

# *Life!* *Training*

Name:

Date:

# Miracle Living

*Experiencing Signs  
And Wonders  
by Faith*

Welcome to this journey through the experiences and teachings of the apostolic church as recorded in the book of Acts and the Letters written by the apostles. As a member of His body, you will discover His treasures for those who take His Name and receive His Spirit.

Come to the Scriptures with a prayer-filled heart and open mind as you uncover truths for your life. Record these in the blanks provide to help keep yourself accountable in your daily growth. Talk to the Lord when you find yourself coming short in an area. Share with others the riches you find in His living Word.

Day 1: embellished Bible story.

Day 2-6: interactive journal devotions.

Day 7: contemporary stories of faith.

## How to See God's Power

Miracle power is in \_\_\_\_\_ .<sup>1</sup>

All miracles occur in the \_\_\_\_\_ first.<sup>2</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ disease like a \_\_\_\_\_ .<sup>3</sup>

Healing is the \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ .<sup>4</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ is the will of God.<sup>5</sup>

Those in the \_\_\_\_\_ themselves quickly.<sup>6</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ in God makes His work \_\_\_\_\_ .<sup>7</sup>

Practical aspects of seeing people healed: <sup>8</sup>

Do not give \_\_\_\_\_ advice

\_\_\_\_\_ contact or cloth

\_\_\_\_\_ on area of \_\_\_\_\_

Keep your \_\_\_\_\_

Minister \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ what happened

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<sup>1</sup> John 14:12-18; 15:7; 16:23; Acts 3:6, 16; 4:7, 10, 12, 17-18, 30; 5:28, 40-41

<sup>2</sup> John 4:34; 5:17, 19-23, 30; 8:28, 42; 12:49-50; 14:10; II Corinthians 4:18

<sup>3</sup> Mark 7:33-35; 9:25-27, 11:21-24; John 5:8; Acts 3:6; 9:40; 10:38; 14:10

<sup>4</sup> Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Mark 7:27; Luke 5:12-13; James 5:15; III John 1:2

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 103:5; Proverbs 25:16; 30:8; Luke 24:42; John 21:13; I Timothy 6:17

<sup>6</sup> Mat. 15:13; Acts 5:34-39; 8:9-13, 18-24; 19:13-17; I Cor 3:19; Philippians 3:3

<sup>7</sup> Mark 9:17-24; Romans 10:17; II Timothy 4:18; Hebrews 11:1-40; 12:1-2; 13:8

<sup>8</sup> Mark 7:32-35; 8:22-26; 16:18; Acts 3:6; 5:15-16; 9:40; 14:10; 20:10; 28:8

## **We Saw God at Work**

*See Acts 5:11-39*

Hanabal twirled the ring of keys in his hands. “Well, those preacher boys are probably just itching to get out of jail today. Think they learned their lesson, Reuben?”

The taller guard shrugged. “If there is a lesson here, Hanabal, I wonder what it is. I still have not figured out what all this means. How did that lame man walk? He has been at the entryway to the courtyard for as long as I can remember. They say this Jesus did it, but I just can’t figure it out.”

Jesus was the one who fed all those people with bread and fish, right?”

“Yes, that’s the one.”

“Hmm. I wonder if these followers of his can do the same. I am hungry this morning and you know what a lousy cook my wife is.”

“You don’t look like you ever missed a meal,” Reuben said. Then he slowly shook his head. “Do you take anything serious?”

“Yeah, my job,” Hanabal swung the keys around again, “and since I am new at this post, I am going to do my best at it. Those big wigs in the council want us to bring these guys for questioning, and they won’t get out of my grasp.”

At the jail door, Hanabal turned his key to open the lock. “Don’t worry guys, we are coming to get you out.” He opened the outer door. Walking toward the inner door, he heard only his footsteps and the sound of Reuben’s heavy breathing. “Hello? Guys?”

Reuben frowned, “Could they still be sleeping? Everyone usually makes a lot of racket to get out of this place.”

