

“SOULed OUT”
Session 13: Great Expectations
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INTRODUCTION

Imagine a life where God works through you in unexplainable ways to do miracles – on a regular basis.

John 14:12-14

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Everywhere we look we see potential for “Divine Encounters” or “God – Incidences”

What God wants is a willing servant

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

Q: What keeps us from living a life of miracles?

Q: Have you ever been in a situation where God may have been wanting to do something supernatural but it got stopped or shut down?

God in motion – the great commission

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me...to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

- Intentionally partnering with God's Spirit – depending on Him for success
- Stepping out in faith in an unfamiliar context
- Taking risks based on the belief that God wants to show up and do something special

Personal miracles are...

1. Completed in a person's heart. They have a need that God fills with your presence or action
2. They meet a person's need
3. God's personal character is revealed in these miracles.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

When we live our lives in active cooperation with the Spirit, we begin to recognize the life God intended for us. We become answers to other people's prayer for a miracle.

I. Positioning for Great Expectations

A. The urgent Plea

Nehemiah 2:4

The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven..."

Asking to be sent

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

God is looking for people who earnestly want to be sent. And he will send them!

B. Capturing God's heart for people

Our role in any miracle is to serve people, with God's heart.

- An unpopular person (Zacheaus)
- A social outcast (Samaritan woman)
- A person interrupting us (paralyzed man coming through hole in roof)
- A late-night visitor (Nicodemus)
- A person wanting our attention (people who came up to Jesus in need)

C. Cooperating with the Holy Spirit

Only God can do a miracle

Acts 3:12

Peter said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

Core Beliefs about the Spirit and Miracles

- a. My understanding of the nature of the Spirit
- b. My feelings and the Spirit's purpose
- c. My self-reliance versus partnership with the Spirit
- d. My suitability to partner with the Spirit

D. Taking Risks

Faith is what we do because we believe God. Risk means that there is no guarantee of success.

Matthew 13:57-58

And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor." And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

