

# Lord, I Don't Need a Miracle, and Here's Why!

*"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the  
LORD delivers him out of them all." Psalm 34:19*

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## Acknowledgments

The wisest of men once said, "there is no new thing under the sun." His words come to mind as I consider the compiling of this summation of why miracles have ceased. What you are about to read is truly nothing new but a personalizing of arguments which were originally taught by Dr. John Whitcomb to me as a student while attending Grace Theological Seminary in the early eighties.

This Christ-like and Spirit-directed scholar had the ability to formulate arguments so that they were embedded in the mind for the times to come. His contribution must be acknowledged and my gratitude must be expressed to Dr. Whitcomb.

I would also acknowledge and express my gratitude to Dan Kuhn who has spent hours formatting the material on his own initiative. His giftedness as an editor and production manager is greatly appreciated.

However, as we all know, we acknowledge first and foremost our great God and Savior for the clarity of His Word. We seek Christ's glory as the One who works all things for His glory and for our good and only by His grace.

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*"We have come to give thanks to God and really to enjoy the miracle power of a miracle working God. Wherever you go, whenever Jesus is there, there are always miracles. No miracles, no Jesus. When Jesus is preached and the gospel is preached, miracles are automatic. Tonight you've come for miracles. Tonight you're going to see miracles. Tonight God won't fail you."*

Opening address of Bishop Michael Reid for Miracle Day: Wembley 2005 Event (Michael Reid Ministries, <http://www.michaelreidministries.org/live/index.php?id=160601m>)

**B**ishop Reid and many others throughout the world, especially within the Charismatic and Pentecostal movements, promote the idea that supernatural miracles of healing exist and are active in the church today. "Holy Spirit Miracle Crusades" are conducted regularly around the world, and people are taught that God does not want His children to be sick; He wants them to be healthy and prosperous. It is a seductive message that resonates well with an aging WWII and baby boomer generation. But is that what the Bible says?

Does the Bible really teach, as many claim, that God has imbued individuals living today with the same supernatural gift and ability to perform miraculous healings as was done in New Testament times?

We are studying Matthew chapter 8, and it is important to put everything into a hermeneutical perspective, knowing that Matthew presents Christ as a **king** who is offering a **kingdom** to a **nation**, the nation of Israel. So there is uniqueness of the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ as He offers that kingdom to the nation of Israel. There is a uniqueness that is unique to the nation of Israel and different in reference to the church today.

We must lay the groundwork so that we can clearly see why certain things are **not** happening today, and why it is that God did things for Israel that He does not do for us, and why it is that Lord, I don't need a miracle.

**John Wimber, the founder of the Vineyard movement across the United States, has said that the success rate of their miracle ministry is only 2%** (Quoted by D.A. Carson in his book Oh God, How Long). Could it be that he is testifying that people

are being healed not because of any power or gift of healing, but because God answers prayer in a small number of cases? Why is it that God is not performing miracles today through individuals like He did through the apostles in the early church?

In All the Miracles in the Bible, Herbert Lockyer (p.19) states, *"Miracles are the swaddling clothes of the infant church, not the garments of the full grown."* In his exhaustive study of all the miracles in the New Testament, Herbert Lockyer found that in **every case**, they were only performed by Christ, an appointed apostle, or performed by a person whom an apostle had laid hands on.

Acts 17:11 tells us the Bereans received the word with all readiness of mind. They were teachable, but not naive. They searched the scriptures daily to see if these things were so. So let's search the scriptures and consider for a moment why it is that **"Lord, I Don't Need a Miracle, and Here's Why"**.

The key to answering this question lies in the correct hermeneutical interpretation of the book of Matthew. We must embrace **biblical objectivity** as opposed to **experiential subjectivity**. Matthew presents Christ as the King of the Jews. And Christ offers a unique kingdom that applies to Israel, but does not apply to us.

## The Purpose of Suffering

Before we look at the issue of miracles, we must first come to realize the biblical intent of sickness and suffering in the life of a believer.

Suffering has an intended purpose, and there are major differences in what Jesus was doing then, and what is being said and done today.

Why is there sickness and suffering in the life of believers today?

First, all sickness is here because of sin. Sin brought death and a curse and disease to the earth, and it brings sickness into our lives. God is not the creator of sickness any more than He is the creator of divorce or adultery.

