

Title: Being The Miracle this Christmas

Text: (Judges 6:11-16)

I love Christmas Time.

I Love the Decorations-Street Lights, businesses, Trees & Bushes.

I Love the lights.

From Simple Homes, to Mansions.

They remind me of Jesus, the Light of the World.

(John 1:4-5) *In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

But for Some, Their Mind is on the Terrors of the Christmas Season - Lines, Traffic, Parties, Gift Exchanges, School Activities, & the Weather.

Their Mind is on the Troubles of Christmas Season

Alone or Lonely.

They survived, when someone else didn't.

They lived on, when someone they loved couldn't.

Their Mind is on The Tensions of Christmas Season

Family Visits, Old Wounds, & Fussing.

In these things it can be easy to lose sight of the Miracle of Christmas.

In the days of Gideon, times were tough.

Physically, Economically, politically, etc.

B/C of Sin, their nation was oppressed

Judges 6:13 *“where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of”*

Burning Bush, 10 Plagues, Red Sea, The Pillar of Cloud by day. The Pillar of Fire by night, The manna in the morning, The Quail in the evening, The water from a rock, The parting of Jordan. The walls of Jericho. The sun halting in the sky.

Judges 6:13 *“where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of”*

The feeding of the 5000, the healing of the Blind, lame, dumb, deaf, and the leper. The resurrection of Lazarus, and widows son. The huge catch of fishes. The coin in the fish's mouth. Healing of the demon possessed.

Judges 6:13 *“where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of”*

Maybe that's how you feel today?

Times are tough & God seems Unavailable.

Maybe you have the same needs today,

Food - (1 Kings 17:14,16) *“And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail”*

Cupboards, potato bin, fridge refill each night.

Health Issues: Health issues are stealing your Joy & God Seems Unavailable.

The healing of the lamb man born of 4 - Blind Bartimaeus,

Financial Issues: The money isn't stretching to cover the month & God Seems Unavailable.

Peter's big catch, the coin in the fishes mouth,

So, Where be all His Miracles?

God worked through ordinary people in the past.

Abram, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Matthew, Peter, John-Mark, Paul, Silas, Banabas.

God seemed to work through ordinary people in the Past, How About US?

Where be all His Miracles!

God wants us to be the Miracle!

"God wants to do a work in you 1st, before He can do a work through you!"

(Gal 2:20) He wants to live THROUGH Us

1 Cor 13:11 "To Grow Up Spiritually"

Paul talks about the Miracle of God as the great change in his life...

I. Gal 1:13-14 People will remember you when:

(Acts 8:3) Change in our Value & self Esteem:

(Phil 3:4-11) vs 4-6 was his pedigree - vs 7-11 Paul's life goals changed

II. Gal 1:15-16 The Miracle of Revealing His Son in Us:

- a. Christ Living In Us: (Gal 2:20, Rom 8:29)
- b. You are the Only Bible Some will ever Read.
- c. You are an Ambassador for Christ: (2 Cor 5:20)
- d. You represent to others what Christ & FBCK are Like. *Illus: If you aren't going to do right, don't invite them to church. The TV shows make us look bad enough.*

III. Gal 1:16-17 The Miracle was seen in the Immediate Change: (Acts 9:1-9)

- a. He didn't wait, He didn't ease into church.
- b. He Got Saved, Got Growing, & He Got Busy. (Acts 9:17-23)

IV. Gal 1:17-22 The Miracle was demonstrated b/c He didn't act the same way: (Acts 9:19-22)

- a. We are not to judge others, but we are able to be fruit inspectors. (Matt 7:15-20)

- b. Where is the change in OUR lives?

Where are the Fruits? (Gal 5:22-23, Eph 5:9-10)

- c. He didn't have the same friends:

(Acts 9:23-24) *And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: 24 But*

their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

(Acts 9:29) And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

Men he knew, worked with, studied with, & fellowshipped with wanted to Kill Him, But his life convicted them.

(Jn 3:19-20) And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

V. Gal 1:23-24 The Miracle of Gcod is is a change in YOU!

- a. They want to see proof. They think this is a Fad, or an excuse to get something.

(Titus 2:6-15)

- b. Mom and Dad have heard their children say they were sorry, but there has been no change.

Not a new leaf, a new you!

Not a Better Program, Better People.

God wants us to be the Miracle!

God wants to do a work in us So He can do a Work Through US:

(Phil 2:13) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

(Rom 8:29) Conforming Work

We are the canvas that God wishes to paint on:

*(1 Cor 12:6-11) And there are diversities of operations, **but it is the same God which worketh all in all.** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: **But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit,** dividing to every man severally as he will.*

We are the medium He desires to sculpt upon:

*(Heb 13:20-21) Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **Make you perfect** in every good work to do his will, **working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight,** through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

He Wants To Work THROUGH US: (Gal 2:20)

We Must be Filled with the Spirit: (Eph 5:18) *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

He has a purpose for us to be filled: We cannot fulfill His will if we are not filled!

(2 Tim 2:20-21) *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*

(Eph 1:10-14) *That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: **That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.** In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

How does the Miracle work?

(Rom 6:6-7) *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. **Realize You were separated from the Penalty of sin.***

(Rom 6:8-11) *Likewise (just like Christ) reckon (Accounting Term) ye also yourselves **to be dead (Separated) indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.** (We can also choose to free from the power of sin)*

(B/c your separated from Penalty/Power of sin)
(Rom 6:12) *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. **Don't turn control over to sin!***

(Rom 6:13) *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. **“Don't allow yourself to be used by the world to do sinful things”***

(Rom 6:14-16) *Know ye not, that **to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (The Choice is Ours***

(Rom 6:17) *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

(Rom 6:18) *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

(We can be the Miracle!)

(Rom 6:19) *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: **(This will not be a 1 time battle, but daily)** for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

(Rom 6:20-22) *But now **(We Can Have different Fruit)** being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

They treated each other differently: (Acts 4:31-37)

They took care of each other.

He wants to work through us: (Gal 2:20)

God wants us to be the Miracle.

We decide if that happens.

We have to let God work by humbling our pride.

We have to let God work by embracing His will & dying to self will.

We can be the Miracle God needs us to be.