

MIRACLES IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESURRECTION

Bertie Brits

December 11, 2016

GREETING

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus. Welcome to our Web Church. Today I am going to be teaching about healing in the light of Grace and the way signs, wonders and miracles fit into the Gospel and the Good News in a way that it can bring life to you. Before we start with the Service, let us just pray together.

PRAYER

Father, I want to thank You for the honor that we can be here together. Thank You for Your love and Your Grace. Thank You that I can bring Your message of life, Your message of immortality, Your message of Your love for mankind where You have conquered our sin, conquered our death, where You are not angry towards us, where You have never been and You have come to reveal to us the truth about us and about You and about our future in Jesus.

Father, thank You that You speak powerfully through me today and You touch people's lives in a powerful way by the power of Your resurrection as we minister Your Gospel with boldness, in Jesus' mighty name.

COMMUNION

As our custom is, we have Communion together every Sunday. The reason we do this is to simply remind us of what Christ has done and to have the hope of eternal life put before us knowing that we are innocent, not guilty, that we stand before Him in the love that He has for us and that He has come to set us free from what binds us and what breaks us and what destroys us.

Jesus Christ has come to give us life. He has come to bring forth in us what is in the Father and we were part of the belief system where our lives were bound by what we do, who we are by what we do, where we live, what we drive, who our friends are, our income. There were so many things that grabbed a hold of our hearts, under the law. Jesus Christ came to set us free from sin and death and that is what it is all about.

So when we have Communion we have it together also for the purpose of just showing fellowship. There are many folk out there that don't have a local Grace based church and you want fellowship with the Lord and fellowship with people around you that are like-minded. This is the time where we take Communion as a church where we can use the freedom to just share a word with one another. If someone feels you want to encourage one another in the Grace, you can go on Facebook or wherever you see the person logged in and you can write a message to them, give them a word of encouragement or if you are in need, this is the time when you call upon the name of the Lord and see your innocence. It's also a time when you can reach out to somebody and say, "After the Service will you please chat with me or pray for me."

As we look at the Communion let me just read a passage from *Isaiah 40*:

1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned...

Isn't that beautiful! So when we take the Communion, we say, "Our iniquity has been pardoned. Our war is over!" The war was not a war against the devil. The war was not a war against nations of this earth. The war that he was talking about is the battle that man was in where you want to do good but you can never do it. Where you behold the good, you want to do the good and you cannot because there is something that is veiling the glory that is inside you. It just cannot come forth. The real you cannot come forth. Just like Paul said, "We were dead in our trespasses and sins." That means that when we were under the Law, it activated our flesh and sin in the flesh, so much that who we really are, died. We could not be seen.

I've seen it with people. The moment they get stressed out about something, the real them cannot come forth. It is a lie that comes forth. It's as if that situation takes them captive to a point that they cannot be shown. They cannot be seen. So, the war that we were in is to bring forth who we are and we wanted to bring that forth through our own works instead of God bringing forth who we are. And that is what He did in Christ. When Jesus was raised from the dead and put at the right hand of the Father, He put on display the real us. And when can see that as our life, we find that we need no more law to show forth who we really are! We need no more law to save us from death. We need no more will power to save us from sin because the truth about us has been revealed and as we believe that, we find a brand new life.

When Jesus Christ died and when His body was broken for this purpose: that we can say that that old body wherein we lived, the body of sin, the body of works righteousness, that it was broken! Glory to God. This body was not broken just for Jews. It was broken for all people because all people have sinned and all people, by their own works, fall short of the glory of God. When it says that we fall short of the glory of God, it means that by your works, you can never perform the view and opinion that God has about us, which is that His view and opinion was to give eternal life to us. No man can bring that forth. No man can live in the likeness of God's quality of life by his own works. It is impossible! We have all fallen short and Jesus Christ came for all those who have fallen short and He has given eternal life as a free gift for all those that have fallen short. In that, the whole old system was broken.

In the blood of Jesus, we celebrate the New Covenant. We celebrate the new life that He has given us and we eat and we drink this together on account of the goodness of God and the union that He established for us in Jesus.

Father, thank You for Your blood. Thank You for Your body. Thank You for what You have done for us! As a Web Fellowship, we come together in the goodness of You, in the life of Jesus Christ and we celebrate our union with You, our peace with You, our peace with one another in the body and the blood of Jesus. Amen

MIRACLES IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESURRECTION

Bertie Brits

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Today I am going to be talking about healing, signs and wonders and miracles in the New Testament Church. Where does the supernatural fit in? The reason why I want to talk about this is because I want to bring the truth of what this is all about because there is so much hurt and pain in the Church when it comes to the supernatural. I remember when I was part of a system where we were chasing after the supernatural and where we believed Jesus Christ died for us so that we can live these supernatural lives of signs, wonders and miracles. In that quest for the spiritual, that quest for signs, wonders and miracles, we have found a lot of discouragement, a lot of pain in our lives. I've experienced that although we have seen many miracles. Please hear me when I talk about this. I'm not talking from the perspective of hurt.. I'm talking from a perspective of what I have experienced and then from knowledge of the truth of what this is all about. I am excited to say that I believe that we will see great signs, wonders and miracles in the Church, in the Grace Church but it's not going to be the way it was. It's not going to be our healing revival chasing the glory of God, chasing manifestations and signs and wonders thing. It's going to be just a declaration of truth wherein God confirms His word with signs, wonders and miracles..

