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Name

Working of
MIRACLES



E. BERNARD JORDAN

Working of Miracles

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PREFACE

God intended believers to perform miracles. The fact that performing miracles is a gift of the Holy Spirit, means God wants to perform miracles through His people — “to another the working of miracles” (1 Corinthians 12:10 NRSV). Miracles are distinguished by their impossibility by human power and capacity. God is the source of the miraculous. God said, nothing is impossible with Him (Luke 1:37).

In this book, *Working of Miracles*, I will open the doors that this cynical world has closed. This generation has doubts about the existence of God, much alone the existence of miracle. Miracles do exist and Christians are the ones who work them into possibility. The absence of miracles in our lives can be rooted in the lack of wisdom and knowledge in how to perform miracles. In this book, I want to take you step-by-step into a space where you can call miracles into your life.



MIRACLES: A GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“The only limit to the power of the Almighty
God lies within you and me.”*

Kathryn Kuhlman

POWER TRUTH

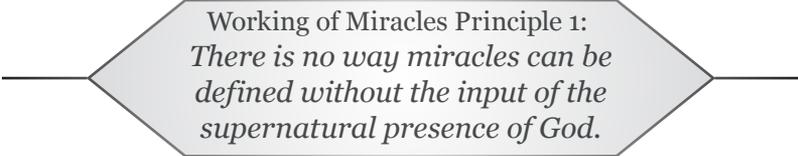
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” –

Acts 1:8 NRSV

SPIRITUAL GIFT OF MIRACLES

It takes power to perform miracles. Miracles are not acts of magic that can be conjured up by human understanding and scientific tricks. Miracles come only by power. The Bible tells us that all power belongs to God (Psalm 62:11). Thus, to perform miracles, the power of God must be present. On a certain day, Jesus was going about his ministerial assignment and a man bedridden of palsy was brought to him. Jesus healed the man because the power of God was present in him (Luke 5:17).

In the book, *The Gift of the Spirit*, it says, “A miracle is an act of God.” A miracle occurs when God suspends natural laws and principles to bring about a result that is not humanly possible or cannot be rationally explained.¹ Simply put, a miracle is an occurrence that is impossible with man, but which God has supernaturally provided. Miracles are acts of God in the affairs of men. I heard a song once where the singer sang about the enduring love of God and the singer emphasized the fact that there are miracles everywhere. I have yet to meet a person who is not expecting a miracle to happen. In churches today, believers cleave to the prophetic word of God spoken by those with authority over them who believe God for miracles



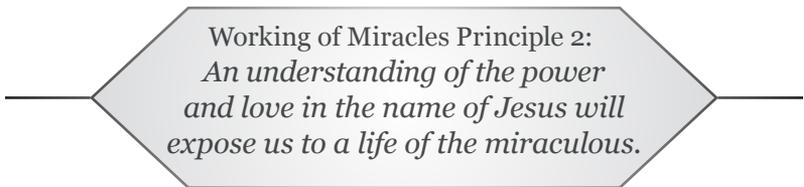
Working of Miracles Principle 1:
There is no way miracles can be defined without the input of the supernatural presence of God.

There is no way miracles can be defined without the input of the supernatural presence of God. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defined a miracle as “an extraordinary event manifesting divine

intervention in human affairs.” Science can explain many things, but there is no scientific explanation for the miraculous works of God. This is because miracles are not based on natural laws that can be subjected to tests and calculation. It is impossible to understand a miracle with the use of the natural mind. An attempt to explain miracles will be an attempt to explain God, because miracles are direct acts of God.

Our God is a God of miracles. Everything about Him and all that He does is a miracle. From the very beginning of existence, God has been performing miracles. Can you give any scientific explanation as to how words spoken will create light, day, and night? I bet you can't. That is because it is a miracle. The book of Genesis 2 also goes on to reveal to us that man was formed from ordinary dust with the breath of God, making it a living being. That is a miracle.

