

Miracles Prove There Is A God

Text : **John 14: 1-14**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Life is constantly changing, but people adapt and life goes on.

1. Great civilizations have risen and have fallen, but mankind remains.
 - a. The flood of Noah's day almost wiped out mankind, but man recovered. (*imagine*)
 - b. Great pandemics have wiped out millions, but man bounces back. (*plague*)
2. Strangely, each new civilization is not always an improvement over the previous.
 - a. The Mayas were more advanced than the Incas who followed.
 - b. The Romans were much more advanced than any in the *dark ages* that followed.

B. Like civilization at large, Christianity is in a constant state of flux.

1. Throughout its history it has been alternately persecuted and encouraged.
 - a. The Romans tried to wipe Christianity out, but eventually endorsed it.
 - b. Like pruning a tree, each persecution has made the church stronger.
2. Governments have tried to use Christianity to serve their own purposes.
 - a. Constantine used the church to consolidate his hold on power.
 - b. The Spanish have and continue to use religion to keep the population in line.

ILL - Filipino priests arbitrate labor disputes in favor of land barons and the gov.

3. Muslims periodically try to supplant Christianity.
 - a. It's not just Christians; they are intolerant of any other religion.
 - b. Current oil wealth has emboldened them to make a renewed attempt.

C. We are living in a time when great historical changes are in play.

1. The country we grew up in is dissolving around us.
 - a. Core values that guided our nation are being challenged.
 - b. Our independence and freedoms we have long cherished are disappearing.
2. America's fall from greatness is following the course of great empires of the past.
 - a. Like those before us, our true enemy is from within. (**It is us !**)
 - b. For example, it was internal decay that made Rome vulnerable to attack.

These traumatic times effect God's church as well.

I. Christianity is now under pressure from the very country it founded.

A. Being in the friendly environment for generations, Christians became soft.

1. For generations Christianity was accepted as the norm in America.
2. Being an accepted cultural value, Christians relaxed their teaching of the basics.

ILL – After generations of peace, an army becomes weak and complacent.

B. Without constant teaching, the knowledge of God became increasingly less.

1. Christians expected their children to know without teaching them.
2. Christianity can't be caught; it must be taught. (**Rom. 10: 17 - Heb. 11:6**)

C. God forewarned us to forestall this very problem.

1. **Deut. 6: 4-9** “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! **5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
(Compare - **Deut. 11: 18-20**)

2. It is also wise for us to heed the warning given to Israel of old.

Amos 6: 1- Woe to those who are at ease in Zion And to those who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria, ...

D. In the land where the gospel can flow as freely as the greatest of rivers, we have raised a generation that is untaught and unbelieving.

1. We have put unbelievers in charge of training up our children.
* **Christians founded public education to facilitate teaching the bible.**
2. We have trained them to earn money, but failed to teach them about God.

Mark 8: 36- For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?

E. Actions have consequences; we couldn't expect to reap different than we sowed.

1. **Gal. 5:6-7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
2. This is an immutable law of the universe.

F. As in the physical realm, “*Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.*”

II. Jesus called Christians to be aggressively evangelistic, to teach, teach, teach.

A. Anytime Christians go on defense Satan has won. (**The army of God attacks.**)

1. Christians are commanded to teach the gospel where ever they go in this world.
Mark 16:15- And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ..” (Literally - *As you go into ...*)
2. The early disciples did not allow Satan to put them on defense.
 - a. **Acts 5: 40-42** They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them. **41** So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name. **42** And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
 - b. How would we react under that kind of pressure ? (**Did beatings hurt them less ?**)
 - c. How do we react under the social pressure that we now face ? (**Often silence.**)
3. Satan is seeking to silence us ; ... *what are we doing to stop him ?*

B. Jesus understood there would be casualties in the world.

1. If you accepted Christianity expecting to have a peaceful life here on earth, you were misinformed. *Jesus knows ALL His followers will receive opposition.*
Matt. 10: 34-39 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; **36** and a man’s enemies will be members of his own household. **37** He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38** And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39** He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.
2. Jesus clearly told us that following him would cause us problems in this world.
John 15: 18-21 “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. **20** Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. **21** But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

C. Therefore, as the world's pressure increases, we must step up and be counted.

1. We must follow the examples of those who have gone on before us.
 - a. **Acts 8: 3-4** But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. **4** Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.
 - b. **Heb. 10: 32-35** But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, **33** partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. **34** For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. **35** Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.
2. We never take up arms to fight, **BUT** we never stop proclaiming that gospel.
 - a. We may flee to save our lives,
 - b. but even while fleeing we must never stop speaking out for Christ.

III. One area in which we have incorrectly been put on defense is regarding miracles.

A. We must never let Satan's attempts to discredit the miracles of the bible silence us.

*** No miracle of the bible has ever been successfully discredited.**

1. Many today don't even know what a miracle is.
 - a. Example : *"It was a terrible crash. It was a miracle that he was not killed."*
 - b. A miracle is not just a highly improbable outcome or event.
2. There is a difference between a miracle and the providential working of God.
 - a. Most of God's activity on the earth is accomplished via His providence. (*prayer*)
 - b. Providence : denotes God's preserving and governing all things by means of second causes, i.e., working within the laws of nature.
3. C.S. Lewis defines a miracle as "an interference with nature by supernatural power."
 - a. When God works a miracle it happens immediately, not over a period of year.
 - b. His miracles are clearly out of the realm of what is naturally possible.
4. When one sees a miracle, he knows it is an act of God.
 - a. This is why the atheists are continually trying to disprove biblical miracles.
 - b. If they admit a miracle was done, they must admit that God exists.

B. God uses miracles to prove that He is indeed God. (**Almighty Sovereign**)

1. In the Old Testament :

- a. **Read ... Exodus 6: 5-7 ; 7:5, 17 ; 8:10, 22 ; 9:14, 29 ; 10: 1-2 ; 14:18**
- b. **I King 20:13-** Now behold, a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel and said, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver them into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the Lord.’ ”
- c. **Ezekiel** uses similar language more than 70 times.

2. In the New Testament Jesus pointed to His miracles as proof of His deity :

- a. **Matt. 11: 2-6** Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to Him, “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?”
⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ *the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*
⁶ “And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”
- b. **John 5:36-** But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish— the very works that I do — testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.
- c. **John 14:11-** Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

C. Even though they can’t deny miracles, some will not believe no matter what.

1. The Jewish counsel would not be persuaded by a miracle worked by the Apostles.

Acts 4:15-17 But when they had ordered them to leave the Council, they *began* to confer with one another, ¹⁶ saying, “What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name.” (*Referring to Acts 3: 1-10*)

2. The chief priests and scribes plotted against him because of His miracles.

John 11: 47-50 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, “What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let Him *go on* like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, ⁵⁰ nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that

the whole nation not perish.” (*It was politics, not religion.*)

3. Remember what God said in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus ?

Luke 16: 19-31 ...“But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ ³¹ “But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

CONCLUSION :

A. Herein lies the challenge God has put before us.

1. We must tell the world of His mighty deeds. *Demonstrate His deity by His works.*
 - a. Some will believe.
 - b. Some will reject. (**Detractors have never disproved even one miracle.**)
2. It is not our job to convince people the miracles are real, **but** to tell His mighty works to all who will listen. (**The choice is theirs.**)

B. We must proudly teach His works to our children.

C. We must make sure they are passed down from generation to generation.

Remember ... II Tim. 2:2

D. We must not be intimidated - and - not be silenced.

1. Today, at Satan’s behest, the world seeks to destroy the Kingdom of God.
2. We must use every freedom we have to press the case for God & His Christ.

INVITATION :

- A. What are you doing to defend and to promote the glory of God ?
- B. Do you need to rededicate your efforts ?
- C. Are you a follower of Christ ?

Text : John 14: 1-14 (NASV)

1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. **4** And you know the way where I am going. **5** Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" **6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him. **8** Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." **9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" **10** "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. **11** "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. **12** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father **13** "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.