Hanabal unlocked the inner door and looked in. “Guys? Hellooo?”

“It’s empty!” Reuben gasped.

“Great.”

“They are going to be in big trouble! How did they get out?”

“I don’t know,” Hanabal moaned, “but I think I will be back at the unemployment office in the morning.”

Hanabal looked at Reuben's face which had now drained of color. "Hey, Reub, I'll be all right. Don't take it so hard."

Reuben turned to leave, saying, "These people scare me out of my wits. You know that one guy just walked by my cousin and healed him? I have never seen my cousin talk, but now he keeps going on and on about this Jesus."

"He couldn't talk before and he does now?"

"Yeah. Just Peter's shadow healed him."

"Well, we better come up with something to tell Annas and Caiphas or we'll be locked up, too."

• • •

"They're what? What kind of imbeciles? What idiots! I ought to lock you up!" Annas paced back and forth.

"There was no way they could have gotten out," Reuben said. "Unless someone helped them."

Annas looked at Hanabal.

Hanabal gulped. "Me? You think I? Oh, no! I need this job. Besides, there were guards there all night. I wouldn't—"

"What is this going to come to?" an elder exclaimed.

"First, healings, now impossible escapes from locks and guards? Didn't the guards see anything going on?"

"Gentleman," a messenger said from the doorway, "the men you arrested last night are teaching the people more about their Jesus."

They brought the men in for questioning before the council. Their response to the interrogation made the leaders so mad they wanted to kill them.

Then an aged Pharisee stood up and addressed the council. "Men of Israel, watch what you do about these men. A long time back, remember when Theudas came along, boasting himself to be somebody. About 400 men followed him until he was killed then they fled and the movement died out. Later, Judas from Galilee got a mob following him. When he died, they dispersed, too. So, I say leave these men alone. If what they are doing were of men, it will fall apart. If it is of God, you cannot stop it—or you might end up fighting God Himself."

## Confirming Jesus and His Word

Many people wonder why God does miracles. First of all, His miracles, signs, and wonders fill a definite need for a person or group of people. Beyond that, however, miracles connect the invisible realm with the visible. It is one thing to tell a person about God and His work of salvation through Jesus, but when they see His power to raise the dead, heal cancer, or open locked doors, they see it is more than a story. They say, "If God can heal grandma, He can take away sins."

In his Pentecost sermon in Acts 2:22, Peter said Jesus was approved by what?

The supernatural acts of Christ proved Him. They proved His teaching. They confirmed that He was the man sent from God.

Some people today teach that signs and wonders confirm the preacher or minister. Some step back and say, "Wow, he is a man of God." Or they say, "I wish I had a walk with God like her." Is this what we learn from miracles? Does God confirm *us* with His power?

What did Peter say to the crowd after he raised up the lame man, in Acts 3:12?

Did Peter think this proved him as God's true apostle?

Instead, in Acts 3:13, Peter points to whom?

In Acts 4:10, what did Peter say this healing proved?

When God works through you, what does it prove?

You should desire to see God display His power. Some people get fearful about Christians becoming gawkers or merely chasing after a spectacle. However, God loves to do impossible things. He loves to bring our faith in His unseen power into the visible realm.

What effect did Jesus' miracle have, in John 2:11?

Why did many people believe on Jesus in John 2:23?

Later, He was speaking to a woman and told her something He could only know by supernatural gifting. After He shared this word of knowledge with her, how did she respond in John 4:19 and 4:29?

This simple miracle spread so far that the residents of Samaria also believed on Him. His power proved Jesus.

In John 14:10, Jesus gave credit for the works to whom?

And in His discussion with Philip, what did He say they should help a person do, in John 14:11?

Those who do come to faith in Him, either by just hearing the message or by the prompting of the supernatural, will do what? Answer from John 14:12.

Jesus did not come to make a once-through tour of His power. What He did was the beginning of God's power on display until the Lord comes back again. If miracles encouraged people to believe then, they will do so now.