Jesus is the King of miracles. The Bible tells us that the key to the mysteries of God is embedded in the Name of Jesus. In Philippians 2:9, the word of God says, “God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name.” The name of Jesus is the name that is higher than any and all principalities and powers. The name Jesus is the key to miracles.²

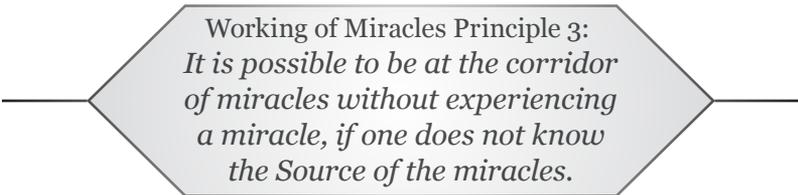


Working of Miracles Principle 2:
*An understanding of the power
and love in the name of Jesus will
expose us to a life of the miraculous.*

An understanding of the power and love in the name of Jesus will expose us to a life of the miraculous. Mary, the mother of Jesus, had a strong understanding of who Jesus is. They had been invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee and the wine ran out. This was a situation of impending shame and dissatisfied guests and dignitaries

could not have forgotten this easily. Mary convinced the servants to do whatever Jesus instructed. She had great faith in him. They obeyed His instruction and the first miracle of Jesus was born. They all said Jesus turned water into wine because of obedience (John 2:1-11).

At this point, Jesus had never done any recorded miracle in the past. How did Mary then know he could do it? It is simple. It is because she knew who he was. There are too many people hanging around the body of Christ today waiting for a miracle, without actually seeking to know the God of miracles. Miracles don't just happen. There is a God in heaven who orchestrates miracles. The easiest way to obtain a miracle may actually be to know the God of miracles. As a believer, God wants to use you to perform His miracles for the world to see and experience His glory.



Working of Miracles Principle 3:
*It is possible to be at the corridor
of miracles without experiencing
a miracle, if one does not know
the Source of the miracles.*

In John 5, when Jesus met the man that had been bedridden for thirty-eight years, the man gave excuses when Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed. This is because he did not know Jesus as the miracle worker. His mind was filled with cynicism and doubt. It was not an open space wherein a miracle could occur. It is possible to be at the corridor of miracles without experiencing a miracle, if one does not know the Source of the miracles.

God is limitless and can do all things. God invites us to participate in His miraculous works. He deliberately anoints men to carry His presence to fulfill His desires here on earth. The mind of God is executed here on earth by men who have consecrated their lives to

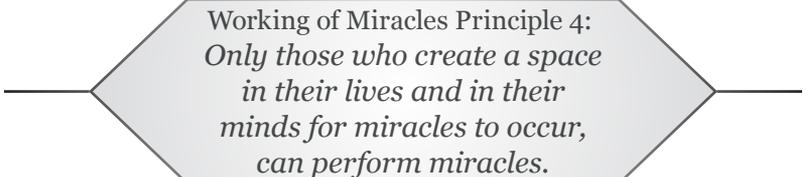
partnering with Him. God uses these humans to perform miracles. God equips those whom He has called according to His purposes.

When Jesus was giving the final commission, He said signs will follow for those that believe in Him.

...by using My name they will cast out demons, they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover.
(Mark 16:17-18)

When any of these things happen, it is not strange to hear people exclaim, “It is a miracle!” This is because that is exactly what it is, a miracle. Jesus, however, did not say that anybody could just perform miracles — only those that believe in Him. Only those who create a space in their lives and in their minds for miracles to occur, can perform miracles.

He exhorted those who believe in him to wait for the power. It is with the power of God that miracles are performed. When Pharaoh’s magicians saw the wonders of God, they cried out, “This is the finger of God.” No man can perform miracles without the backing of God. How can people perform miracles when they do not believe in God?

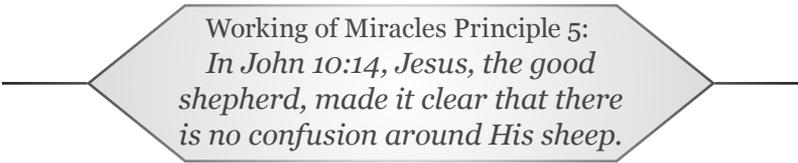


Working of Miracles Principle 4:
*Only those who create a space
in their lives and in their
minds for miracles to occur,
can perform miracles.*

Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for power. In Acts 2:1-4, the Holy Spirit came like a rushing mighty wind and descended

upon the disciples. They received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and power was released upon them to perform miracles. Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:10, tells us categorically that the working of miracles is a gift of the Holy Spirit, that the working of miracles is a supernatural endowment by the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that gives power to perform miracles.

