



## Prayer and Wishes Chapter 7 (Miracles)

### Questions for discussion

#### 1. Do you appreciate little miracles?

Is God obligated to serve you? I fear many people would not pass a lie detector on that one. We think miracles are just flamboyant and big. What about the little ones?

*“Jonah is all of us. We see miracles all over the place yet were angry. Why? Because it was not the way we wanted it. yet, it was a miracle. The leaf is the little things God does to help us. It’s a miracle. The leaf is also representing our way of not appreciating those little miracles. Hence God sent a caterpillar. Have you experienced a leaf and the caterpillar?” Chapter 7, p, 3*

#### 2. Do we over-sensationalize miracles?

Should we promote given miracles? I wonder how much Tim Tebow hurt his career by sensationalizing great plays. Miracle plays in football. When God says no we think he s a creep. Is that fair?

*“What I really can’t stand is taking a miracle and sensationalizing it. As soon as it’s in the papers or in the news I’m hating it. The people always say I’m just glorifying God by telling my story. It’s to promote God. I suspect it’s to promote you. A miracle is not like a prayer or wish. We should keep them in private. A miracle can be either public or private. Yet, a famous verse in the Bible is ringing in my ears Matthew 6:5 “When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites! They love to stand up and pray in the houses of worship and on the street corners, so that everyone will see them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full.” Keep a miracle as a silent gift.” Chapter 7, p, 6*

#### 3. Do we miss little miracles?

I never thought of the ocean as a miracle. Yet, God does. Is losing a twenty a miracle? It is to the person who finds it. What if we find that parking spot at Christmas? Are there countless miracles we take for granted?

*“My pastor friend who just preaching on miracles also mentioned that a miracle is something bigger than us. I suppose the miracle we needed may have gone to someone else. Maybe it was meant for some greater need that did not involve us. Far too often we expect things for us alone. We ask and God jumps. I need a miracle. Yet, all the little miracles along the way are just not good enough. Jonah did not want to save Nineveh. They were not worthy of a miracle. Job’s friends wanted to know what Job did wrong? God pointed out at the end of Job that the crashing of waves is a miracle. Did they see life that way?” Chapter 7, p,9*

#### 4. What can you do to gain a miracle?

Are you good enough? Maybe you don’t deserve much. Can you ask for a miracle? How good is good enough? How bad is too bad? Should a miracle be deserved or paid for?

*“It comes back to this. Who can ask for a miracle? I believe anyone can ask. God loves us all. Not just those who love him. I know that’s hard for most but the Bible is pretty clear on it. We*

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*can do nothing to gain a miracle. The Bible is pretty clear on that too. By faith we are saved. Yet, God asked Jesus to die for the whole world. Not just his chosen ones. I can't stress enough that God's will supersedes your will. God's plan supersedes your plans. I am fairly positive my friend who died in a car crash had other plans. He did nothing wrong. God chose not to give a miracle."*  
Chapter 7, p, 10

#### 5. Should we ask for miracles?

Are miracles something we really need? Maybe life is random? Why fiddle with fate? If God does not exist, then whom are we getting miracles from? Maybe, that is why we say be careful what we wish for.

*"With all this said, should we ask for miracles? I mean, it seems silly to ask, if their dumb luck. It seems silly if only God choses. Why ask? Sometimes we should be careful how we read the Bible. It's easy to say: ask for anything in Jesus name and it will be given to you; have faith enough to move mountains and it will be done. We are such funny people. We take some things literally and others we ignore like take up your cross and follow me. Do you own a cross?"* Chapter 7, p, 12

#### 6. Is "you" in-between your prayer and wishes?

We are not supposed to share wishes and prayer. They are to be a secret. Boasting of them is like boasting of you. Traditionally that is not how wishes and prayer work. Maybe in your prayers and wishes, you are not to be the centre. Maybe we should be seeking miracles for others first.

*"I really don't care how you do it. Wish for a miracle. I just prayed for a miracle. Is it your timing? Is it your way? Is "you" in the middle of the wish or prayer? A miracle is real to me. They are special. If you get one know this. There were probably lots of little miracles to get to the big one. There will be a bunch more after too. Probably they were not yours either. If we would treat prayer and wishes with just a little respect, we might find that we see more miracles than we first believed."*  
Chapter 7, p, 14