

## 87 – Out With the Old, In with the New...Sharing the Victories in Jesus!

We are living in the realm of the miraculous. There's just no other way to describe what we are seeing in the lives of those we know, love and serve; as well as our own. I want to invite you, as you listen tonight, to consider what miracles have occurred in your life, or some that may be occurring now, as we speak. Share your story, if you will, by way of demonstrating the ways of God, and simply offering your story as a sacrifice of praise and glory to *"the One Who is operating the all in accord with the counsel of His will"* (Ephesians 1:11). Let's give God the glory tonight by some of the examples of His operating in our lives in some of the most practical ways. Just in the past 24 hours we have seen at least one miracle in the lives of at least 8 individuals we know, and I feel certain that their experience touched the lives of many others, some of whom they may know and others whom they may not. God is very efficient; He is NEVER working on only one individual at a time. We are often not privy to His actions in the lives of others, but the principle is certain: God is operating in the lives of others with whom you interact, whether you know it or not.

And I'd like to invite you to share your story as we go through the next hour or so together. Don't wait until the end. When the Lord puts it on your heart, hit 5-STAR on your keypad, and I'll unmute your line so that we can all hear what the Lord has done and celebrate His victory and yours with you!

If you're new to our studies, this will be a very different kind of ***Light Up The Scriptures***; usually we are pouring over the word in some area or other, to gain wisdom and understanding. And we will do some of that tonight too, but the invitation is open to all who will to share the goodness and grace of God in specific, practical instances. Our Father in heaven is not some distant, unreachable spirit – quite the contrary; He is engaged in our lives, when our lives are completely His to direct.

We talked last time about how quickly God moves when His kids are hearing and heeding Him; when we're listening for His instructions, receiving them, and then acting on them immediately. Confirmation follows, sometimes within minutes, and the blessing of the Lord flows steadily, so long as we maintain ears to hear—to listen—and hearts to heed—to obey. This relationship of ours to the Father, as sons and daughters is the opposite of slavish mindlessness; it is deliberate, dedicated mindfulness that springs out of love for Him and awe at His goodness, faithfulness, kindness, and His fondness for

us that shows up in our lives that can be lived in what Barbara calls the Realm of the Miraculous.”

This is a time which can be characterized by massive change for massive breakthrough, for total Victory. And all this is occurring because the Father delights to shower His children with His blessings, and those are made up of miracles, large and small, and they’re happening everywhere we look. If we aren’t seeing them, we’re either in a time of breaking or we’re looking too low.

**Psalm 121 (CLV):**

- <sup>1</sup> I am lifting my eyes to the mountains— from where shall my help come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from Yahweh [the LORD], Maker of the heavens and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He shall certainly not allow your foot slip; your Guardian shall certainly not slumber;
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, He is neither slumbering nor sleeping, the Guardian of .
- <sup>5</sup> [The LORD] is your Guardian; the LORD is your Protecting Shade at your right hand.
- <sup>6</sup> By day the sun shall not smite you, nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD Himself shall guard you from all peril; He shall guard your soul.
- <sup>8</sup> the LORD Himself shall guard your going forth and your coming in, henceforth and unto the eon.

One of the single greatest miracles, which we just celebrated, was the birth of Jesus Christ by a Virgin. It’s not enough that the Son of God – the Holy One of Israel, whose name throughout the Old Testament is Ya-Ho-Veh, Yahweh, Jehovah – left “*the glory [He] had with [the Father] before the world was*” (**John 17:5**). Listen to what the Lord revealed through the prophet Isaiah:

**Isaiah 40:25-31(NIV) –**

- “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.
- <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?  
He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name.  
Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.
  - <sup>27</sup> Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God”?
  - <sup>28</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the eonian God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.
  - <sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
  - <sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;
  - <sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

The Lord God of Israel became a child Who needed fed, changed, and bathed like any other child; and Who grew up in a family that was not really His own...

We're especially pleased tonight, to welcome a special guest, Dr. Claudia Gabrielle, who is known to some of you who study with us regularly. Claudia called, either on Sunday or Monday, with a revelation that we just knew that everyone would be blessed by hearing. Dr. Claudia, welcome and please share with us what the Lord showed you, was it Christmas Day or yesterday the Day after Christmas?