It would be very disastrous for anyone to assume that he can perform miracles without the help and power of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 19:11-20, the seven sons of a man called Sceva, tried to imitate Paul. They tried using the name of Jesus to cast out demons from a man. The demon possessed leapt on them and dealt ruthlessly with them. Miracles do not happen by chance or by luck; they are a direct intervention by God in a situation that is humanly impossible.



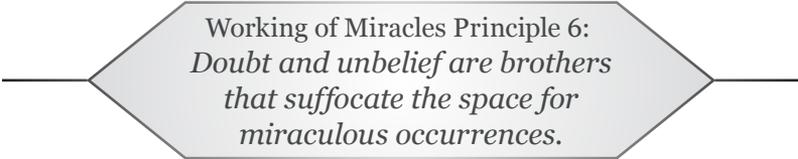
Working of Miracles Principle 5:
In John 10:14, Jesus, the good shepherd, made it clear that there is no confusion around His sheep.

This story also portrays the need for son-ship. In verse 15 of Acts 19, the demon raised a vital question and asked men who they were. We cannot desire or attempt to perform miraculous works without first being sure that we are one of His. In John 10:14, Jesus, the good shepherd, made it clear that there is no confusion around His sheep. Jesus knows His sheep and His sheep know Him. The intriguing thing is that the forces that we contend against also know those who are in the flock of the good shepherd. Anyone outside the fold that attempts the miraculous, opens himself up for a gruesome attack by the wolves of this world. Judas Iscariot ate with Jesus, but was not one of his sheep, and he died a gruesome death. Every believer needs to examine himself if he is still in the fold.

BY FAITH

Performing miracles is a spiritual gift.³ One may look at how wonderful miracles are and be tempted to think that miracles are beyond one's level of faith, but that is not true. God is the giver of gifts and if He were to give based on our works, probably none of us would be qualified. God doesn't give gifts to the established; He gives gifts to establish us in the faith. All we need is faith.

In Mark 11:22, Jesus summarized it all simply by saying, have faith in God. He said if you have faith, you could move mountains. Have you ever considered that figuratively? Where will you lift the base? When you lift it, what will you carry it with? Will a mountain fit into the sea? All these are good questions, but they have no basis in the matter of faith and miracles. God uses miracles to answer tough questions, but the working of miracles activates by the power of God and faith. Is faith really necessary? Yes, it is.⁴



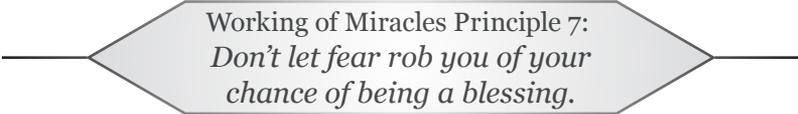
Working of Miracles Principle 6:
*Doubt and unbelief are brothers
that suffocate the space for
miraculous occurrences.*

For miracles to happen, at least one person must have faith — either the vessel God uses, the beneficiary of the miracle, or both. Miracles cannot flow in an atmosphere of doubt. Jesus, the only begotten Son of the Most High God, went to his own city and could not do much there because of their unbelief (Mark 6:2-5). Doubt and unbelief are brothers that suffocate the space for miraculous occurrences. In James 1:7, the Bible instructs anyone who is doubtful not to expect anything from the Lord. If you must receive, then you

must have faith. Verse 6 of the same book, admonishes that when we ask we should do so in faith.

Do not be disturbed about the result. You are not the miracle worker, God is! I raise this because too many people are afraid to make themselves available to God as channels through which God can perform miracles. Take for example, the commandment of Jesus that we should lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

MIRACLES: A SPIRITUAL GIFT



Working of Miracles Principle 7:
*Don't let fear rob you of your
chance of being a blessing.*

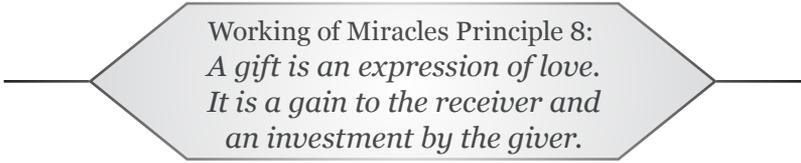
Many people are too scared to attempt practicing the spiritual gift of performing miracles, even when the Holy Spirit is urging them to do so. I have heard people say, “What if I pray and nothing happens?” Such a thought must never be permitted in our minds; it should be cast out because it is not of faith. God has not given us the spirit of fear, but that of faith. Don't let fear rob you of your chance of being a blessing. Keep in mind that God always has someone to bless and He is in need of those to send. All you need to do is say in faith, “Father send me” and He will pull through for you.