So many times I have seen preaching about signs, wonders, and miracles, preaching that we must do miracles, preaching that God empowers us to do miracles that we must go and do miracles.. I don't find the Apostle Paul teach on that. We know that the Church had many signs, wonders and miracles but we don't find the Apostle Paul teaching on how to go and do miracles and how to know that by His stripes you are healed and now we claim that and we go and do miracles and we must just believe that it is finished and we must go into the hospitals and clean up the hospitals and do all these signs and miracles. It is not like that. What I do see is that the Apostle Paul comes and he corrects the Church when it comes to signs, wonders and miracles where he is telling the people that you cannot define a person by the spiritual gift that is in his life and that all people are equal in the Church and that there is not one part that is more important than another part. 'What he actually does is he takes away this glory of the supernatural where it is the wild factor. It's almost like Jesus, when He came and gave people the authority to cast out devils. The went and they cast out all these devils. When they cast out all these devils they came back and they were amazed and they were so happy because of the authority there is and the signs and the wonders and the miracles that take place and demons are subject to them. Then Jesus went and corrected them. He said to them, "Never let your joy be in that but let your joy be in that your name is written in the Book of life." What He is saying is to let our joy be about life. These are side issues. It is not the goal.

What I want to say is this: Miracles, signs and wonders is not the object. It is not what we are aiming at. I've seen it many times and I've seen many people get hurt in that. Now what I am seeing is that we would veer away from the supernatural. We would veer away from healings and miracles and praying for people because we are scared that they will not get healed and we don't know where to place the supernatural. It's as if we don't know exactly what to do with it in the Grace circles. Some places where it is just a continuation of the old of what I would call a Word of faith belief where we say, "That has been given to us and we are going to manifest it." Then there is another side of it and we veer away from it and we would never speak about it and we would also not see any signs, wonders and miracles.

When we look at the early Church we saw that there was the supernatural so I want to say this. In our Web Fellowship we are absolutely embracing the supernatural. We are embracing signs, wonders and miracles but we are not embracing it as the goal. We embrace it as a sign. If you are driving from one town to the other town you will know that there are signs on the road, signs that are pointing to you the next town is 20 kilometers or 10 miles or whatever and you will see those signs out there. You are not driving to arrive at the signpost. If you see the signpost or not it doesn't matter, you will just continue because the sign can never be the destination. The sign is simply a sign pointing you to where you are going or encouraging you on the way should the way be long or confirming that you are on the way.

We have had this thing and I believe many people have this that if I don't see signs, wonders and miracles in my life as a Christian there is something wrong with me and every Christian must see signs, wonders and miracles because the Bible says that whosoever believes the Gospel, these signs will follow them. Now we don't find or maybe you haven't had a sign or a wonder or a miracle in your life or maybe you've seen one or two in your life and now you are feeling that you prayed for some folks and they didn't get healed and maybe there is something wrong with me. Why am I not having signs, wonders, and miracles in my life? I must have signs, wonders and miracles in my life for the Bible says, "These signs SHALL follow..." If the Bible says that these signs shall follow, we shall have signs. We claim the scripture of, "These signs shall follow", and we now use that to get enough spiritual energy from the fact that it is written there so that we shall have signs.

We will even go and preach and say that if you don't have signs then something is wrong. You must have signs so go out and get signs. That is so wrong and so harmful. It is not what the Bible talks about. Jesus did say that these signs shall follow those that believe. That is what is written in Mark 16 although some people say that part is not in the original manuscripts but I think it was good enough that it made my Bible and anyway, it was a fact in the early Church that the Church did believe and they did preach the Gospel. (We are still going to talk about what the Gospel is today.) They preached the Gospel and there were signs that followed them.

I want to say this to conclude this first part of this message:

Signs, wonders and miracles are never the object. It's never the destiny. It's never the goal. We are not going out to try and become more powerful spiritually. The goal is not to see how we can have healing revivals and how we can worship the presence of God down to get Him to a revival or to get the glory of God to try and manifest... and all those kind of things where we are so happy and our joy is so great because of the supernatural where we are all the time boasting about miracles and where we are chasing after getting miracles. The Bible says that these signs shall follow them that believe. So many times we would say, "What must I believe so that I can have the miracle?" No, just believe the truth. That is what it is about and these signs shall follow those who believe the truth. We are going to look at some scriptures about that.