- The source and origin of sickness is sin, and our sin nature is inherited from our parents as a result of the sin of Adam in the Garden. When sin entered the world, it was followed by disease and death.
- Sometimes our sickness is because of our deliberate sin. There is a way in which the naturalness of sin in our lives ultimately brings about sickness and death. For example, liver disease from alcohol abuse, or STDs from promiscuous behavior. (Proverbs 3:7-8, John 9:1-2, Mark 2:3-5)
- Sometimes our sickness is caused by a deliberate Satanic attack as it was in the case of Job. But God takes that source of sickness and uses it for his purposes that are beyond our understanding. (1 Corinthians 11:29-30, James 1:14-15, 5:14-16, 20)
- Sometimes we are sick so that God can teach us His comfort. God's comfort is expressed to us when we suffer, and that teaches us how to comfort others that are suffering as well.
- Sometimes suffering is brought into our lives to change us as a person and cause us to be humbled before him and to have our lives changed in ways that could not be changed in any other way. God can use that suffering to develop our character and patience and endurance. I can't remember a time when sickness in my life did not change me as a person. Every time I am sick there is a work that God does in my heart to change me.
- Sometimes sickness is for the glory of God. John 11:4 says *"When Jesus heard that, He said, 'This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'"*

Psalm 23 says that the Lord is my Shepard, I shall be content. We need to be content in whatever state we are in, and not be wanting and complaining.

**It is NOT God's will for all of His children to be healed!** So let's let God be God, and let's be sick to the glory of God! We want to be able to say "God, I really don't need a miracle, what I

need is to live by these principles, that relate to how you can take the worst of circumstances and use them for Your Glory."

John's Gospel, chapter 21, verse 17 says,

*John 21:17 "He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.*

*18 "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."*

*19 This He spoke, signifying by what death **he would glorify God**. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, 'Follow Me.' "*

What can we learn from this passage? Jesus is calling Peter to a ministry and is giving a predictive death message indicating that he will die for the cause. Why did Jesus do this?

Because God is more concerned about our love for him, than for the circumstances we are in! We need to be committed to the cause of Christ to death. "The death by which Peter would **glorify God**". God wants us to die in such a way as would glorify Him. God wants us to stop being **discontented** with our life and start **living it** for the **glory of God!** We have to come to the point of contentment in our lives and let God use these various circumstances in our lives to bring us there.

The ultimate purpose of all suffering is so that God may be magnified and glorified!

Having addressed the purpose for sickness and suffering in the lives of believers, let's turn our attention now to this matter of miracles and see what the scriptures actually teach.

Listen to these words that are used to describe the works of Christ in Acts 2:22:

*"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by **miracles, wonders, and***

*signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—“*

Now ask yourself:

- *When* were these events to occur?
- *To whom* were they to occur?
- *What* was the intent and purpose of the signs, miracles and wonders?

## Five Biblical Reasons why Miracles are not Occurring Today

As we carefully examine scripture passages like Acts 2:22, we discover that there are **five biblical reasons why miracles are not occurring today.**

**Reason #1: Because these miracles were done for a designated group of people**

Miracles were done by an **appointed** group of people that were sent to a **selected nation!**

Acts 2:14-21 says,

*14 “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.*

*15 “For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.*

*16 “But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

*17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; **your** sons and **your** daughters shall prophesy, **your** young men shall see visions, **your** old men shall dream dreams.*

*18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.*

*19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.*

*20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.*

*21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.”*

Who is this written to? It was written to Jews. Some today think they will dream a dream or prophesy a prophecy. But according to this passage, you have to be of Jewish descent to do that. If you are doing this today, you must prove you are a full-fledged, full-blooded Jew!

***“Men of Judea and all those who dwell in Jerusalem Let it be known to YOU...”***

This says that it shall come to pass in the last days. But that "flesh" of "all flesh" are the sons and daughters of the "men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem". It is YOUR sons and YOUR daughters, YOUR young men and YOUR old men. The word YOUR is inserted four times in modifying sons, daughters, young men, and old men, because that "your" points back to "men of Judea".

Gentiles don't have the privilege of participating in these things. This is kingdom truth about the king and the kingdom He is going to establish. **Gentiles have no rights to this!**

*Mt 10:1 “And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.*

*10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.*

*6 “But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

*7 “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’*

*8 “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”*

In Matthew 10:1, 5-8, Jesus commanded His disciples to go, and they are specifically told where they are to go. Twelve apostles who are Jews are sent to the lost house of Israel, sent to a nation.