Let us consider the issue of gifts of the Spirit more closely. 1 Corinthians 12:4-10 tells us,

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...
To one is given the through the Spirit utterance of wisdom, and to another utterance of knowledge according to the same spirit, to another faith by the same spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one

Spirit, to another working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are gifts. A gift is an expression of love. It is a gain to the receiver and an investment by the giver. The gifts of the Holy Spirit depict the love of God towards us. In John 3:16, we see God gave His best to mankind by sending His only begotten Son to suffer and die for our salvation. The same order of love manifests in the gifts He gives. Jesus promised to leave us with the Comforter. When the Comforter came, He came bearing fruits and gifts. The fruits are to preserve our ministry and the gifts are to expand the ministry.



Working of Miracles Principle 8:
*A gift is an expression of love.
It is a gain to the receiver and
an investment by the giver.*

The gifts are given to us individually and collectively, purposely for the edification of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). The gifts of God are not meant to be used for personal gain. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are mentioned and not one is meant for personal gain or self-exaltation. The scripture emphasizes that it is the Spirit that gives.

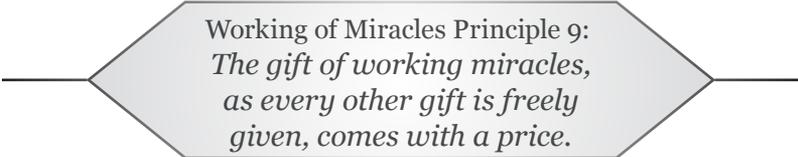
No man is an architect of the gifts, neither is it given by right nor inheritance. Every gift of the Holy Spirit is given by the Holy Spirit and is worked in us by the same Spirit. No one should make the error of claiming that one gift is superior to another, because they all are members of the same body. The gifts can be grouped into three classes: revelation gifts, power gifts, and utterance gifts.

The revelation gifts are the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and discerning of spirits. These gifts show what was previously hidden and shine the light on it, thereby revealing the truth about the matter. In Acts 16:16-18, the maid who was following Paul's evangelistic team seemed to be favoring them, but through the gift of revelation, Paul saw that she had a demonic spirit.

The power gifts are the gifts of faith, miracles, and healings. Our focus in this book is on miracles, which is one of the power gifts. These gifts bring down the supernatural ability of God to transform a human or natural situation. In Acts 3:1-8, Peter and John raised up a man who was lame. This was the first power demonstration after the Holy Spirit had come upon the disciples. We saw Peter and John manifest the power gifts by commanding the lame man to rise and walk, using the Name of Jesus.

The final group is the utterance gifts. This is comprised of the gifts of prophesy, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues. These are used to speak and declare the mysteries of God, as well as His mind on issues of life.

IS THERE ANY PRICE TO BE PAID TO WALK IN THE MIRACULOUS?



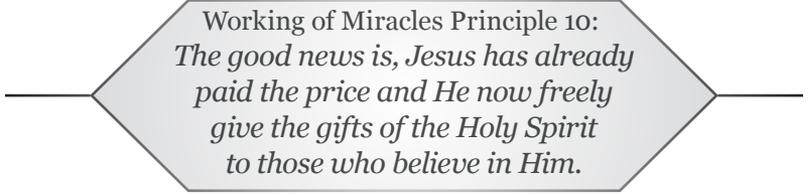
Working of Miracles Principle 9:
*The gift of working miracles,
as every other gift is freely
given, comes with a price.*

The gift of working of miracles comes from the Holy Spirit. Is this power free? Can anyone obtain the gift to perform miraculous

works? The answer is yes! Jesus said "...You received without payment; give without payment." (Matthew 10:8)

In fact, in Acts 8:19, a certain man who wanted to purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit was struck with blindness. The gift of working miracles, as every other gift is freely given, comes with a price. The good news, however, is that Jesus has already paid the price and He now freely give the gifts of the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Him.