Mark 16:

9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept

11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country (Went to Emmaus).

13 And they went and told it unto the rest: neither believed they them.

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided (rebuked) them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

This is an amazing piece of Scripture. What it basically talks about is Jesus and His resurrection. When He was raised, Mary came to the grave and she saw that the grave was empty and an angel appeared to her and said, "He isn't there anymore. Look, there is the cross. There is the place where He was laid. He is not there anymore. He was risen." She ran and told the disciples the Good News of Jesus who was raised from the dead. You must remember that these people were sorrowful and they crying because their Messiah died! The One who had the words of life passed away. The One who was their companion and their friend, who didn't look at their sins, who weren't mindful of their sins but mindful of their value, had died. The Jews put Him upon the cross. They murdered Him. They killed Him. They manifested their sin towards Him and wanted to destroy Him and He died. That was very bad news that Jesus had died. Then Mary came with the Good News. What was this Good News? It was the Good News of His resurrection. He was raised from the dead! As she was not running with this Good News she wasn't running with the Good News that finally she can have financial prosperity because Jesus was raised. She didn't have the Good News and say, "I got Good News for you. We can now do signs, wonders and miracles!" That was not what she said, She had the Good News that Jesus was raised from the dead! That was the Good News and they did not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. That is a very important point that we need to take note of. That was the Good News! The Gospel, the Good News, was that Jesus was raised from the dead and that a man has conquered death. That is the Good News. Then Jesus appeared to two men, on the way to Emmaus. After He appeared to them, they knew that it was Jesus. They then went to tell the others but they didn't believe that it was Jesus. Then He appeared to all of them and He said to them, "Here am I. Why are you so full of unbelief?" He appeared to them and they saw Him resurrected and they believed that He was raised.

16 He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

The Bible also says that they went and preached the Gospel and God worked with them. God was with them confirming the Word with signs, wonders and miracles. He was confirming what word? What were they preaching? They were preaching that Jesus was raised from the dead. That was the Good News! The Good News was that God, in Christ, conquered death and raised a man from the dead and through this resurrection, this Christ that was raised from the dead that went to heaven will return again and establish and manifest His rulership which is over sin and over death in the earth. He will conquer all the enemies that we have. He will conquer our sin. He will conquer our death for we are part of that kingdom and He will return and He will establish a kingdom where no man can die but have immortality. That is what He said. He will come and bring that forth. That was the Good News that they preached. They preached the Good News of the resurrection.

John 17 says that Jesus was given authority over all flesh so that He can give eternal life to all and raise them up in the last day. So the message of the resurrection says that we are dying and we are bound to a system of death where our minds are bound to fleshly thinking and death that is in the flesh and that we are simply just bound to that. But that God would come and He can raise our physical bodies into immortality not to live by the power of sin and death but to live by the power of His eternal life. In that way, we have conquered sin and we will see how He will bring forth conquering even physical death. That's what it means. Now when this message of this resurrection was preached there were signs showing that Jesus has authority over our physical bodies and death. These signs were things that happened like miracles, like healings, took place. They would lay their hands on the sick and they would recover because healing in the physical body was a sign of Jesus' resurrection and that our bodies can be raised and that He has power over physical death. That is it!

So when the Bible says that by His stripes we were healed, what we are healed from is sin in the flesh. We are healed from that because we behold our resurrected body in Christ that shall be given to us in the return of Christ and as we don't behold our earthly body where we by our physical works want to create salvation for ourselves and from the flesh have sin when we behold our heavenly body, when we behold the resurrected Jesus Christ what happens is we are set free from sin and the flesh. We find the fruit of this resurrection in the gifts of the Spirit, love, joy, peace plus there are supernatural signs to the fact that this physical resurrection has taken place and what they promised will take place which is the dead shall be raised. That there will be no more sickness, no more death, no more anxiety, none of those things will be there anymore. The planet will be co-recreated. That's what the Bible says in Romans 8. It says that creation waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. "It does not say that creation waits for you to manifest your salvation. That's rubbish! That's not what is written there. What's written there is, "Creation waits for God to manifest His sons." That means to bring forth and manifest the salvation of our bodies which is immortality because creation knows that when we are changed into the glory of God, creation shall also be fashioned with the same glory that we have which is eternal life. That will even manifest in creation.

So when signs, wonders, and miracles take place, it would be something like a massive storm and you speak to the storm and the storm is calmed. A sign where we find amazing things like what Jesus did like walking on water or changing water into wine or signs that show that Jesus has authority and power even over nature. Signs that show that Jesus has authority over sickness and disease and that He can bring eternal life.

