

Connecting Through the Word
“That You Might Believe” and “Be Born Again”
John 3:1-9

John 3:1-16

¹ *There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.*

² *This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."*

³ *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

⁴ *Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"*

⁵ *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

⁶ *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

⁷ *Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

⁸ *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

⁹ *Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"*

¹⁰ *Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?*

¹¹ *Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.*

¹² *If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?*

¹³ *No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.*

¹⁴ *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so*

must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵ *that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Jesus did many miracles while He ministered for three and a half years on earth. But John chose seven in particular to show us the way of salvation and what happens when we do believe!

The First Three Signs

They show the how of salvation.

Water turned into wine (2:1–11)

Healing of the royal official's son (4:46–54)

Healing the paralytic at Bethesda (5:1–15)

The Fourth Sign

Shows how a person is introduced to this great miracle of salvation!

Feeding the multitudes (6:5–14)

The Last Three Signs

They show the effect of salvation.

Walking on water (6:16–24)

Healing the man blind from birth (9:1–7)

Raising Lazarus from the dead (11:1–45)

The First Three Signs

What is necessary for a person to get saved?

What needs to happen before a lost person can become a saved person?

What brings about the miracle of a new birth?

Jesus Turns Water into Wine

Several things to notice:

John 2:11

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

This is described as the first miracle.

This sign manifested the glory of Jesus.

This sign cause His disciples to believe.

Our Lord's first miracle was not a spectacular event that everybody witnessed. Mary, the disciples, and the servants knew what had happened; but nobody else at the feast had any idea that a miracle had taken place. His first miracle was a quiet event at a wedding in contrast to His last miracle recorded by John (John 11), a public event after a funeral.

How this miracle took place.

The wedding at Cana

Jesus was an invited guest.

His mother informs Him that the wine ran out.

Wine represents joy.

The wine of the world always runs out.

The Six Empty Stone Water Jars

Each could hold about twenty gallons of water.

The empty jars represent sinners who are empty of the life and joy of Jesus in their lives.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

“Fill the jars with water.”

The water represents the Word of God.

John 3:5

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:26

That he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Romans 10:13-17

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

The first miracle – Salvation by the Word of God!

The servants poured the water into the empty vessels.

No one saw this miracle but everyone experienced the blessing of this miracle. The water turned into wine as it was poured out.

The Second Miracle – Salvation by Faith

John 4:46-54

It is noted that this miracle is the second miracle.

John 4:54

This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

This miracle also took place in Cana of Galilee.

A nobleman from Capernaum has a son that is about to die.
This is about 22 miles – a 7 hour walk.

The nobleman hears about and finds Jesus and asks him to come to Capernaum to heal his son.

Jesus responds, “Do you have to see a sign to believe?”

The man replied, “Please come before my child dies.”

Jesus says, “Go; your son will live.”

Here is the key!

John 4:50

Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.

On the way home his servants met him and informed him his son was well! When he ask when the son was healed, he realized it was the very same time that Jesus said, “You son will live.”

Salvation Comes by Faith!

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Faith in the Word of God.

Remember, “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God”.

The Third Miracle – Salvation by Grace

John 5:1-17

The healing of the man by the pool of Bethesda.

John 5:5-6

Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

This man was in the condition for 38 years.

When Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed. The man said he had no one to help him.

This is the picture of a sinner who is in a helpless, hopeless condition. Looking at a pool that he was thinking he might get heal by if he got in soon enough. But someone always beat him to it.

Jesus simply say, “Get up, take up your bed and walk.”

The grace of God brought Jesus into this man’s life.

God’s grace only comes when we realize we are totally and helplessly lost with no one to help us!

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace are you saved...”

How do you get God’s Grace?

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God.”

James 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

The Fourth Miracle – The feeding of the five thousand.

John 6

Skip it for now

The Last three Miracles shows what happens in our lives when we experience the miracle of the new birth!

The Fifth Miracle – Salvation Brings Peace

Jesus walking on the waters during a storm.

John 6:18-21

Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

We are in a boat on the stormy sea of life.

We are in a state of fear and fright!

Sometimes even the presence the supernatural scares us.

But His word, "It is I; be not afraid". Changed everything.

There is the peace with God that comes at salvation.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

There is the peace of God that comes when we let Jesus fill us with His Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...."

Philippians 4:5-7

Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The Fifth Miracle – Salvation Brings Light and Sight

The healing of the blind man

John 9:1,6&7

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ...

Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The blind man was in a state of darkness.

We are in state of darkness before salvation.

Proverbs 4:19

The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

John 3:19-20

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Jesus made clay... Jesus became flesh...

Jesus created man out of the "dust of the ground".

Go wash!

His obedience brought sight and light into his life!

His testimony!

John 9:25

He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

Before salvation you are blind to spiritual things.

John 3:3

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

You can now read and understand the Bible and spiritual things.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 & 6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Best was saved for the Last!!!!

The Seventh Miracle – Salvation Brings Life**The Raising of Lazarus from the dead!**

Lazarus had been dead for four days.

He was in a state of corruption.

He was bound in a dark grave.

Jesus shows up!

John 11:43-44

When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

2 Timothy 1:10

But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

1 John 3:14

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

**The Middle Miracle – The Great Salvation must be shared!
The feeding of the five thousand.****John 6:11**

And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.

The people were hungry and fainting.

They were in place where no food was available.

One little boy brought what he had to Jesus.

Five loaves and two fish.

Jesus preformed the miracle but the disciples had the great privilege and responsibility of distributing it.

It is our task to take the Bread of Life to the hungry people of the world. They are waiting to be fed!!!!!!

Mark 16:15

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Luke 24:46-48

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.

May God help us to be like Paul and take this responsibility seriously!

Romans 1:14-16

I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.