God has an assignment for every believer to reach the lost world with the word of His love. He knows that people will believe if they see the miraculous. So, God is committed to giving power to as many that will do His will. Let's be clear on this, that the gift of working miracles is available to all. God gives this gift to us to enable us to bring His supernatural power to bear situations in life. The gift is free but there are some basic qualifications for it.

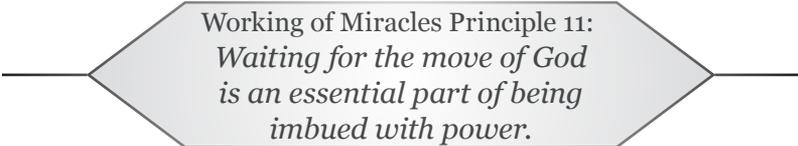


Working of Miracles Principle 10:
*The good news is, Jesus has already
paid the price and He now freely
give the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to those who believe in Him.*

First, you must be born again. As stated earlier, you cannot expect to experience the miraculous without knowing the miraculous God. The working of miracles is exclusively for those who have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them. The Holy Spirit does not dwell in an unregenerate mind. In John 3:3, Jesus stated clearly that unless a man is born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. The gift of healing is one of the benefits of being in the family of God and cannot be assessed without salvation.

There must also be a desire. The disciples that were imbued

with power were willing and ready to receive it before it came. They followed and committed themselves to the ministry of Jesus. When Jesus told them that they would receive power (Acts 1:8), they believed it and waited for it.



Working of Miracles Principle 11:
*Waiting for the move of God
is an essential part of being
imbued with power.*

Another thing is we must not be in a hurry. God is a sovereign God and He has His own timetable. The fact that the Lord hasn't honored a request doesn't mean that He hasn't heard you. The early disciples waited for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Jesus didn't immediately ascend to baptize them in the Holy Ghost. Waiting for the move of God is an essential part of being imbued with power.

⁷“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)

Matthew 7:7-8 clearly tells us to ask God. This is because it tells us what God expects us to do. God knows what we need, but He expects us to ask. Many times, we don't ask. We might be thinking of what we want, but until we ask God for it, we have not actually brought the matter to Him. If you desire doing the miraculous, ask until your joy is full.

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP IN THE WORKING OF MIRACLES?

Working of Miracles Principle 12:
To perform miracles, our spirit must be in alignment with God and be empowered by His Spirit.

It is simply through empowerment. Jesus said in John 16:5 “... apart from me you can do nothing.” The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God at work in us. The word of God says that no man can prevail by physical strength. The working of miracles is not something that the physical mind or body is trained to do. To perform miracles, our spirit must be in alignment with God and be empowered by His Spirit.

In the Old Testament whenever the hand of the Lord came upon somebody, the person did great feats. An example of this is in 1 Kings 17:46, when the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah and he ran faster than Ahab’s Chariot. Today, the hand of the Lord still manifests in us as the baptism of the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist said that Jesus baptizes with the Holy Ghost and fire. Take advantage of the Holy Spirit baptism and begin to live in the fullness of the Spirit. You are sure to experience the miraculous.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. What are the spiritual gifts that you have?
2. What miracle do you desire to appear in your life?
3. What can you do today to work this miracle into existence?

REFLECTION TIME

Dear Lord,

Thank You for every miracle You have performed in and around my life. Lord, please do more and empower me to be a vessel to perform miraculous works for you.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



LISTENING MIRACLES INTO EXISTENCE

*“I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from
listening carefully. Most people never listen.”*

Ernest Hemingway

POWER TRUTH

“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.”