If you go and read these signs, it all basically points to the resurrected body and the power over death. This is what it says in verse **17: *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils;*** How is casting out of devils speak about an immortal body? It's very simple. The Bible says that he who had the keys of death and the power over death was the devil. And now we are casting out demons. What is that talking about? It talks about an authority that is higher than that authority. It talks about the end of him who has power over death and that life belongs to our Lord now and He will give us life and manifest it.

:17 *they shall speak with new tongues;* The Bible says if I speak with tongue of man and that of angels. The Bible also says that our resurrected bodies, in the resurrection, we will be like the angels. It doesn't say that we will be spirit angel beings. It says we will be like the angels. In other words, the context there was not given in marriage and those kind of things, but it talks about a state of being which I believe is in the physical but like the angels. So when we pray in tongues, I believe we are speaking with the tongues of angels. In other words, we are talking with the tongues of the world to come, the language, of the world to come. So now we find that we are already speaking a different language. What is that different language? It already points that we, in this world now with an unfruitful understanding, we can speak a language that we have never been taught. It is a sign of the resurrected body where we can now already speak the language of that body, of that resurrection.

18 *They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them;* What is that talking about? It says that there will be these signs... what signs? Signs that point to power over death. That's what it talks about. That's why when we preach, we don't preach, "We can do miracles!" because that is not what is preached. That is not what the apostles preached. We don't find anywhere any of the apostles teaching people," Five steps to have a greater healing ministry." We don't find that. We don't find Jesus or the apostles having a nice teaching of at least a half of a chapter or a chapter where they teach the people how to heal the sick and what to see in their mind when they pray for the sick. None of that! We just find that they were encouraged to go and preach the Gospel, the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus. We find that is what they have done and their hearts were open that God would bring forth signs pointing to this message of immortality. That is what it is.

I want to say something and this can shock you. My heart is not to shock anybody. That's not my heart but I want us to have truth in our lives. I know what the truth is doing in my heart and I know the emotion and the feeling of understanding as understanding comes together. Many of you might say, "Bertie, this can be a technical message." But this is what I want to say to you, technical or not. This brings life. It brings life to me and I want to share it with you. When God made Adam and Eve, He didn't make them as immortal beings. Adam and Eve were made from the dust of the earth and then they were put in a Garden where there was the tree of life. They could go and eat of the tree of life and then have the life they had inside them sealed eternally. Remember when the Bible says in Genesis 3 that God took them out of the Garden lest they eat of the tree of life and live forever. So when you eat of the tree of life, you can never die. You will live forever. The way I see it is they would have life forever in that miserable state of death. So God didn't want them to have eternal torturing in life so He said, "I will not give them access to the tree of life. I will first come and clean everything up, bring a new understanding to them and then in that state they can go and eat of the tree of life and so live forever.

Adam was made from the dust of the earth and he had to go and eat of the tree of life. He wasn't inherently an eternal, immortal being. Immortality was a free gift. That is what it was. Then the devil came and basically lied to Adam. Do you know what God said to Adam and Eve? He said, "If you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will surely die. You will definitely die.

There is not two ways about it. You will die! I'm putting in my own words here that we can assume that if we eat of the tree of life, we will definitely live! I want to tell you something. The devil came to Adam and Eve and said, "Listen, there is no such a thing as death for you. You are going to live eternally anyway. You are either going to live it by God or you don't have to have God give you this, you already have this eternal life, this eternal existence. You can have a good life by just doing the right things so your life can be preserved and it will continue forever." That was a lie!

Then God came in Jesus Christ and He took this Adam that died and revived him so that life was made available to us and now, we who believe this Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead can also quicken our mortal bodies and we can have eternal life as a free gift. That is what it is. Then when Jesus was raised, there was great joy in the camp because there was a promise that the Jewish people believed. The promise was that of eternal life where somebody would conquer death, where somebody would rise from the dead, never to die. They even expected that the Messiah would be in the order of Melchizedek. The Bible says that the Order of Melchizedek is the Order of an endless life. That means that this guy cannot die. His body cannot die. He had eternal life for that is what they wanted, that's what they were seeking for and here the apostles come and they hear that Jesus was raised from the dead. They didn't believe it. Then after they saw Him, they believed it and then they went and preached the Good News that Jesus was raised from the dead. That is what they preached and the Bible says that in their preaching the Spirit brought forth signs pointing out that this is true and pointing to that truth which shall take place. By that we can conclude that Jesus didn't die so that we can do signs and wonders. Jesus died so that we can be made immortal and the truth of this immortality, because it is true and that is where we are going, we find signs of that truth manifesting in us as we are preaching that truth.

The Bible says that only a wicked and adulterous nation seeks for a sign and I have found that in the Church we have been seeking for signs, wonders and miracles We have been seeking for the supernatural. We have been seeking for those things. No! The Bible doesn't say that we should seek for that. The Bible says that those, through patience and continual doing good, which I believe is believing in Jesus, seek for eternal life, they will be given immortality. It is clearly written in Romans.

