

Looking for God's Power

We all need to see God's power at work in our lives.

- Families need restoration
- Relationships need renovation
- Bodies need rehabilitation
- Souls need transformation
- Lives need redemption

As we launch into a new year, let's remember that the Lord specializes in powerful interventions in impossible situations.

Do What You've Never Done

Mark 3:1-5 NIV

Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

Lay Still

Acts 5:12-16 NIV

The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

Take a Walk Lame Man

John 5:2-8 NIV

Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

Stand Still, Keep Quiet and Watch

Exodus 14:13-14 NIV

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Go Wash Your Face

John 9:1-7 NIV

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Stand Still, Sing Loud and Watch

2 Chronicles 20:15-23 NIV

He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the lord will be with you.'"

Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the lord. Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful." After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the lord, for his love endures forever." As they began to sing and praise, the lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

But Jesus That's Impossible

John 8:1-11 NIV

but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still

standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Press On Saints

John 8:1-11 NIV

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A New Way of Viewing Life

We tend to approach our spiritual lives from one of two extremes. On one side, some of us act as though we can simply coast along as God carries us to heaven someday. On the other side, others act as though we have to do all the work needed to become like Jesus. The truth lies in embracing BOTH. God is working in us but we need to take charge of cooperating with him. Sometimes the Lord fights the battle for us. Sometimes the Lord asks us to do the impossible trusting him to make up the difference.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Take charge of your spiritual life by asking for more love to guide you toward better & better choices.

Your Next Steps

- o Determine which extreme you lean toward. Do you expect God to do all the work? Do you exert your strength trying to do all the work? How can you tell?
- o Confess your error to Jesus to receive forgiveness and cleansing.
- o Start praying for more and more of God's love.