



Bible Study- Wheat Street Baptist Church, Dr. Ralph Basui Watkins, Servant Pastor, Leader

June 5th 2019

Facilitator: Pastor Carla Burnett

Title: A Damascus Road Experience; The Miracle of a Transformed Life

Text Acts 9: 1-18

Introduction

This month our church body has started a new sermon series that focuses on the miracles and wonders of God. Our series is entitled; God is still in the Miracle Working Business; I'm looking for a miracle.

A miracle can be described as divine operation that transcends what is normally perceived as natural law; it cannot be explained upon any natural basis. But they are supernatural displays of divine power, not an arguable proposition; they are dramatic, **demonstrable facts**. Nowhere in the New Testament is there a record of a divine spokesman arguing for the validity of miracles. No logical scheme is needed to establish such a case. Miracles either happen, or they don't. When Jesus performed signs, even his enemies did not deny the effect of such; they merely attempted to attribute His power to some other source (e.g., Satan; Matthew 12:24). The leaders of the Jewish community did not doubt that Peter and John had performed a notable miracle when they healed the lame man at the temple; rather, they sought to mute the sign's impact by threats of violence (Acts 4:14).

Our time in study tonight calls our attention to a miracle of God, manifested in a changed life. And I dare say that someone in this room tonight is a walking, living, breathing miracle, of a changed life! Not only do God's miracles awe us, but they also promote change and transformation in our lives; providing a deeper and more profound understanding of God's presence. Ultimately this understanding increases our faith and propels our witness and testimony of The Most High.

In biblical times, miracles always had a **worthy motive**. Signs were not done for the purpose of personal aggrandizement. Though Jesus' miracles established the validity of His claim of being the Son of God, that designation was not assumed out of personal interest but was motivated by a love for humanity's salvation.

Miracles

- He changed the water into wine (John 2:1-11).
- He cured the nobleman's son (John 4:46,47).
- He cast out an unclean spirit (Mark 1:23-28).
- He cured Peter's mother-in-law of a fever (Mark 1:29-31).
- He cured a man of palsy (Matthew 9:1-8)
- He raised the ruler's daughter from the dead (Matthew 9:18-26)
- He cured a woman of an issue of blood (Mark 5:25-29)
- He opened the eyes of two blind men (Matthew 9:27-31)

A Damascus road Experience—

- In modern day usage, to refer to something as a 'Damascus road experience' is to refer to a profound life-changing experience, that turned one from skepticism to belief in the Jesus whom one previously mocked and rejected (as we see tonight).
- Road to Damascus experiences are those in which **any person** has a **sudden insight that radically changes their beliefs or life**. It was originally used in a spiritual context; however, the phrase also refers to other types of sudden conversions as well.

Points of Discussion

I. The Light from Heaven

II. The Voice of God

III. The Spiritually Blind

IV. The Power of Prayer

V. The Scales have been removed

Text

Acts (:1-18) Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered.¹¹ The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”¹³ “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Notes
