

GIFT OF WORKING OF MIRACLES:

Biblical Examples:

- Jesus turned water into wine: John 2:6-10
- Jesus Multiplies the food: Matt. 14:16-21
- God uses Paul in Miracles: Acts 19:11-12
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead: John 11:43-44
- The apostles perform signs and wonders: Acts 2:43

What is it?

- When you read the Bible, it does NOT lack miracles. From the first page to the very last page, we see the miraculous power of our God! And He still performs miracles today. One of the ways He performs these miracles is through the gift of working of miracles. He also can still act sovereignly and divinely intervene whenever He wills.
- The gift of miracles is known as the working of miracles and in 1 Corinthians 12:29 Paul mentions individuals called workers of miracles. The word in Greek for working is *energēma* it means to operate. This shows us some insight that this gift doesn't mean that someone just shows up and miracles happen. But there is a work or an operation that needs to take place. This could mean prayer, fasting, obedience, or other spiritual work.
- The word in Greek for miracles is *dunamis*. This word is used throughout the New Testament as one of the words used to describe POWER. It's also where we get our word for dynamite. The gift of working of miracles is the supernatural ability to pray and see the extraordinary power of God manifested in a situation, person, or people. It moves beyond the natural realm and its laws to accomplish the will of God.
- I do want to point something out. All 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit are miraculous in our eyes. But there is a difference between the gift of healing and the working of miracles or prophecy and miracles. If there wasn't the apostle Paul wouldn't have stated them differently.
- Miraculous powers is an even broader category than gifts of healings. Miracles can include providing protection, giving provision, altering circumstances, passing judgement, etc.
- The book of Acts emphasizes the continuation of that work in the Church along with all the other manifestations of the Spirit.

What is it not?

- Medical advancements and scientific breakthroughs are an incredible blessing. And God definitely opens people's understanding so that these breakthroughs can happen. But these are not the gift of working of miracles.
- Can God use doctors? YES! He will guide them and bless them as they help others. And God will answer the prayers of those asking for the Lord to guide a doctor to bring healing. And if that doctor is a Christian, he can then operate in many of the gifts of the Spirit, like word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and healing. Talk about awesome!

Purpose:

- Miracles provide us with breakthrough, deliverance, edification, healing, and more. These testimonies of God's power and goodness causes the hardest of hearts to soften. It shakes our thinking and draws us closer to God. Miracles are supposed to accompany the preaching of the Gospel (Mark 16:20 / Acts 1:8).

Important Closing notes:

- it's important to remember that miracles should never be about drawing attention to yourself, to build your platform, or for money.
- Miracles should always point and be about God. And He should get 100% of the glory! This is why it's important that we pursue LOVE first when desiring the gifts of God.