

A BREEDING GROUND FOR MIRACLES PRT 3

This morning, we are continuing with our series titled **A BREEDING GROUND FOR MIRACLES**.

Last we started talking about **PUTTING YOUR FAITH TO WORK**. For you to experience the miraculous, you need to put your faith to work. An environment in which miracles occur, is one that is charged with faith. It is therefore important that we know how to put our faith to work, how to release your faith.

Last week we learned the first key to putting your faith to work.

1. Do not be familiar with God

- This morning, I want to leave with you 2 more basic keys that will enable you to create a breeding ground for miracles.

2. Ask God for a miracle

- Your miracle is in your ability to ask God to move on your behalf.
- Most if not all miracles in the Bible happened after someone had asked God to move on their behalf.

Luke 4:38 And rising up from the synagogue, He entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was being seized with a great fever. And they asked Him for her. 39 And standing over her, He rebuked the fever. And it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.

- The advent of modern medication has caused some of us to forget the power of a request. When Jesus came into the house of Simon, those present saw it as an opportunity to present their request unto Him.
- Most of the time, instead of asking we worry about the situation, we talk to people about how bad the situation is, we ask for details of the nearest medical doctor.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious about nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

- Someone needs to understand the power of a request – when you ask, you are putting your faith to work. It means that you believe in God's ability to move on your behalf.
- It is not as if God does not know what we need but asking is an expression of your faith and your confidence in God's ability to do it for you.

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Luke 5:12 And it happened, as He was in a certain city, behold, a man full of leprosy! And seeing Jesus, he fell on his face and begged Him, saying, Lord, if You will, You can cleanse me. 13 And stretching out the hand, He touched him, saying, I will! Be clean! And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

- The way you present your request indicates your level of faith and desperation. This man was fed up with the pain and the discrimination that came with his condition.
- He was not ready to see another day of this pain - he fell on his face and begged Him
- Another man, who was not ready to see another day in his condition was blind Bartimeus.

Mark 10:46 And they came to Jericho. And as He with His disciples and a large crowd went out of Jericho, blind Bartimeus, the son of Timeus, was sitting by the side of the highway, begging. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me! 48 And many warned him that he should be quiet, but he cried a great deal more, Son of David, have mercy on me! 49 And Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called...51 And answering Jesus said to him, What do you desire that I should do to you? The blind man said to Him, My Lord, that I may see again.

- The blind man raised a cry that was full of faith – it was a cry that drew heaven's attention. He had heard that the son of David was coming with the ability to heal and deliver. He had faith that this son of David had a miracle for him and decided to raise a cry in order to connect with his miracle.
- This man was not swayed by the white noise around him – some told him to stop his nuisance, but he refused to be silenced.
- What has silenced you from making your request? What has discouraged you from praying for a miracle?
- Many requests are not met because they are not clear – your request must be clear. This man was asked about what he wanted, and he was straight to the point.
- Many Christians bit around the bush – when you present your request, learn to be specific (Lord, I want to see, Lord I need R5000 for rent, Lord I want my brother and I to be in talking terms again...)

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- When you understand how to release a cry for a miracle, you will receive your miracle.
- When you need a miracle, there is no place for dignity, there is no place for self-awareness, it calls for a radical approach. Blind Bartimaeus was determined to connect with the power found in Jesus.
- Could it be that your miracle has delayed because you are casual about the way you make your request, could it be that you are indifferent about the situation.
- When you need a miracle, talking to God must become a priority in your life.

James 4:2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

- Many people, instead of praying about their issues, they live in a state of wishful thinking and imagination, they look for other means for their needs to be met.

Matthew 7:7 Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. 8 For each one who asks receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened. 9 Or what man is there of you, if his son asks a loaf, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks a fish, will he give him a snake? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father in Heaven give good things to those who ask Him?

3. Persistence in your request

- Making the request is only the starting point, you ought to be persistent until you receive that which you are asking for.
- Several weeks ago, I taught you on the art of engaging in prevailing prayer and one mark of a prevailing prayer is that it is persistent.
- Please tell me, how long have you been praying for that miracle?
- There is a need for us to wait on the Lord – it is expedient of you that you learn to trust the timing of the Lord regarding your miracle.
- Jesus taught His disciples the importance of being persistent in prayer – this remains true with you and I today.
- Some miracles will happen in the realm of “suddenlies” but some will happen in the realm of “after a while”.
- Jesus taught a lot about prayer – lets catch up with Him on one of those occasions:

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Luke 11:5-10 (NLT) 5 Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 6 ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ 7 And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ 8 But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence¹. 9 “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

- This was after the disciples had asked Jesus to teach them how to pray – we need to be taught on how to pray during the waiting seasons of our lives. Sometimes we don’t know how we should pray for a breakthrough.
- The parable was not written to show that friends help each other but to show that there is a way in which we should pray for miracles to happen.
- The parable teaches two things about making our requests;
 - firstly, it teaches us of the necessity to persevere in prayer (the friend kept on knocking despite numerous denials) and
 - secondly, it speaks of a certain urgency in prayer that we must learn to develop.
- A prayer of faith is accompanied with a sense of urgency and expectation.

Luke 11: 8 But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence

- Clearly, this a parable about prayer and it means the friend inside represented God and the friend outside represents you and me.
- The friend had an unexpected need, which prompted him to knock with urgency for help.

¹ The old English word in Luke 11:8 is “Importunity”. Importunity means “urgency; asking with persistence.”

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- When we pray with urgency, God will always hear our prayers. Why, because God honors prayer, He hears our needs and will answer in his due time and his time is always the right time!
- God is not impatient neither is He wearied by our prayers

Isaiah 62:6 I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem, who will not always be silent all the day nor all the night; you who remember Jehovah, do not be silent. 7 And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.