Romans 10:17 NRSV

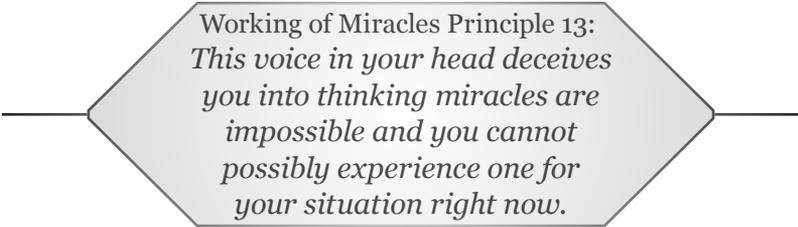
THE VOICE IN OUR HEAD

Living in this world, the voice in our head always says, “No, that’s not possible” or “There’s no way that would happen” or “Fat chance!” If you pay close attention to this voice, you would be aware of its constant presence in your life. You think this

voice-over is you.⁵ The Bible says, ‘I have the right to do anything’—but I will not be mastered by anything” (1 Corinthians 6:12). You should be the master of your thoughts, your emotions, your language and your behavior — not the voice in your head.

Maybe you have not been aware that this voice has always been present. You were just so used to hearing it and being swayed by it, that you didn’t know it existed. However, once you focus your attention on this voice and recognize that it is not you, you will discover that this voice-over does nothing for you. In fact, this voice in your head keeps your mind cluttered so that it cannot receive any wisdom or knowledge from the Holy Spirit. In other words, this voice in your head deceives you into thinking miracles are impossible and that you cannot possibly experience one for your situation right now.

Instead, this voice in your head fills your mind with judgments, cynicism, and evaluations of other people, events, circumstances, and of yourself. You will hear opinions, beliefs, and stuff that you allow to stand in the way of your life, your work, and your relationships to become all that they can truly be.⁶ The Voice-Over is similar to that of the voice of a parent. There is authority. However, this voice in your head forces you to repeat the same judgments, beliefs and opinions that prevent you from experiencing miracles in your life. You may have not been aware that this has been the voice you have been listening to for the longest time.

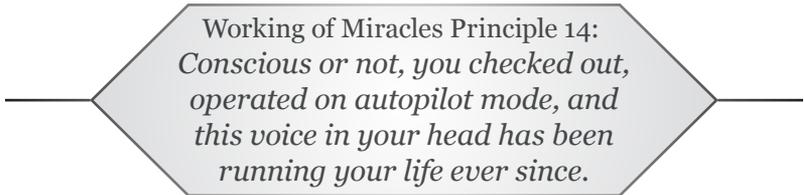


Working of Miracles Principle 13:
*This voice in your head deceives
you into thinking miracles are
impossible and you cannot
possibly experience one for
your situation right now.*

You believed this voice and you obeyed this voice. It is possible that you may never even trace the origin of this voice. But it is in that point wherein this voice began to run your life. Conscious or not, you checked out, operated on autopilot mode, and this voice in your head has been running your life ever since. It's time to snap out of this autopilot way of being and begin to listen to the voice of God:

Therefore it says,
“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.” (Ephesians 5:14)

When you respond to this voice right now, with your newfound awareness for what you were listening to, you are reclaiming the opportunity to create miracles in your life. You are creating for yourself a space wherein you can listen to new possibilities. You are creating for yourself the power to listen to miracles.



*Working of Miracles Principle 14:
Conscious or not, you checked out,
operated on autopilot mode, and
this voice in your head has been
running your life ever since.*

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

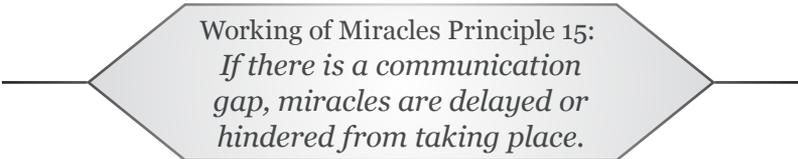
In earlier times, whenever hunters went in search of game, it was ideal to go with their dogs. It was their dogs that gave them hints on where to target. But whenever the dogs ran too far ahead of the hunters, the hunters called them back using their whistles. If a dog does not hear its owner's whistle, it could get lost in the wild. Thus,

there is an African proverb that says, “A dog that will get lost will not hear the hunter’s whistle.”

This could be linked to the relationship between us and God. We have been given the free will to live as we deem fit, but the Lord still serves as the “umpire” over our lives. Whenever we cannot hear His voice, we get lost in the world.