So what we seek, what we want, what we want to grab a hold of, is the eternal life that God has promised us. That is what we are awaiting. And as our minds are captivated with that truth, we'll find signs, wonders and miracles also take place in our life. We will find that as we preach this truth this passion will drive us. As we preached this truth where we will see a sick person, we will find the overwhelming power of the Holy Spirit in us, a prompting inside us that says, "Lay your hands on that person." You will just say, "He has come to bring us immortality in our bodies." You will see a sick person, lay our hands on them and say, "Be healed!" and they will be healed and that would be the power of that truth will raise that sick person up and it will be a sign to all of the immortality and not distracting man from the truth.

The greatest thing that I have seen today in the church that is upsetting is when we talk about the immortality of the human body, and we are in the beginning phase of people hearing this on a broader scale. People are like, "Well, I don't know. What is this strange teaching now? Isn't the whole thing about heaven and hell and who is going to go to heaven and who is going to go to hell?" No, it is not about that. It has never been about that. It has been about a loving God that takes dust that has no life in it and taking makes it alive. When it is alive it gives us the opportunity to have the life that was given to it preserved eternally that this person will live forever and never die. These people did not believe this. They entered into death and they were in bondage and fear of death. They were in bondage.

Jesus came, incarnated this death, conquered this death, was put, as a human representing us, at the right hand of the Father who is the truth about us and from where He will come and where He is now and His enemies are made His footstool. We are seeing how Jesus brings forth life to everybody and how He will bring forth immortality to every man that believes in Him. That is the Good News. As we believe this truth, this truth inside us, we will find signs and wonders effortlessly, flow out of us. But what we have had, what I have had in my life was we didn't believe on eternal life. We believed that if I die I go to heaven and I'm burying this earth suit and the biggest thing is I am going to have a house in glory land and I want to cross over to glory land and I want to go to heaven." That was what the biggest thing was. It was all about going to heaven and as we focused on that, we think, "Okay, the Bible does talk about signs, wonders and miracles and now we want to apply the finished work of Jesus on the supernatural and say that He died for us so that we can do the supernatural. We made miracles the end goal. As we did that, it was signs, wonders and miracles was a great mental gymnastics. It's like this mental gymnastics of now the stripes of Jesus, and now we are going to do miracles and we are doing the supernatural. We are working very hard to see a person come out of a wheelchair. And when they come out of the wheelchair, it's like, "Whew! We got one! We got one!" My question is then, "Is that my goal?" Is that the goal? No!

The way I see it now is when I see a miracle I don't read the miracles in the Old Testament any more as they saw a miracle and now I look at what did they do? Jesus spate in the ground and He made the eyes. So now I am trying to figure out what key does He have to do he supernatural and how did He try and get it right. No, now all of a sudden I see He created an eye out of mud and smeared it, some people say that He created an eyeball, and put it on there. The guy went and washed and he had brand new eyes. Do you know what it says to me? It says, "Man, this Guy has the power over the physical body! He is the Creator and He can create a brand new body for me!" That's what it says. All of a sudden it is a sign. All of a sudden it's not a destiny anymore. Unfortunately I see signs, wonders and miracles... not cognitively. Cognitively we would say, "No, we want people to get saved." and when people receive Jesus we're "Very happy! Glory to God!" But if we see people out of a wheelchair, then we're like REALLY excited... this is really major because that is really a real man of God because of these signs, wonders and miracles! No, let me read from Acts and see what the disciples preached. The Sadducees came and saw the disciples preaching.

Acts 4:

1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now evening.

4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

What happened here? It says that these people preached the resurrection from the dead through the name of Jesus. What did these people understand by the resurrection from the dead? They preached the Gospel, the Good News, that Jesus was raised from the dead and He's the Captain of our salvation that we will be raised from the dead. He preached to them not to fear death because Jesus has conquered death and that life and immortality has now been made manifest through the preaching of the Good News that Jesus was raised. Isn't that what the Bible says? The Bible says that life and immortality came to light to the preaching of the Gospel. Through this Gospel we find that life and immortality has come to light. Through this Gospel life and immortality has been made ours. We can see the Gospel. What Gospel... the Gospel that Jesus was raised!

Let me read it again. We want to see exactly what the apostles preached. They went and preached and the Sadducees were grieved because they taught the people and preached through Jesus, the resurrection from the dead. Glory to God! So they said, "We've got good news for you! You can be raised from the dead? We got good news for you! God came in Jesus. He is the High Priest of mankind. He is in the order of Melchizedek. He is the Messiah not just of the Jews but of the Gentile also and He is the One who will establish the reign of God in the Earth. His kingdom is at hand. His kingdom is now. He has poured out His Spirit upon man and through this Spirit He will make your bodies immortal and raise you from the grave." I'm sure they testified about Jesus being raised. I'm also sure they testified, as Matthew did where he talked about Jesus in his writing, because that is how he preached the Gospel. In his writing he said that when Jesus was raised from the dead many old saints who had died, in my words have already returned to dust whose bones weren't even there, they came out of the grave and they appeared to many or preached the Gospel to many which was the resurrection from the dead.

