

2016 The Year of God's Wonders

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things...

Psalm 72:18 NKJV

...Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

Joshua 3:5

I. This year will be a YEAR OF GOD'S WONDERS Displayed

- a. From Hebrew word "pala" - to be surpassing or extraordinary; miracles; wondrously marvelous; to bring the extraordinary; to deal marvelously; show your power;
- b. Ps. 77:14 - You are the God who works wonders, You have made known Your might among the peoples...
- c. Exodus 15:11 - Who is like You O Lord among the gods, who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

II. God does Wonders out of His heart of Compassion - not because you deserve it!

- a. God was motivated by compassion to deliver the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and used many "wonders" to convince Pharaoh to let His people go. (Exodus 3:7-9)
- b. Jesus did the "wonder" of feeding the 4,000 because of His compassion for them. (Matthew 15:32-37)

III. These wonders are to bless you AND for the sake of others

- a. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were preserved in the midst of the fire - for themselves but also so that King Nebuchadnezzar would acknowledge God as the one true God. (Dan. 3:27-29)
- b. Daniel in the lion's den - the wonder of his deliverance was for him but also for the sake of King Darius and that God's name would be proclaimed around the earth. (Dan. 6:26-27)
- c. Lazarus being raised from the dead by Jesus was a "wonder" that benefitted him and his immediate family but it was also done for the sake of the Jews as well so that they might become convinced of Jesus as the Messiah of Israel. (John 11:43-45)

IV. How To Prepare to Receive God's Wonders

a. Then Joshua said to the people, "*Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.*" (Joshua 3:5)

1. The word "consecrate" is from the Hebrew word qadash - which means to set apart, to be dedicated, purified, to manifest God's holiness.

2. Remove anything impure from your life, dedicate yourself and your time to God's will and purposes. Let your life manifest God's ways.

b. Cultivate a heart of gratitude and practice continuously expressing it to God and to others. Grumbling and complaining robbed an entire generation of Israelites of receiving the "wonder" of the Promised Land that God intended for them to have!

c. Examine your heart to be sure you are not depending on "self" to work the wonder of your deliverance. A mixture of trusting God and relying on self is poisonous and will rob you of God's wonders in your life! King Saul started out trusting God, but when the pressure was on, he relied on "self" and lost the kingdom. (1 Samuel 13:5-14)