Our God is a speaking God. Time and again He refuses to be compared to dumb idols (Habakkuk 2:18, Isaiah 44:19, 1 Corinthians 12:2). God’s love for speaking and hearing is not in doubt because right from the creation of the first man, God has been communicating with man (Genesis1:8). In fact, in Jesus’ earthly ministry, a remarkable number of people were cured of speech and hearing problems (Matthew 9:33, Matthew15:30, Mark 7:37, Luke 11:14).

OPENING LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

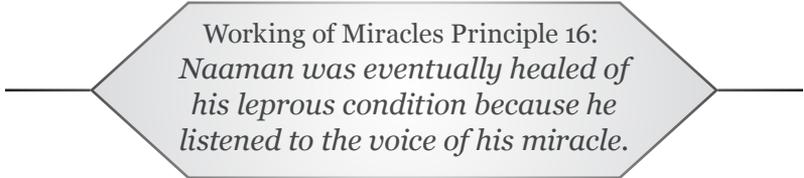


Working of Miracles Principle 15:
*If there is a communication
gap, miracles are delayed or
hindered from taking place.*

Communication is a vital prerequisite in any venture, and this is also the case in the area of receiving miracles. As discussed in the earlier chapter, miracles are not natural phenomena. Miracles are divine and are manifested only by the power of God. In other words, for anyone to successfully access the mysteries of miracles, there must be a sufficient level of communication between the miracle

worker and the miracle beneficiary. If there is a communication gap, miracles are delayed or hindered.

In 2 Kings 5, the Bible tells us of the story of Naaman, the leper. His helper connected him to the miracle his life needed by telling him of the great prophet in Israel. Naaman came to Elisha as recommended by the little maid, but nearly lost his miracle when he refused to heed Elisha's instructions. Naaman would have lost his miracle when he broke communication with Elisha if not for his servants that encouraged him to listen to the counsel of the man of God. Naaman was eventually healed of his leprosy condition because he listened to the voice of his miracle.



Working of Miracles Principle 16:
Naaman was eventually healed of his leprosy condition because he listened to the voice of his miracle.

WHAT IS LISTENING?

Many miracles are lost today because people fail to listen. If only we would listen to the voice of the spirit, more miracles would be recorded in our daily lives and ministry. To listen means to intentionally pay attention to what another is saying. The purpose of listening is not only to hear, but to make sense of the information that the communicator is sending across. God called the people of Israel a stiff-necked people because they failed to listen to Him.

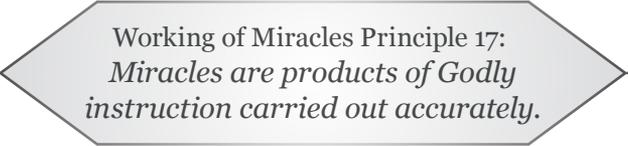
In my e-book, *10 Commandments for Listening to the Future You're Living Into*, I said, "Hearing and listening are not the same. A person could be hearing what you are saying, but may not be listening to you."⁷ The Israelites heard the law regularly as a custom

but were not listening to the word, so they kept wandering after strange gods.

Listening is intentional. Listening springs a reaction from the listener. No one can listen without carrying out some form of response. Listening has not taken place until there is a deliberate desire to take certain actions based on what has been heard. Stopping at the hearing level without paying attention to the words will not yield a miraculous result.

It is when miracles occur that we can actually say there has been a miracle. No man can predict accurately how miracles will happen. That is one of the reasons why it is called a miracle. God's ways are limitless in the way He delivers His miracles. We can only call them into existence. We can only listen for the occurrence of miracles.

In fact, miracles are products of Godly instruction carried out accurately. A person who is anticipating a miracle will thus need to hear the instructions of God and commit his heart to fulfilling what He has said. Thus, listening applies to miracles.



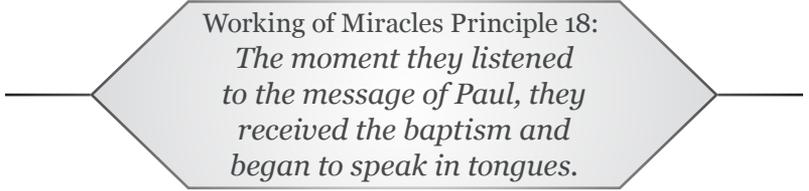
Working of Miracles Principle 17:
*Miracles are products of Godly
instruction carried out accurately.*

WHY LISTEN?

