

"AMAZING THINGS: MIRACLES OF GOD"

SESSION 3 – Discernment of Miracles

Last session we examined two reasons why God chooses to perform miracles. Another reason why God chooses to perform miracles is to "**confirm a message from God**". A great example of this can be found in the story of Gideon and the wool fleece. [Judges 6:36-40](#). The last purpose we will study is that miracles "**confirm a messenger from God**". [1Ki 17:17-24](#); [John 3:1-2](#)

One may ask why God doesn't perform the same type of miracles today as He did in the times documented in the Old and New Testaments. **DISCUSSION – Why do YOU think that God doesn't perform those types of miracles today? Or does He?**

One reason might be that with man's technological advances that the hardened disbelief of the world would not acknowledge those miracles as genuine, or that men may claim credit. But perhaps it is simply because the type of repentance required for salvation isn't motivated by outward signs but by inward change. All of the miracles performed by Jesus weren't enough to convince the Pharisees that Jesus is the Messiah. [John 4:48](#), [5:36](#), [10:24-25](#), [37-38](#)

We are warned that in the Last Days deceptions will increase.

[1Ti 4:1-3](#); [Matt 24:23-25](#); [2Co 11:12-15](#)

So perhaps another reason why God doesn't perform miracles in the same way He did back then was similar to the 400 years of prophetic silence prior to Jesus' appearance.

Consider the next miraculous event in God's timeline... the Rapture and what will happen after it at the beginning of the Tribulation: [2Th 2:9-12](#)

These verses imply that those who have heard the Gospel and rejected Jesus Christ **BEFORE** the Rapture, will not have the opportunity to accept Jesus **AFTER** the Rapture. Yes, many will be saved during the Tribulation, but it seems like those people will not have heard the Gospel before.

DISCUSSION – Do you agree with that interpretation of those verses?

These days people, regardless of their beliefs, are seeking signs of supernatural events. There was a wave in the 1970's with the rebirth of New Age mysticism, paranormal

activity, etc. There's now a revival of that today... seeking "deeper meanings", "hidden meanings", and an active pursuit of "miraculous" events and signs.

So how can we discern if a "miraculous" event is of the Lord? God's Word gives us plenty of guidance: [Isa 8:19-20](#); [2Co 11:4-6](#); [Gal 1:8](#)

Questions to ask ourselves and those who claim that a miracle is of the Lord:

Does the miracle draw the person to God? (*God of the Bible*) Is the miracle consistent with the word of God? (*or does it contradict it?*) Does the miracle confirm the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Is there evidence of a miracle? (*how reliable are the witnesses?*) Is there a purpose for God to intervene? (*look at the 4 reasons we studied as a basis*) Is there support for this miracle in God's character?

DISCUSSION – Other than healings, have you witnessed or have been told of a miracle? How does that miracle line up with these rules of discernment? Can miracles similar to those described in the Bible still happen today?

We believers need to be careful that in our assessment of the "signs of the times", as we look toward the Rapture, that we don't get caught up focusing in on signs and wonders.

Ultimately, the only way we can know for certain that a miracle is of the Lord is if it lines up with His word. We might "feel" like a miracle is of the Lord, but feelings are tricky.

[Matt 7:21-23](#) There are things that will look like "the real deal" on the surface, but won't be.

[John 4:42](#) The Samaritans heard about Jesus from the woman at the well, and even though what she was saying was truthful, it was only after they went to Jesus Himself, and heard directly from Him did those truths have any real meaning. And that's what we need to continue to do... go directly to the Word, the *Logos*.