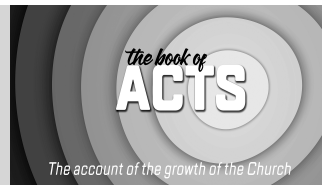


Who & What Does God Use?

Acts - Part 15 Acts 9:32 - 43
Noah Largent 11/13/22



Miracles?

A Good Definition: *A miracle occurs when God makes an obvious display of supernatural activity. He dramatically defies the laws of nature in order to validate divinely ordered events.*

Jesus tells us that we should **pray boldly**, keeping in mind that it's **His will, not ours** is always best!

-Boldly: (Matt. 7:7-11; Heb. 4:16; James 1:6-8; 1 Jn 5:14-15)

-His will: (Matt. 6:10; Lk 22:42; Heb 10:7; 1 Jn 5:14)

There is a balance. One cannot insist that God should always work miracles. On the other hand, one should not rule out that God can work miracles! -Teaching the Text: Acts by D. Garland

"Miracles don't happen every day. If they did we'd call them "regulars." It may seem that they are a regular occurrence in the Bible, however they are actually relatively rare. The majority are found in three relatively short, extremely remarkable eras: the Exodus story, the ministries of Elijah & Elisha and Jesus' life through the early sections of Acts.

- "Living Insight - Acts, By C. Swindoll. Pg 184

1. Who Does God Use?

God uses **imperfect people** who order their lives by **His Spirit and priorities**.

The early accounts of Peter's life following Jesus wasn't pretty. Often he didn't understand Jesus and at times his priorities were in direct opposition to Jesus'! However, a dramatic change happens when God's Spirit comes into Peter's life!

2. What Does God Use?

In this case - astounding natural law defying miracles!

Notice that Peter's work looks astonishing like the work Jesus did? (Luke 5:18-26 & Luke 8:40-56)

It's easy to assume that Peter is imitating Jesus; however, the reality is Jesus is alive and well - *working through Peter!*

God is using it to draw people to Himself!

That's the larger lesson: God's great miracle is displayed in His Spirit transforming you and working through you to draw people to Him!



Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. How do you explain that these types of miracles that mark the early chapters of Acts dissipate by the end (and are rare in the rest of the New Testament books)?
3. Where can you see God's Spirit growing / stretching you over the last year?

Notes:
