

# DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU (PART 2)

## Faith and Action Working Together

(No. 1280 – 2/9/26 – Sermon Online Zoom)

### I. INTRODUCTION

A. In Part 1 of this study, we identified 7 components of many miracles recorded in the Bible:

1. There is a crisis or need that requires supernatural help or intervention.
2. The person/people involved seek(s) God; this often involves humbling oneself, prayer, fasting, or crying out to God.
3. Faith, trust, and dependence on God are essential:
4. God often responds with a simple command—He tells us to DO SOMETHING—not difficult or complicated, but often contrary to natural wisdom or understanding. This can sometimes seem crazy or strange to our earthly way of thinking and reasoning.
5. Obedience to this command is the KEY to the miracle, and it requires total, childlike faith; questioning, doubting, analyzing, and second-guessing can derail the whole process.
6. Miracles reveal the power and glory of God.
7. Miracles increase our faith.

To be clear, there is no "formula" for a miracle. It is not like mixing all the ingredients from a recipe and baking a cake. Miracles are divine interventions and all are determined by God's will!

B. In Part 2, we want to continue looking at the importance of obedience to whatever God tells us to do.

### II. DON'T STUMBLE THROUGH UNBELIEF AND DISOBEDIENCE

A. **1 Pet. 2:4-9:** *<sup>4</sup>As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him—<sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a **spiritual house** to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and **precious cornerstone**, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame."<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to **those who do not believe**, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,"<sup>8</sup> and, "**A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.**" They stumble because they*

**disobey the message**—which is also what they were destined for. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

B. **Mat. 11:2-6:** <sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask Him, “Are you the One who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is the man who does not **fall away** [Gk. *skandalizo* = “scandalize, trip up, stumble, offend”; “take offense” NAS] on account of Me.”

1. John the Baptist was starting to waver or stumble in his faith.
2. Jesus told him to look at the miracles and warned him not to stumble.

C. The same Greek word *skandalizo* is found also in the following Scriptures:

1. **Mat. 13:53-58:** <sup>53</sup>When Jesus had finished these parables, He moved on from there. <sup>54</sup>Coming to His hometown, He began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. <sup>55</sup>“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?” <sup>56</sup>Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” <sup>57</sup>And they **took offense at Him** [*skandalizo*]. But Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor.” <sup>58</sup>And **He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.**
2. **Mark 6:1-6:** <sup>1</sup>Jesus left there and went to His hometown, accompanied by His disciples. <sup>2</sup>When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given Him, that **He even does miracles!** <sup>3</sup>Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t His sisters here with us?” And they

*took offense at Him [skandalizo].<sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”<sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them.<sup>6</sup> And He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.*

3. Notice how they stumbled in unbelief by leaning on their own carnal reasoning and understanding:
  - a) because it was Jesus’ hometown, they knew He was just a carpenter, and they knew His mother, brothers, and sisters;
  - b) because of that, they couldn’t figure out where He got His miraculous powers;
  - c) this made it impossible for Jesus to do any miracles there;
  - d) **2 Cor. 5:16:** *So, from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view [“know we no man after the flesh” KJV; “we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view” NLT]. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.*

### III. FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

- A. **James 2:14-26:** <sup>14</sup>*What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?* <sup>15</sup>*Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.* <sup>16</sup>*If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?* <sup>17</sup>*In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*** <sup>18</sup>*But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.* <sup>19</sup>*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.* <sup>20</sup>*You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?* <sup>21</sup>***Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?*** <sup>22</sup>*You see that **his faith and his actions were working together**, and his faith was made complete by what he did.* <sup>23</sup>*And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend.* <sup>24</sup>*You see that*

a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup>In the same way, was not **even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did** when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? <sup>26</sup>As the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without deeds is dead**.

1. Real faith must lead to action—otherwise it is dead!
  2. James used Abraham and Rahab as examples of living faith—they both had to *do something*!
- B. What did the heroes of faith *do*? (Hebrews 11)
1. **Heb. 11:4:** *By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice...*
  2. **v.7:** *By faith Noah... built an ark to save his family.*
  3. **vv.8, 17-19:** *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going...  
<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice... <sup>19</sup>Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.*
  4. **v.20:** *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob...*
  5. **v.21:** *By faith Jacob... blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.*
  6. **v.23:** *By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born...*
  7. **vv.24-28:** *By faith Moses... refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup>He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. <sup>26</sup>He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. <sup>27</sup>By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup>By faith he kept the Passover...*
  8. **v.29:** *By faith the people passed through the Red Sea...*
  9. **v.30:** *By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.*
  10. **v.31:** *By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.*

11. **vv.32-34:** *And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup>who through faith **conquered** kingdoms, **administered** justice, and **gained** what was promised; who **shut** the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>**quenched** the fury of the flames, and **escaped** the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who **became powerful** in battle and **routed** foreign armies.*
12. NOTE: They all “showed their faith” by their deeds! They moved, they built, they marched, they offered!

#### IV. CONCLUSION

- A. If we rely on carnal wisdom or natural reasoning, we can stumble in our faith and miss out on God’s miracle.
- B. Faith without works is dead—faith and action always work together.
- C. Next week in Part 3, we are going to look at 15 miracles in the Old Testament and see how faith and obedience worked together in each miracle.