That's why signs and wonders and miracles takes place in this physical dimension where we see bodies being supernaturally healed, where we see signs and wonders of people being transported from one place to another place, where we see supernatural organs of people become new, where steel pins disappear out of arms and x rays can show it, where we see signs, wonders and miracles. I remember I prayed for a man who had a small hand. He was a big guy but with very small hands like children's hands on a grownup man. When we were in Bible school, I can never forget that. This was twenty some years ago. We laid hands on that man in the street and his hands grew out right there! We went away with, "Wow! We are used of God! The anointing of God!" But we never knew that that is the sign that God has power over that guys crippled body that even when he dies to make him immortal. We saw the sign but we didn't understand what the sign was saying.

The Bible says that we should not pray in tongues without interpretation. It is just like a babbling and nobody knows what it means. In the same way, I want to say that a lot of these signs, wonders and miracles that take place is almost like praying in tongues without understanding. We don't know what it points to and neither is it encouraging in any way. It actually is, let me be frank with you, I found among preachers and not just among preachers but among people, a competition on who has the greatest miracle. We've got this competition. This one prayed and that one prayed and when a man of God really gets tired of laying hands on people now, and he gets used to miracles, he will say to other people, "Well, now it is your time to pray for the sick." They then can pray and he would feel good in his heart because of how many people under him now who have miracles. I just want to be plain honest about things. It doesn't help if we hide things and not live in the reality. Don't we want to walk in freedom? We want to be free. That is what this is about.

What about having miracles with understanding where we would preach immortality. As we preach immortality we would lay hands on the sick or there would be signs in our ministry that point to this. What about that where that sign, people will say, "Truly". Let me tell you what miracles do. Miracles do the following if it is Buddhists doing miracles or whosoever doing miracles. A miracle makes people thing what this guy says is true. Now, if we just do miracles without the knowledge that this miracle points to the resurrection and make in people's mind the resurrection truth where they have hope of immortality in their bodies, what use is there for miracles? It's supposed to be a sign to the truth. That is what it is supposed to be.

So in Acts, they come and they preach this resurrection. They are put in jail and then the angel appeared and now they are going to get out of jail and this is what the angel of the Lord, by night, said to them .

Acts 5

19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

What did the angel of the Lord say in verse 20? Go and stand and preach. They preached the resurrection, immortality to a human body through Jesus. They said, "Believe in Jesus and you will have immortality." That is what they said. They did not say, "Believe in Jesus and you will go to heaven." It wasn't preached! I don't see anywhere where Paul preached, where people preached and said, "Listen, if you want to go to heaven, believe in Jesus." It's not written there. He said to them, "The promise and the desire that man has, and has always had is to have immortality, has been granted and given in Christ. A man has conquered your death! He was raised! He is called the Kings. He lords it over sickness and disease and whosoever can call upon His name, who can say, "I am part of His family", his heart would allow him to have this Spirit bring forth that very same life in Him." And do you know what it is? When you can believe that the only way we can describe this is almost when you believe that, it's almost like there is a "spell" on you. And this spell leaves you free from sin, flooded with the fruit of the Spirit, a person that lives in the peace and the love of God. That is what it does. It's almost like the opposite of a curse. When you are under the law, you are under the curse. You're cursed to have a life of sin. But when you are under this message of eternal life, which is called the Grace of God by the way, when you are under this message, when you are under the spell of life, you find the fruit of life inside you.

20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. It doesn't say the words of this life meaning the words of this life, you know the football this and the politics this. No, not the words of this life. The words of this life, what life, the words of Christ being raised from the dead never to die and that He's conquered our sin in the flesh and our death and that He has condemned sin in the flesh through the resurrection and then we believe that. That is what the Bible says and many believed.

Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; Heard what word? The word being preached that through Jesus is the resurrection from the dead for He was raised from the dead. Those who believe that is called a Believer. That is the Believers. They were called Believers. Today we think the Believers are those of the Christian faith that believe in Jesus. No, the belief there was not believe that there was a guy like Jesus and they are believers in Jesus. The Believers were defined as those who believed that He was raised from the dead and that immortality belonged to them in Christ and even if they died that they shall be raised.

Paul even went so far as to say, "I want to share a mystery with you. All will not die but they will be changed." So what he was saying to them, because the people of those times didn't understand how this thing will take place, he said, "Listen, Christ will return. Those who died in Christ, who are in the grave, they shall be opened, their dust shall be recollected. Those molecules, even if they were washed by the wind all over the planet into the atmosphere into space, it doesn't matter, it shall be put together. That body shall be glorified and there will be physical bodies that are in the likeness of angels in some form, we don't know exactly how it will be, but that will take place. Those who are alive and remain, remain means remain believing in this truth, they shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Their bodies shall explode into this immortality and even this physical earth shall be changed into that very

same incorruptible glory. That is what it is.

Those who believe that were called Believers and we find many in the Church don't even believe in that. They are not a Believer. Well, let me put it this way: You are a believer of something but you would not be classified as the same kind of a Believer as what these folk were. You may say that we are judging people. I'm just saying that I don't want to judge people but how should we preach if we don't preach the truth. I mean, that's it.

We can read **Acts 5:**

29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. (Because they commanded the people not to pray that Jesus was raised).

30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you slew and hanged on a tree.

They said, "How can we stop preaching? We would rather obey God than you." Their obedience to God was to go and preach that Jesus was raised from the dead and that immortality in the human body belongs to man. There are people today who don't even believe in the physical resurrection of the dead but they believe that after you have died and if your spirit goes to God, that is the resurrection. That's not the resurrection, my friend. That is not the resurrection of all. That is what Jesus did when He said, "Into Your hands I give over My spirit." That means that your life is now in the hands of God and that God can take your life and restore it in your body, raise you from the grave and so bring immortality to you that you can have eternal existence in a human body. That is what it is. Glory to God! Signs, wonders and miracles... what is this all about? It's signs of that!

I will read one more verse about what the apostles preached. Romans 5:1

Romans 5

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (which is immortality)

It says that we are justified by faith. What is the justification?

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. (So we shall reign in life. What is this life teaching? That Jesus was raised from the dead, never to die anymore and that life belongs to us. That is it.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

If we say that we are justified, what does that mean? Our justification, or the proof of our righteousness, is in immortality, in the fact that we have the spirit of life in us which shall quicken our mortal bodies and bring immortality to life in the return of Christ. That is it! Immortality is ours! That is what it is all about and that is what the early Church preached. They didn't go around preaching messages like, "God is not angry with you anymore!" although I believe it is needed. I will preach it. I don't say I won't preach it. Let me preach it to you right now: God is not angry with you! He loves you! He smiles over your life! You are His beloved! You are the pearl of great price! He doesn't look at your sin. He beholds you for who you are. He embraces you as His own! That is the truth! That has always been the truth but now the Good News is, the Gospel is that He loves you so much that He has granted immortality to you!!! That's the Gospel! That's the Good News, the true Good News that we don't have

to die and go back to dust but that we can have eternal life! That is the Gospel!

I want to tell you, you might disagree with me. Let the Lord convince your heart about this. You might have many questions. Go and ask the Lord. He will answer you and He will show you and you will be able to share in the very same joy as what I am having right now. This is what John said. He said, "We want to testify of that which was from the beginning." What was from the beginning? Titus 1:2 From the beginning was the message of immortality. The Bible says how God, before the creation of the world, God who cannot lie, promised eternal life to us. Eternal life is not inherent. It's not as if you are born and now you possess eternal life and you can just live forever. No, eternal life means that He has now granted unto man, through Jesus Christ, and it is a promise to man that we will be able to live forever on account of Jesus. That is what the promise is and now that word was what the Jews had in mind all the time and here comes the Apostle Paul who was a Pharisee and believed in the resurrection and he said, "Well, this message of the resurrection, we don't know how it is going to take place. We know the Messiah has something to do with it. And here is Jesus. He was raised! I saw the guy! He was raised!"

Now John comes and he testifies of this. He said, "I want to come and I want to testify of this promise that was with the Father from the beginning. We touched it! We felt it as pertaining to the word of life." He said, "We want you to preach this to you that you can believe that you have eternal life!" This he writes to Christians because they were Christians and not even believing that they have eternal life! The Gospel got so mixed up with these Greek philosophies that they thought that their bodies would just die and that they are going to be with God somewhere. John said, "I want to correct you. You are Believers that believe that. I want to correct you that you can believe that you have eternal life because what you are believing is you are not believing that you have eternal life. You are believing that you are going to die and then go to the Father. That's what you believe but what I am presenting to you is a physical man that has a physical body that can never die. That is the promise of the Father and even if we die, He shall raise us from the dead." This Jesus, Himself, said this in John chapter 5. He clearly spelled it out in John 6 where He said, "This is the will of the Father that I would lose none of those that He has given Me and that I would raise them up in the last day." So John came and he tried to correct this Greek philosophy that entered into Christianity in John and He declared to us what eternal life is.