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Recently, Claudia met a woman who bearing her sister's child – is that right, Claudia? We call that a surrogate mother. When Claudia told us the story of Jesus as one Whom the Father gave up for adoption, I suddenly realized that Mary was the first surrogate mother. Like the surrogate mom whom Claudia met, Mary would have to let go of the child she bore too, maybe not at infancy, but how much more gut wrenching was it for her to see the child she bore nailed to a cross, hanging in the scorching sun until He died.

But as miraculous as His obedience to the Father was, that propelled Him up the hill of Golgotha, the greater miracle occurred when the Father raised Him up the third day and, 40 days later, brought Him into the heavens, seating Him at the Father's right hand, in the glory that was His with God before the world was.

For me, awakening from sleep is purely miraculous. I mean that quite literally. Looking into Barbara's eyes and hearing her sweet, southern voice another day sometimes makes me just stop everything and give God—and her—thanks for my life that is lived alongside hers, in the realm of the miraculous. Today, by the grace of Almighty God, the rent was paid on the Father's house in which we live, and which we are accountable to keep open for the children He sends to have their needs met and their hurts healed. I woke up this morning, asking God if there was anything I wasn't hearing or doing—did I miss an instruction—but there was no answer, so I went about the business He assigned to me today, and Barbara—bless her heart—simply said, "He is faithful. He picked this house. He knows what the rent is." AMEN.

For more than 20 years, Barbara has lived "by faith," trusting God completely for her daily bread. When someone asks, "How do you do that?" her immediate comeback is a quote from the scriptures:

## Psalm 37:25

I have never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed—his children—seeking bread.

I had to admit today that this walk of faith pushes all my buttons. And they need to be pushed...until they don't...until God gets everything He's after in my life.

When we have no idea where rent is, or groceries or gasoline, I pour myself into

## Matthew 6:24-34

24 "Now no one can be slaving for two lords, for either he will be hating the one and loving the other, or will be upholding one and despising the other. You can not be slaving for God and mammon. [the personification and deification of wealth]

25 "Therefore I am saying to you, Do not worry about your soul, what you may be eating, or what you may be drinking, nor yet about your body, what you should be putting on. Is not the soul more than nourishment, and the body than apparel?

26 "Look at the flying creatures of heaven, that they are not sowing, neither are they reaping, nor are they gathering into barns, and your heavenly Father is nourishing them. Are not you of more consequence than they?

Those who have been here, to the Father's house in Indiana, have seen the multitude of bird feeders I have out back. I'm convinced that my love of these creatures is born out of my total dependence on God for my breath, let alone my bread, each day.

Throughout my day, I watch sparrows, chickadees, finches, woodpeckers, hawks, cardinals, ducks, herons, and other "*flying creatures of heaven*" be nourished by our heavenly Father (because they are not dependent on my feeding them, but on Him). It's a witness, throughout every day, of His sovereignty in my life, and a constant reminder to trust Him alone for everything—absolutely everything. And He is faithful. He has always been faithful, bless His holy name.

But, of course, the lesson doesn't stop there:

## Matthew 6:27-34

27 "Now who of you by worrying is able to add on to his stature one cubit?

28 And why are you worrying about apparel?

**Worrying** is literally, "part-remind"; Thayer's lexicon defines it as, "to be anxious; to be troubled with cares; to seek one's interests." The transliteration, "PART-remind," suggests that worry is anxiety and fear that results from being reminded incompletely. In other words, when we worry, we aren't operating on complete information, and I believe that is actually by God's design; otherwise why would faith—total trust in God—be required in the first place? So then, we could say that worry is the absence of faith, or trust. Faith and worry cannot occupy the same space. One must give way to the other, and it's our choice which way we'll go.

Study the anemones of the field, how they are growing. Not toiling are they, nor yet are they spinning.

29 Yet I am saying to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed as one of these.

30 Now if the grass of the field, which is today, and tomorrow is cast into the stove, God thus is garbing; not much rather you, scant of faith?

31 "You, then, should not be worrying, saying, 'What may we be eating?' or 'What may we be drinking?' or 'With what may we be clothed?'

32 For for all these the nations are seeking. For aware is your heavenly Father that you need all of these.

33 Yet seek first the kingdom and its righteousness, and these all shall be added to you.

34 You should not, then, be worrying about the morrow, for the morrow will be worrying of itself. Sufficient for the day is its own evil.