## **Fear and Faith**

God began the church with enough sounds and feelings to get everyone's attention. The wind shook the house, flames danced over each person, and they all spoke with languages unknown to them. People who heard and saw all this going on were drawn by curiosity. Some made fun, but all noticed.

During Jesus ministry, multitudes gathered around Him because of His miracles. This continued to occur once the church began.

When the lame man was healed by the faith of Peter and John, what happened afterwards in Acts 3:11?

Peter took this opportunity to preach Jesus to the gathering crowd. Later, the power of God came to bring death instead of life. In Acts 5:11, how did people respond to the miraculous death of Ananias and Saphira?

Afterward, in Acts 5:12, what happened?

Miracles, signs, and wonders will reshape the public image of the church. The public has no problem with a religious movement that has little get-togethers and never bothers anyone. However, when God-sized things start happening in an assembly, people take sides. Some love it; some hate it.

In Acts 5:13, how did the general public respond?

What positive experience resulted from these things, in Acts 5:14?



Miracles produce fear and faith. Those who reject the power of the true God are afraid when they see, hear, and experience Him at work. They want to stop it, run from it, or defame it somehow. People who believe in the power of God in Christ, however, run toward God when He works like this. Supernatural actions boost faith in those who believe.

As the faith of the Jerusalem church grew, what did they do for a healing service, in Acts 5:15?

Anyone who was needy and hungry for God heard of this. A church does not have to depend on its sign to attract attention if God is working signs in it. Miracles are God's billboard—everyone hears about what He is doing quickly. In Acts 5:16, how do you know this is true?

Once again, unbelievers hate the power of God. They do not mind ritual and religion, but they hate the authority in the Name of Jesus. How did the unbelieving religious leaders in Jerusalem respond in Acts 5:17-18?

How did God show them up, putting His own power on display, in Acts 5:19-20?

God does not make anyone do anything. He works miracles through hearts of faith. Those who believe in Him grow when they see His mighty power. Those who have rejected God cannot be made to believe no matter how great a work they see. Rather than forcing them to believe, miracles bring unbelievers to a decision point of receiving God in faith or refusing even to receive the obvious.

## Overcome Unbelief

Jesus read from Isaiah when He returned to His hometown synagogue. In the presence of that audience, what key points did He bring to their attention in Luke 4:18-19?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)

Like most Christians today, they had no problem with this because they believed the Scriptures. The problem they had was with what He said in Luke 4:21. What did He say?

Most people do not have a problem with the promises of God. They get hung up on the idea of “today.” They have faith for the past—“Oh yes, God has done some great things.” They have faith for the future—“Oh sure, someday God is going to do some great things.” But they have no “today” faith. They do not expect it with their hearts; they just accept it with their heads. This “now” kind of faith nearly got Jesus killed. In Luke 4:22, why did they reject Jesus?

In Luke 4:24, Jesus explained their dilemma. What was it?

As God moves in your life, do not expect everyone to accept it. The people who know you best are most likely to reject you in spite of what they hear God is doing through you. Forget them and move on to those who are hungry.

What did Jesus’ homeboys want to do to Him, in Luke 4:28-29?

Church can be the worst place to work miracles. Some believers have the least belief. Movements focused on self-definition and long-held traditions find ways of feeling religious without God. They have satisfied their need for God's power with human power. Rather than power over the enemy, they seek power over one another.

In Luke 4:25, what does Jesus say about the widows in Israel during Elijah's time?

Instead, what did Elijah do in pagan Sidon, in 4:26?

In Luke 4:27, Jesus talks about the ministry of Elisha. What health condition did He say was widespread in Israel?

Instead of curing these, what did Elisha do for the pagan Syrian?

Some ministers report seeing greater miracles among the heathen who were just coming to know Jesus than among those who already knew about His power. Unbelief is a tool of the enemy to prevent God's glory from being shown.

Jesus had a man bring Him his son who kept having seizures. The disciples had tried curing him, but failed. Jesus rebuked them. What did He call them, in Matthew 17:17?

