

Tree of Life! Part 5: "Miracle Works!"

Looking at the Tree of Life... Jesus...Who came to save the world and make disciples by living out His values! He modeled and spoke about living to do God's will rather than His own! **John 4.34, 5.30, 6.38, 7.16, 8.26** He modeled love, care, service and teaching... *to keep God's name before them and keep them in His name!* **John 17.12, 26 18.9** He modeled a rightly ordered family dynamic! **Luke 2.40ff John 2.1ff Gen 1.28 Mark 3.32-35 Luke 8.21** And "going about doing good!" **Acts 10.38**

Doing Good... Good works! Not kalos or agathos: common or beautiful, ergon: works, energies... But, euergetes: philanthropic works! Jesus went around, sourced by the Holy Spirit, *doing philanthropic works, of spirit and substance, to all who were oppressed by the devil!* **Acts 10.38** Love-based, equitably-distributed, too-numerous-to-count, good works... Of substance and spirit! All for the purpose of destroying the works of the devil! **1John 3.8**

Looking at the Tree of Life... Have you been thinking about it...? Did you look at yourself, your family to make an assessment and plan? How generous is your "laying up in store a foundation for the coming time?" **1Timothy 6.18,19 2Timothy 3.16.17** How equitable? **Matthew 5.45 Rom 12.20** How "necessary" the giving? **Titus 3.14** Are you hearing and doing something with His will or hearing only, thereby, deceiving yourself? **Jam 1.22 Not only by pride, but, in inventory!**

Nothing says "tree of life" like the sweet fruit of doing good, the best good, for people in need!

Good Works... Are evidently one of Jesus core values! Doing good *naturally*, with our substance, is one side of His good works! And "doing good, healing all those who were oppressed; destroying the works of the devil," is the other side! No one questions Jesus values of doing good *spiritually, miraculously!* But we are not so sure that we can do those kinds of works... even though... "And greater things than these will you do because I go to the Father!" **John 14.12**

Miracle Works... "Wait for the promise of the Father... *you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses for Me...*" **Acts 1.4,8** "Silver and gold I don't have but *what I have I give to you, In the name of Jesus* rise up and walk!" **Acts 3.6** "And people with one accord gave heed to Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles he did; the possessed were set free, palsies were healed, the lame walked!" **Acts 8.6,7** "And Ananias laid his hands on Saul and said, 'the Lord who appeared to you sent me so that you could recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. And immediately scales fell from his eyes..." **Acts 9.17,18** "Peter said to Aeneas, 'Jesus Christ makes you whole, rise and take up your bed, and he did! And all who saw the miracles turned to the Lord.'" **Acts 9.34,35** "And Tabitha, full of good works and a benefactor to the poor, got sick and died. The disciples sent for Peter, asking him to come without delay. When Peter came in, he cleared the room, knelt down and prayed... (not going to do anything without knowing the mind of God) and then turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, arise.' And she did. And he presented her to her friends and family, alive! And many believed!" **Acts 9.36-42** "As Paul was speaking, he perceived that a man who was crippled from birth, who had never walked was locked on to him and had faith to be healed. Paul spoke out with a loud voice, 'Stand up on your feet...' and he leapt up and walked!" **Acts 14.8ff**

That's only half of the book of Acts... but evidence that God wants to work miracles through His sons/daughters!

What is our response?

Luke 1.30ff [Personalized] “Don’t be afraid _____, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive new life, the life of Jesus. He will be great and He will be established as the Son of the Highest and God will rule through Him and of His kingdom there will be no end!” How will this be? “The Holy Spirit will come on you and the power of God will overshadow you and a holy thing will be born in you... and you won’t be alone, there will be others with miracle power at work inside of them too!” And _____ says, “Behold the servant of God! Let it be to me just as you have said...!” And others will say, “Blessed are you _____, for you have believed and there will be a performance of those things which were said to you by the Lord” And I say, “My soul magnifies the Lord! My spirit rejoices in my Savior! For he has regarded my low estate and from now on people will call me blessed because *HE THAT IS MIGHTY* has done great things to me and Holy is His name! His mercy is on all those who reverence Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm. He scatters the proud and lifts the humble. He fills the hungry, and the self-sufficient He sends away. He has helped us, His servants by rewarding us with His mercies!”

That constitutes a right response to God’s will for us to “go around doing good, healing all the oppressed of the devil...”

That makes us like the Tree of Life planted by rivers of living water!

Doing miracles... Keep it simple! You don’t have to work it up... **you only have to believe...** “By Christ’s stripes we were healed!” **Isaiah 53.4,5 1Peter 2.24** “Jesus gave His power against unclean spirits and to heal all manner of sickness and disease to His followers!” **Matthew 10.1 Luke 10.1-9** **And encourage belief!** “I give to you what I have, In the name of Jesus...” **Acts 3.6** “His name, through faith in His name has made this man strong!” **Acts 3.16**

Do what Jesus did, “The things I do are the things I see/hear from My Father!” “My Father works, and I work! The Son can do nothing of Himself but what He sees the Father doing. What the Father does, the Son does likewise!” **John 5.17** We have to speak or pray or anoint or touch... but He does the heavy work! “Grant us the boldness to speak Your words – that signs and wonders may be done in Jesus name!” **Acts 4.29,30**

Keep it real! It is God who does the miracles, all the glory belongs to Him! “Keep your hands out of the glory pot!” “There was a man named Simon, giving out that he was someone great, ‘this man is the great power of God!’ *But he merely bewitched them with sorceries!*” **Acts 8.9ff** “As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshipped him. But Peter lifted him up saying, ‘Stand up, for I am only a man!’” **Acts 10.24-26**

“When the people saw what Paul did they said, ‘the gods have come down to us...’ Paul rent his clothes and said, ‘*We are mere men, this is God’s witness among men!*’” **Acts 14.8-18** “When the jailer saw Paul and the others and what had been done, he fell down before him... Paul’s response was, ‘*Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved!*’” **Acts 16.29,30**

Keep it safe! Doubt will be present to hinder... **Mt13.58** Satan will come to steal the words of faith that are sown... **Mark 4.15** Disbelief/apathy will rise... **Mt12.43ff** A return to sin may happen and make things worse... **John 5.14** **Keep your eyes on Jesus and not on what you see!** “I came to Your disciples for help

and they couldn't... 'Why couldn't we do anything?' Because of your unbelief. But this kind requires prayer and fasting..." **Mark 9.14ff**

If Jesus says we can do what He did, we can! He did... others have... and we can!