to be effective witnesses of Christ.

Acts 1:4-5, 8

Filled Study Guide

Read Ephesians 5:15-21

- What does it mean to live carefully or thoughtfully?
- How can we "redeem time?"
- How do you believe this passage aptly describes the world today?
- What happens to an inebriated person?
- How is being filled with the Spirit analogous to being drunk with wine?
- Filled means to be controlled by. How can we be more controlled by the Holy Spirit?

Read Colossians 1:26-27

- What is the hidden mystery?
- What is the significance of Christ living in us?

Read Acts 1:4-5, 8

- How important to Jesus were these instructions to his disciples?
- Do believe this directive has any significance to us today?
- Perhaps we should ask to be baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit?