

**MIRACLES IN THE
BOOK OF ACTS, # 2**

I. Introduction:

A. Acts is the history book of the NT showing the spread of the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem to Rome in approximately 32 years (30-62 AD).

B. The inspired record in Mark tells us that the Lord worked with the apostles and “confirmed the word with signs following”-see Mark 16:20.

II. This is the # 2 lesson on the subject. And this lesson takes up in chapter 12 of Acts.

A. The miraculous release of the Apostle Peter from prison-Acts 12:1-17.

1. The wicked king, Herod Agrippa I, has beheaded James, the brother of John with the sword, and had intentions of beheading the apostle Peter in order to please the Jews-Acts 12:1-3.

2. Herod Agrippa intended to wait until after the feast of unleavened bread so as not to upset the Jews-12:3 & 4.

3. While Peter was kept in prison, the church was earnestly praying on Peter's behalf!

“Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him”-v. 5.

Surely Christians understand there are different intensity levels in prayer! The prayer for Peter was a “high intensity prayer!”

4. The Greek word describing the intensity of the prayer in verse 5 is “ektenes.” This word has the meaning of, “stretched out, extended; hence, earnest, intent, fervent”-Bullinger, A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament, pg. 141.

5. Technically, this miracle of Peter's release should be called "a supernatural act of God!"

6. Here is an example of God extending the life of the apostle Peter by His intervention in the affairs of men!

7. How many times has God done the same thing for Christians of today using different means?

8. On a somewhat comical note, even though the church was earnestly praying for Peter, when Rhoda told the brethren he was at the gate, they didn't believe her-see vs. 12-16.

B. Elymas, the sorcerer was struck blind by Paul because he stood against the truth preached by Paul-see Acts 13:6-12.

1. This miracle, in conjunction with the preaching of the gospel resulted in the conversion of the governor of Cyprus-verses 7-12.

See especially verse 12:

“Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”

The word “believed” in this verse refers to the entire conversion process, including baptism!

Question: Does this miracle help us to understand God’s attitude towards false teachers?

See the record in Acts 2:41-44.

Note: The ones who “believed,” were the ones who had repented and were baptized!

Sometimes, the NT gives the details of conversion (hear, believe, repent, confession, and baptism); but sometimes we have only a generic statement such as we have in Acts 13:12.

C. God confirmed Paul, Barnabas, and His word through miracles at Iconium.

“Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands” -Acts 14:3.

The result was that a great multitude of Jews and Greeks believed-see verse 1.

Remember Mark 16:20!

D. A crippled man was healed in Lystra.

“And there was a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother’s womb, who never had walked:

The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked”-Acts 14:8-10.

Notice the response of the people:

“The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men”-v. 11.

E. Paul and Silas released from prison, and the conversion of the jailor and his family-Acts 16:20-34.

1. After being beaten severely, Paul and Silas are praying and singing, and the prisoners heard them-v. 25.

2. The prisoners were loosed from their cells and bands-v. 26.

3. No one escaped, and Paul persuaded the jailor not to take his life-vs. 27 & 28.

4. The jailor took Paul and Silas out of the jail to his own house, and asked them about salvation, he washed their wounds, and after hearing God's word, he and all his household were baptized in the wee hours of the morning-vs. 30-34.

F. Tongues and prophecy given to the twelve men who had received an outdated baptism-Acts 19:1-7.

1. John's baptism was from God, and was for the remission of sins-see John 1:33; Mark 1:3; Luke 1:77; 3:3.

“And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways:

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins”-Luke 1:76 & 77.

2. John's baptism was valid until the day of Pentecost. On that day, baptism in the name of Christ went into effect-see the record in Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38.

3. When Paul returned to Ephesus from Jerusalem, he found the twelve men and assumed they were disciples of the Lord.

This is an high accolade with reference to these men!

4. His intention was to pass miraculous gifts to them for the spread of the gospel. This was to be done through the laying on of his hands.

5. These men knew nothing about the Spirit being given. This fact was a signal to Paul of their outdated baptism, so he taught them of baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus, and they were baptized again!

6. Paul then laid his hands on them and imparted to them the gift of tongues and prophecy.

7. A valuable lesson is learned from these twelve men: Sometimes it is needful for well-intentioned people to be baptized again!

**G. Eutychus raised to life by the apostle Paul-
Acts 20:6-12.**

1. Resurrections in the NT:

a. Jairus's daughter-Mark 5:35-43.

**b. The son of the widow of Nain
-Luke 7:11-17.**

c. Lazarus-John 11:43-18.

d. Many saints-Matthew 27:52 & 53.

e. Dorcas-Acts 9:40 & 41.

f. Eutychus-Acts 20:9-12.

**H. The apostle Paul was unharmed after being
bitten by a venomous snake, and he healed the father
of Publias and others-Acts 28:1-9.**

III. Close:

A. The book of Acts has credentials of deity all through it!

B. This is confirmation of the statement in Mark 16:20.

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

C. Beyond any shadow of doubt, the NT is God’s word.

D. The Lord’s ability to forgive sins was demonstrated by the miracles He performed-see Matthew 9:6.

E. The Lord tells men how to be saved-Mark 16:15 & 16. See also Acts 2:38; 8:37.