In Acts 2:17, Peter uses an Old Testament prophecy that says that certain things are to be done by an appointed group of people with reference to a future time. Again in the life of Christ, when He chose the twelve to get the job done, notice what is stated there. You will see the same type of emphasis, emphatically implied.

Note that Jesus sent them out and commanded them. "Do not go into the way of the gentiles... go unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel". Notice there are twelve apostles who are Jews, who are sent specifically to the lost house of Israel. **They are sent to a nation.**

Matt 15:21-24 describes an encounter that Jesus had with a Cyro-Phonician woman from Tire and Sidon. This is an area NOT in Israel.

*Mt 15:21 "Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.*

*22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."*

*23 But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."*

*24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*

*25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"*

*26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."*

*27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."*

*28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour."*

The response of Jesus toward this woman was to ignore her! Why? *"I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."* The woman worshipped him and cried out for help. Jesus again ignored her, saying it was not good to throw the bread to the dogs. See, Jesus was not sent except to the lost sheep of Israel, and this woman was a gentile.

But the woman is very wise and persistent. "Would you mind just giving me a crumb?" She says.

**As gentiles we get the crumbs that fall off the table!** That's all we get! The feast is for Israel. The crumbs are for the gentiles.

So these miraculous signs and wonders are for the house of Israel.

It's time for us to stand up for the authority of the truth, and not what someone claims to have experienced. If an unusual healing has occurred in their life, it is something that God has done by way of an answer to prayer, not because someone has the gift of healing, because the gift of healing was only for those who were eye witnesses of Christ and it was specifically for the house of Israel.

This isn't for the gentiles, it is for the Jews. It is for the intended purpose of authenticating the ministry of the king and it is for the intended purpose of establishing the kingdom for the blessing upon Israel.

We don't know what these so-called "faith healers" are doing today, but they are not doing what the apostles did. They are denying the authority of the scriptures. This is for the house of Israel.

<p><b>Reason #2:</b> Because these miracles are done BY specially selected and appointed people who are not living today.</p>
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The ability to perform miracles were conferred upon a select group of apostles, not to all believers in all ages.

When Jesus had called his twelve disciples to himself, He gave them power to heal all kinds of sickness and diseases.

*Matthew 10:1 "And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease".*

Notice that Jesus only gave the twelve the power to heal all kinds of sickness and diseases, even though there were many other disciples!

In similar fashion, in Luke 10:1, Jesus **appointed** 70 disciples to go out.

*Luke 10:1 "After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go."*

Notice He **appointed** them. None of the other disciples received this special appointment or power.

The ability to heal all kinds of sickness and diseases were the signs of an apostle.

In 2 Corinthians 12:12, Paul indicates that the ability to work signs and wonders and mighty deeds was one of the unique qualifications of an apostle:

*"Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds."*

If it was normal practice for all or most New Testament believers to work miracles, then miracles could not possibly be a unique sign of an apostle!

The gift of being able to supernaturally heal someone and perform miracles are the signs of apostles. These are not the signs of the church.

*Mark 16:17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;*

*18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

Here Jesus is reiterating what will be the signs of an apostle. Mark is not saying that all believers will have these signs, because

the context of this statement is indicated in verse 14. He is only speaking to the eleven apostles. Apostles did indeed exhibit these signs, but not all other believers. When Jesus said "You brood of vipers!" we look at the context and understand that He was not speaking to believers. In the same way, when Jesus spoke in Mark 16:17-18, he was not speaking to believers in general, he was speaking to the eleven. He was not teaching general truth that applies to all believers. If you think that He was, then you must be able to drink poison and play with venomous snakes without harm. That is obviously not the case.

When the disciples were considering the apostle who would replace Judas, what were the qualifications?

*Ac 1:21 "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,*

*22 beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."*

You had to be **with him** from the baptism to the resurrection; you had to be a **first-hand eye witness** to the teachings of Jesus. These were the qualifications of an apostle.

**No one living today meets those qualifications!**

(Paul was a special case in that he was chosen to be an apostle by Jesus Christ and he received direct revelation from Jesus after the resurrection.)

There are some references where Gentiles did receive blessings. In Acts 8, Philip went to Samaria and performed many mighty miracles. In Acts 8:14, the apostles had to go and say that it was a legitimate thing that was being done. In Acts 6:6, Philip had the apostles hands laid upon him for the ministry that he would do.

B. D. Warfield who spent years researching the miracles of the Bible, said this:

*"There has never been a miracle performed in the new testament that was not either performed by an apostle or one who had the hands of an apostle laid upon him."*

Finally, the clearest proof of this point is found in Hebrews 2:3-4.

*Heb 2:3 "how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed to us by those who heard Him**,*

*4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"*

First notice that the signs and wonders and miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit were not experienced by the person who wrote the book of Hebrews! They were experienced by **those who heard him** – the **eye witnesses**. "By those who heard Him" has to refer to people who were alive during the time of Christ.

So the salvation which was spoken by our Lord was confirmed to the second generation of hearers by the first generation eye witnesses by means of miraculous signs.

How did God confirm it? By bearing witness through them or with them. That word for **bearing witness** is a compound word, "*sun-epi-martureo*": "sun" meaning "with", "epi" meaning "upon", "marturas" meaning a witness (from where we get the word "martyr"). What this word means is that **God is bearing witness**. God was **with them** and **upon them** bearing witness with miracles and confirming the message to those who heard Jesus.

So in this verse, God is bearing witness with signs and wonders **but only to those who have heard him**; those who were able to hear him in his earthly ministry (1 John 1:1). This is a **strong indication** that this ministry was confirmed to those who were with Him and heard Him, but not to everyone else who would come afterwards.

This is not based on a **subjective analysis** of something that occurred by way of a healing or personal experience, but an **objective analysis** of the biblical text that tells us that there is **only one group of people** that is going to have the privilege of doing these miracles and experiencing these special gifts of the Holy Spirit.

It is the group responsible for passing on the original teachings of Jesus and there was a supernatural confirming work of God by way of miracles in their life to confirm the message.

So these miracles were done by a selected and specially appointed group of people who are not alive today.

**Reason #3: They were limited to a designated period of time**

Because miracles are only given to a selected group of individuals and were given for a designated group of people, they are necessarily limited to a specific period of time. They are not "open-ended".

These apostles and prophets were sent to a **particular generation**.

Notice Luke 11:49 – 51:

*49 "Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send **them** prophets and **apostles**, and some of them **they** will kill and persecute,'*

*50 "that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of **this generation**,"*

*51 "from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of **this generation**."*

God says that He will send them apostles and prophets, and their blood will be required of this generation.

What generation is that? It is the generation of the people that lived during the life of Christ.

We don't know who the Pope is over in Rome, but he is not one of the apostles, and he is not an apostle now. That generation died. They were sent to **THAT** generation, not to our generation.

*Mark 16:20 "And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and **confirming** the word through the accompanying signs."*

Today we have the written word which was not available immediately after the ascension.

*Heb 4:12 "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the*

*division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

God’s Word contains the authenticated message of the apostles. The age of the apostles is long past. The accompanying signs ended with the generation for whom they were intended. The apostles laid the foundation of the church. We are building the roof.

**Reason #4: Miracles were specified for an intended purpose.**

When you log into a computer system, you must first identify who you are. But that is not sufficient. You must also authenticate yourself. Authentication means that you prove to the computer system that you are who you have identified yourself to be. This is usually done by entering a password or answering some other question that would be known only by you. Once you have identified and authenticated yourself to the system, there is no longer any need for authentication.

The miracles of the New Testament were for the purpose of authentication. They are not for our comfort, pleasure, or entertainment.

*Matthew 11:1 “Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.*

*2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples*

*3 and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”*

*4 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:*

*5 “The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.”*

The miracles of Christ were for the intended purpose of authenticating Him as the real Messiah.

*John 10:25 “Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, **they bear witness of Me.”***

The miracles of Christ bore witness to all those who saw him that He was the real Messiah. And the miracles of the apostles proved their authenticity as authorized eye witnesses.

We have already looked at Hebrews 2:3:

*Heb 2:3 “how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed to us by those who heard Him,***

*4 God also **bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”***

The miracles of Christ and the apostles and those upon whom the apostles had laid their hands served to authenticate their message and bear witness that it was God’s divine truth. Once the message was authenticated and recorded in the pages of the Bible, there was no longer a need to re-authenticate the message over and over.