After He cast out the demon, His disciples asked Him about the situation. What did Jesus say their problem was in Matthew 17:20?

## **Problems in the Body**

After talking about faith directly, Jesus addressed something that can defeat a person's faith. All our human fumbling and bumbling cannot defeat our faith in God's power. Confessed sin cannot stop God from working. Yet one thing in particular does grind the gears of the unseen kingdom to a halt. What did He say we need to deal with right away, in Mark 11:25?

Many believers do not see answers to their prayers because they harbor unforgiveness. None of God's great qualities eclipse any of His other great qualities. Just because He loves to heal does not mean He will overlook His demand for unity. If a body of believers becomes disharmonious, backbiting, and hateful, He will not work miracles among them.

One of the most beautiful promises of healing came to Israel as they traveled through the wilderness:

"I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee." (Exodus 15:26, *KJV*)

Unfortunately, the people who heard this promise soon rotted in the desert. They lost their lives in a forsaken land. They had internal problems of disbelief in God's power, continual complaining, and disrespect for God's leader.

Rather than accept and respect Moses, they grumbled against him. They griped about his brother. Even his sister complained about his decisions.

In Numbers 12:10, what did God do to Miriam after she created a conflict with her younger brother?

Moses quickly forgave her for her foolishness. What did he pray in Numbers 12:13?

Problems in the body create bodily problems. If the church is in disunity and living unharmoniously, healings will not prevail. If one organ of your body was attacking another, you would be sick. If one member of the body of Christ gets in conflict with another believer, the church will suffer poor spiritual health. It is no surprise to see physical health problems often mirror what is going on in the unseen realm.

In I Corinthians 11:18, what was the problem?

This church had issues. They had people living selfishly, not caring about anyone else. They came together to take communion in memory of Jesus' body, forgetting they were the living evidence of His body. Being at odds with one another and disrespecting each other made them unworthy to participate in this sacred ceremony. What were they doing to themselves, in I Corinthians 11:29?

In I Corinthians 11:30, what physical symptom appeared among them to reflect these internal issues?

If you have experienced the hand of God against you in this way, what does James 5:14-16 say you need to do?

God healed Job of his illness after he prayed for his friends who were antagonizing him. Who do you need to forgive and pray for so God can flow through you again?

How does Colossians 3:15 summarize this?

## **Build Your Belief**

Immature people can experience the miracle power of God. People who do not even have their moral life straightened out can experience the power of God through them. You can work miracles without fruit of the Spirit. You do not have to be super spiritual to operate in the gifts. To access God's unseen power you need one thing: FAITH.

What does Hebrews 11:6 say on this subject?

What does Hebrews 11:1 teach you about this?

Heroes of the faith saw great things happen in their lives because they first believed God and He then proved Himself by bringing it all to pass. What does Hebrews 13:8 say to let you know this was not just for a historical few, but for all who will trust God to do more than we can imagine?

“Anyone that can doubt can believe. The same faculty you use to doubt, you can use to believe.”

-- T. W. Barnes

When Jesus called His disciples, what did He give them, in Matthew 10:1?

Accept by faith that God has given you this power. You own it. A faith-filled person does not beg, “Pleeeeeease, God!” He knows he has what he asks. Do we have to earn or qualify for supernatural power? In Matthew 10:8, how was it given?

People like to bury their heads in the confines of their limited experience and say, “God only uses a certain few special people that way.” If that was the case, then much of the New Testament is useless information for the rest of us. However, from Jesus’ ministry all through to the end of the Bible, God teaches us the power of faith for every believer. He wants to do things only He can do through us.

In Mark 16:17-18, who should cast out demons? Who should see miracles? Who should lay hands on people and see them recover from their illness?

In Mark 11:22, what does Jesus command you to have?

In Mark 11:23, how do you do this?

So, how should you pray, in Mark 11:24?

You may have a tough time praying in faith looking at doctors’ reports or other negatives. How does II Corinthians 4:18 say we should build our confidence in God?

