

## Times Two pt4 – Miracles When You Do Not Know How Or When

Dr. John Carmichael

[2Ki 3:9-20 NASB95] 9 So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom; and they made a circuit of seven days' journey, and there was no water for the army or for the cattle that followed them. 10 Then the king of Israel said, "Alas! For the LORD has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab." 11 But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD by him?" And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who used to pour water on the hands of Elijah." 12 Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the LORD is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. 13 Now Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What do I have to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and to the prophets of your mother." And the king of Israel said to him, "No, for the LORD has called these three kings [together] to give them into the hand of Moab." 14 Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look at you nor see you. 15 "But now bring me a minstrel." And it came about, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. 16 He said, "Thus says the LORD, 'Make this valley full of trenches.' 17 "For thus says the LORD, 'You shall not see wind nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, both you and your cattle and your beasts. 18 'This is but a slight thing in the sight of the LORD; He will also give the Moabites into your hand. 19 'Then you shall strike every fortified city and every choice city, and fell every good tree and stop all springs of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.'" 20 It happened in the morning about the time of offering the sacrifice, that behold, water came by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.

- One of the most asked questions I get when it comes to answered prayers is, “how is this answer going to come?”
- We often do not know the “how” or even the “when”. We do know the “what” and “Who.”
- God said He was going to give them water. He did not tell them how or even when.

What does God want from you to experience miracles when you do not know the “how” or the “when”?

Here are seven things God wants you to know to experience miracles when you do not know “how” or “when.”

### I. God wants you to recognize your need for Him.

- a. V.9-10... No water. It seems Jehoram (the evil king of Israel) believed God was against him.
- b. The blessing is in knowing we need Him. [Mat 5:3, 6 NASB95] 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ... 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- c. Resist thinking you are “ok” without the help of God. [Rev 3:17-18 NASB95] 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and [that] the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.
- d. Miracles happen for those who know they need God. Live in a constant state of needing God.

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### II. God wants you to be connected to His Word.

- a. V.11-12 – Jehoshaphat (godly king of Judah) knew they needed a Word from God through a prophet.
- b. Counter-culture point: We need God's Word preached to us through the 5-fold ministry.
- c. Paul believed we need the Word preached, not just read.
  - i. [Rom 1:8, 11, 15 NASB95] 8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world. ... 11 For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; ... 15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.
  - ii. [Rom 10:17 NASB95] 17 So faith [comes] from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
  - iii. [Eph 4:11-12 NASB95] 11 And He gave some [as] apostles, and some [as] prophets, and some [as] evangelists, and some [as] pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;
- d. To get the Acts blessing, stay with the Acts culture. [Act 2:42, 47 NASB95] 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- e. Read the Bible. Stay with a church that has solid teaching of the Word of God.

### III. God wants you to repent.

- a. V. 12-14 – The kings went down to him. Not the normal. Sign of humility. The king of Israel stayed with his belief that God was punishing him.
- b. This is not explicit here, but Elisha calls them to repent (turn to God from sin).
- c. It is explicit here.
  - i. John the Baptist. [Mat 3:8 NASB95] 8 "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;
  - ii. Jesus. [Mat 4:17 NASB95] 17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
  - iii. Peter. [Act 2:38 NASB95] 38 Peter [said] to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - iv. Paul. [Act 26:20 NASB95] 20 but [kept] declaring both to those of Damascus first, and [also] at Jerusalem and [then] throughout all the region of Judea, and [even] to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.
- d. Repentance is necessary to experience God's blessing.

### IV. God wants you to stay in an environment of the supernatural.

- a. V. 15 – Elisha created an environment for the Word of God to come.
- b. "When Elisha wanted to become more sensitive to the leading and speaking of the Holy Spirit, he asked for the service of a musician. This demonstrates the great spiritual power in music." (Guzik)
- c. [Eph 5:19 NASB95] 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
- d. [Col 3:16 NASB95] 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms [and] hymns [and] spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

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- e. Worship releases the prophetic. [1Ch 25:1-2 NASB95] 1 Moreover, David and the commanders of the army set apart for the service [some] of the sons of Asaph and of Heman and of Jeduthun, who [were] to prophesy with lyres, harps and cymbals; and the number of those who performed their service was: 2 Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nathaniah and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph [were] under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied under the direction of the king.
  - i. “Their ministry in music was not merely the product of good musicianship; it was a gift of the Holy Spirit being exercised through them.” (Guzik)
  - ii. “...their praise was itself seen as ‘prophecy’ in that it proclaimed God’s word with God’s authority.” (Selman)
- f. Expanded beyond just music. Worship includes preaching, singing, and many other expressions.
- g. Why? Maybe it brings the presence of God and prepares the mind to receive. I do not have to know why I should do it to do it.
- h. Stay in a place of worship. It is more than a song. It can open the door to the supernatural.

### V. God wants you to act like His Word is coming to pass.

- a. V. 16-17 – they had to dig trenches.
- b. “If we expect to obtain the Holy Spirit’s blessing, we must prepare for his reception.” “But the most of people say, ‘Well, you know, of course, if God sends a blessing, we must then enlarge.’ Yes, that is the way of unbelief and the road to the curse. But the way of faith and the road to the blessing is this: God has promised it — we will get ready for it; God is engaged to bless; now let us be prepared to receive the boon. Act not on the mere strength of what you have, but in expectation of that which you have asked.” (Spurgeon)
- c. God wants to live like He will do what He said He will do.

### VI. God wants you to have total victory in every area of your life.

- a. V. 18-19 – God did not meet the immediate need. He met the total need.
- b. “God wanted to give them more than immediate provision; He wanted to give them complete victory over their enemies.” (Guzik)
- c. [Deu 28:7 NASB95] 7 "The LORD shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways.
- d. [2Co 2:14 NASB95] 14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.
- e. Believe in God turning things around for you.

### VII. God wants you to live a sanctified life unto Him.

- a. **V. 20 – it was at the morning offering of sacrifice.**
- b. [Mat 6:4, 6, 18 NASB95] 4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you. ... 6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you. ... 18 so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you.
- c. Your obedience to give, pray, and fast (among other Christian disciplines) connects you to the reward of the Lord.

- **God wants us to trust Him to bring the “what” even when we do not know the “how” or the “when.”**