Now to signs, wonders and miracles... This truth, the spirit of this truth, manifests signs to that and we find in **Acts 5:20**. The apostles prayed the following. He said, "Lord, please stretch forth Your hand that signs, wonders and miracles will be done by Your name that we might preach Your word boldly."

This was when they were in the jail. You know they were caught, they were put in jail and then in jail they are praying and all these kind of things take place and what happened? The Lord takes them out of the jail and they want to preach because they hear these threats. They hear how they are going to be killed and how will people now believe this message of eternal life if we are dying! They are killing us but we are preaching eternal life. What is going to go on? Lord, help us!" So they said, "Lord, please stretch forth your hand to signs, wonders and miracles that it can be done in Your name. If that can be done in Your name, then we can preach with boldness!" What would they preach with boldness?. That You were raised from the dead and that we can have eternal life and that You have conquered our sin and death in our bodies and that we shall be raised from the dead. So it would be nice if You raised some people from the dead, some sick people healed, some blind eyes would be opened, deaf ears opened and those kind of things. You know when those kind of things happen, people will see and it will be a confirmation of what we are preaching... not a confirmation of us. They will not say, "Oh, the man of God." They will say, "Oh, Jesus was raised and I can be raised." That's what they would say. Glory to God!

So I want to say and I want to pray, "Father, thank You that You stretch forth Your hand to signs, wonders and miracles in this webcast today, that I can preach this word of the resurrection, with boldness in the earth by You stretching forth Your hand to signs, wonders and miracles. Thank You for that, Lord, in Jesus' mighty name! That it will be done by Your name. Thank You, Lord! Amen

Father, I just want to stretch forth my hands to people who are watching right now and I say, "Cancer be healed in the mighty name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus, I raise you up. People who have weakness in their bodies, I raise you up in the name of Jesus. All sorts of signs and wonders and healings take place in the audience that watches this, be it now or in the time to come, but healings take place right now in the name of Jesus Christ and with a heart persuaded of this resurrection, I bring you healing in the name of Jesus. I bring you life in the name of Jesus and I say to you, "Signs, wonder and miracles take place in you! Stand up in the name of Jesus! What pain you may have move your body right now and experience the healing power of God in your life... in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Thank You, Father! Thank You, Lord. I thank You that miracles take place in people's lives right now. Thank You, my Abba, that You stretch forth Your hands that I can preach this word with boldness, in this world. Father, for You know that there will be many that make me out as a false preacher, but Lord, I thank You that You stretch forth Your hand to signs, wonders and miracles to take place. Thank You, Lord, that I am not believing for miracles. I'm believing in this resurrection. If no miracle takes place, I know this is already true, but thank You, Lord, for doing this and the testimonies will go forth testifying of this message of immortality... a message of life! Thank You for that, Lord! Amen and amen!

I want to say to you that as you go out and spread the Gospel, share the Gospel, believe the Gospel for yourself, what do we say? We have a warmth in our hearts for the supernatural. We chase after the love of God which is unto eternal life. We have a warmth for the supernatural and as you share this message and believe this message in your heart, go around and in the name of Jesus, as you feel led by the Holy Spirit, pray for the sick if you want to do that. In closing, I want to say this, if you don't feel to do that, my goodness, don't! If you don't feel that is what you want to do, if you feel the Spirit prompts you to generosity or prompts you to the gift of hospitality, or whatever it is, do that. Just do that. The Bible says, "Do all do miracles? No!" It says that! It doesn't say, "And all did miracles." It doesn't say that. It says, "In those ministries were signs." Then there were places where all were healed but it doesn't say that all were healed every time. It doesn't say that. Let us not aim for the sign! Let us aim for the Gospel and for the truth so that these signs would not be this voice of discouragement when we don't see miracles! My goodness, we're not aiming for the miracle. Let's preach the truth. Glory to God! And it is true and let us just allow God to work with us. Who does the signs and the wonders? Not us! The Bible says that Jesus, the Spirit worked with, performing signs and miracles. The Bible says, "Lay your hands upon the sick and God will raise him up." Nowhere does it say the preacher must raise up anybody up. It says, "And God will raise him up." So let us just preach and live that way and not live in condemnation.

So, miracles is not what Jesus died for! Jesus didn't die that we can do healings. Jesus died that we can be immortal and this power of immortality, where He will make us immortal, we have signs of that immortality which is healings today and we have the authority to do that. The Bible says, "Go and lay your hands on the sick." What He was actually saying there, if you read this in its true context in Mark 16 with Matthew 28, it actually says, "Jesus was with them." That is what it means. Glory to God!

I want to thank you so much for watching this. May it wash your heart from all unbelief, wrong doctrine, and let the truth settle in your heart and go and pray about this. You will see it is everywhere in the Bible. Just take the word, life, put it in your concordance. Read all the words where the word, life, is in the New Testament in the light of this truth that I preached and you will see how it energizes you in a great way. Thank you for watching and God bless you!

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