Some people say it is wrong to desire miracles, just let them happen if God chooses. Yet the early church asked God to work among them in healings and miracles, and He did (Acts 4:29-33). What great thing are you asking God to do?

## God Works Miracles Today

[Daniel Drost] would forget where he was or what he was to say next. It also happened on more than one occasion while he was preaching, and he had to walk off the platform very embarrassed. More than once he came to himself as he was driving down the road, realizing that he was on the wrong side of the road. It was only the mercy of the Lord that protected him, his wife, and his little girl from a terrible traffic accident.

The symptoms kept getting worse and more frequent until Daniel and Holley finally decided that he needed to have some medical tests. He was in Missouri at the time, so arrangements were made for him to see a doctor in St. Louis. A CAT scan revealed the alarming fact that Daniel had two lesions on his brain, each about the size of a nickel. The doctor ordered an MRI, which confirmed what the CAT scan had revealed. He immediately ordered Daniel into the hospital, for he felt that he was a danger to himself. The doctor said Daniel should have been having severe seizures! The doctors were unsure of what those lesions were. It was not comforting when they said that in the St. Louis area they had only seen that type of situation in autopsies—but the church began to pray!...

The doctors were still unsure what to do, so they told Daniel that they were going to perform a biopsy. That meant going into the brain from the back of the neck with a needle. When his doctor explained this, Daniel told him that he wanted another CAT scan to see how those lesions were doing, because he felt that God had healed him....

The following day the doctor called Daniel on the phone and said, “I don’t know what is happening, for we haven’t given you any medicine or put you through any remedial procedure, but those lesions have already shrunk to less than half their original size!” Ultimately God completely healed Daniel, and he has had no recurring problems. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> T. Wynn Drost, *Dedicated to Revival*, Hazelwood, MO: Word Aflame, 2000, 110-11.



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One lady, the secretary of a large church, had a goiter on her neck. She was listening to me preach on the radio. I said, “I fill led this morning to pray for goiters to disappear.”

She called me later and said, “Brother Barnes, the goiter I had disappeared just as you said, but please do not tell anyone because I would lose my job here.”

She should have said, “Where that came from there has to be more, so I think I will go that church.”<sup>1</sup>

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Once I became so dizzy, I lay in the bed with everything going round and round. When I stood up, I would have to stand a while before I could walk. This went on for some time. I did not tell anyone about it. I went to conference thinking I am not going to let this get me down. I had to be careful at conference how I lay down, got up, and stooped over. While there someone came up to me and said, “I am so dizzy and feel like I am about to faint, and I need prayer.” I told him, “I am having the same problem.” When I prayed for him, God healed me. That is what James is talking about; pray one for another that you might be healed.<sup>2</sup>

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Looking closer [at a leprous man], Bill [Drost] could see greenish-yellow water squeezing from the old man’s face and running from around his eyes. On his head were bald patches caused by the disease....

Going towards him, he began praying but did not lay hands on him, thinking about the law of Moses, which told people not to touch lepers. He was feeling justified in not doing so when the Spirit spoke to him: “They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

Without further hesitation he laid hands on the leprous head of the old man.... Bill saw him later. His hair had returned and his skin was like that of a baby.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> T. W. Barnes, *Living in the Overflow*, Minden, LA: Voice of Faith, 2002, 53.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 94-95.

<sup>3</sup> Bill Drost, *Bill Drost the Pentecost*, Hazelwood, MO: Word Aflame, 1983, 134.

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# *Life!* Journal

And by the hands of the apostles  
were many signs and wonders  
wrought among the people;  
(and they were all with one accord  
in Solomon's porch....)

Insomuch that  
they brought forth the sick into the streets,  
and laid them on beds and couches,  
that at the least the  
shadow of Peter passing by  
might overshadow some of them.  
There came also a multitude out of the cities  
round about unto Jerusalem,  
bringing sick folks, and them  
which were vexed with unclean spirits:  
and they were healed every one.  
(Acts 5:12, 15-16)

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15512 Kodiak Rd.,  
Neosho, MO 64850

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