The miracles that Jesus did bore witness of him. They were for the purpose of authenticating who He was. He was instituting a new covenant (Jer 31:31) which replaced the covenant made with Israel at Mount Sinai.

There were authenticating miracles surrounding the giving of the covenant to Moses at Sinai, but those miracles did not continue, nor was there a reason for them to continue. In the same way, there were authenticating miracles at the giving of the new covenant, but those miracles do not continue open ended, and there is no reason for them to continue. To continue to expect authenticating miracles is to be guilty of unbelief.

**Reason #5: Miracles had vanished by the end of the New Testament**

Finally, we know that miracles are not occurring today because miracles **ended** by the end of the New Testament period. Consider for a moment all the people that are listed as being sick in the later books of the New Testament:

*2 Timothy 4:20: "Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick."*

Why didn't Paul, the fellow with the gift of healing, lay hands on Trophimus? He left him sick in Miletus. In Philippians 2:25-27, Paul talks of how sick Epaphroditus was and that "For indeed he was sick almost unto death". Paul had the gift of healing earlier in his ministry, but he did not heal Epaphroditus. Paul said that God healed him.

*Philippians 2:25 "Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;*

*26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.*

*27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow."*

In 1 Timothy 5:23, Timothy is sick and needs to drink wine because of his frequent stomach sickness.

In 2 Timothy 4:11, Paul is a sick and frail man who needs a doctor. Paul is being treated by Doctor Luke. The believers were praying for the sick. *The main healer is being treated by Luke the doctor!* **Why did Paul need a physician if God wants us to all be healed?**

Finally, in James 5:16, believers are instructed to pray for the sick. (See also 2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

All of these are clear evidence that the miraculous sign gifts had ended by the end of the New Testament period. Their purpose had been fulfilled.

So we see that biblically, miracles are

- Given to a particular group of representatives who would do them,
- Given to a designated nation (Israel) who would receive them, and
- Given during a limited period of time in which they would be done, ending around 100 AD. There are no more reliable records of miracles referenced in church history after 100 AD. All those referenced after this point have a big question mark over them.

You see, it was for **THAT** generation! It was for **Israel**. It was for the purpose of **authentication**. It does not apply to the church today.

Now please note that

- We are not denying the miracles of the Bible! We are affirming the overwhelming authenticity and totality of Christ's miracles!
- We are not denying a reoccurrence of miracles at some time in the near future! During the tribulation two witnesses will evangelize the world in 3 years which will lead to 144,000 believing Jews. These are the sons and daughters that will dream the dreams and see the miracles.
- We are not denying the reality of a God-given answer to our prayers! James 5 says to pray for the sick!

Friend, instead of sitting there putting all your hope in God performing a miracle for you to heal you and get you out of your suffering,

- Have you ever considered how God may use this sickness in your life to introduce you to the savior?
- Have you ever considered that your sickness might be the result of a deliberate sin in your life and how God might work in your life if you confess that sin and get it out of your life?
- Have you ever considered how this sickness may be caused by the way you have lived and made yourself vulnerable to Satanic influences and that he may be inflicting that sickness on you because of your continuation in that behavior?
- Have you ever considered the fact that you may be sick because God wants to draw you closer to Him than ever before and comfort you in a way that you cannot be comforted unless you are sick?
- Have you ever considered the fact that maybe God is just purifying your heart for the glory of himself? Just being content in being where you are and just letting God glorify himself through you.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, listen to the cries that are in the world that we live in! **Don't plead for a miracle!** Instead, help that sick or injured person through that time of sickness and suffering and share the wonders of God's love through the heartaches of life. **And think of what we are going to be on the other side as a result of what God is going to do through this illness!**

God's love is displayed through the heartaches!

## Conclusion

**Since God's miraculous program is restricted to a particular time and nation and to a particular group of people, we must demonstrate a greater compassion and aid to those who are suffering during this age!**

We can't offer a miracle, but we can offer our love! There are a lot of ill people in our church. How much can we do for them this week?

The miracles that are being worked today are the miracles of the love of God that is being poured out into our hearts so that we can then go out and love others who need our care and our compassion!

### **The Biblical Principle**

The absence of miracles now gives us even greater opportunities to demonstrate Christ's compassion to those who are suffering!

**The greatest miracle is not that a person is supernaturally healed! The greatest miracle is that a person can accept the illness or injury that they have with grace and submission!**

*Psalm 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all."*