Communication is meant to transfer information. It has been said that information is power. In 2 Samuel 15, David's life was preserved because of the information at his disposal. His son Absalom, had carried a rebellion and David's life as well as his throne were threatened. His advisers gave him the information and

fled before evil could overtake him. We listen to gain knowledge and information. A man is limited only by what he knows.

The knowledge of the power of God in a man births miracles in his life. In Acts 19:1-9, Apostle Paul asked some men if they had received the Holy Spirit, but they responded that they had never even heard of the Holy Spirit. It is no wonder then that they had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The moment they listened to the message of Paul, they received the baptism and began to speak in tongues. Listening brings knowledge and power.



Working of Miracles Principle 18:
*The moment they listened
to the message of Paul, they
received the baptism and
began to speak in tongues.*

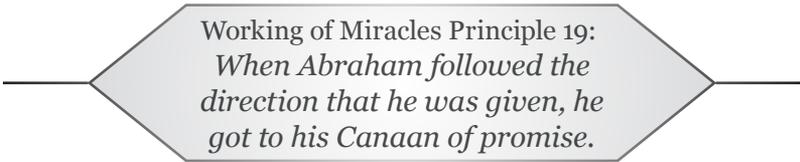
We listen to honor the speaker. It shows lack of respect or recognition when a person speaks and we do not listen. Listening to another's words is a sign of esteem. The Lord said in 1Samuel 2:30, that He renders honor to those who honor Him. The instructions of God are not to be taken lightly, because before God speaks, there is a purpose. We are expected to pay very close attention to His words.

Psalm 62:11 says, "Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this; that power belongs to God." 'Twice have I heard' shows the place of reverence. The word of the Lord came once, but the hearer dealt with it twice; he heard and he paid attention. Hearing the word of the Lord will not be of benefit until one decides what to do with the word. That is where honor comes in. A relaxed attitude towards the word of God simply implies lack of honor, and such behavior will not birth miracles.

We listen for direction. It is a known fact that if there is no

destination in mind, one will never get to where he is going. If he doesn't know where he is going, he is not likely to get there. In the case of Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, God did not give him the actual destination from the onset, but He gave him the direction. When Abraham followed the direction that he was given, he got to his Canaan of promise.

Miracles are examined mostly when they have occurred, but in actual fact, miracles result from a series of directions correctly followed. In 2 Kings 13:18-19, if the King Joash had correctly followed the instructions of prophet Elisha, Israel would have completely defeated the Syrians during his reign; but he didn't. We must listen for the direction of our miracles.



Working of Miracles Principle 19:
*When Abraham followed the
direction that he was given, he
got to his Canaan of promise.*

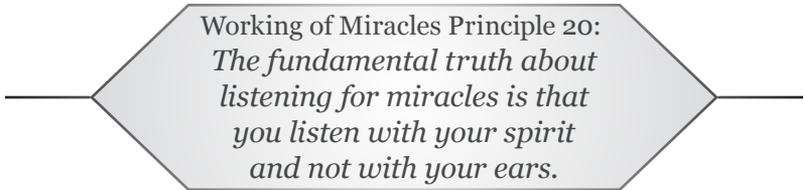
We listen to get things done. Communication is to exchange information for action. We listen to take action. When the Lord speaks to us, He gives us instructions that build our lives and help us achieve our purpose in life. When we listen, we get the instructions to get things done. Wars are lost or won as a result of what is done in the battle, but the actions are based on what is heard. In John 2:1-11, the men that Mary spoke to waited Jesus for instruction. They couldn't do anything until Jesus gave the instruction; they were listening for action.

We listen for discernment. This is very cogent in the area of miracles. Misinterpretation of the word heard could lead to disheartening consequences. The story was told of a man years ago, who claimed that he heard God say to him that he was to show the

example of how Daniel was delivered from the lion's den. He was reported to have confronted the lions in the zoo, but unfortunately, he did not come out to fulfill his proposed destiny.

We need to listen in order not to make the wrong move. In first Kings 19:11, Elijah was waiting to hear the word of the Lord. There was a strong wind, followed by an earthquake, and then there was fire, but God wasn't in any of the three. Can you imagine what would have happened to Elijah if he had jumped into any of these? We need to listen to discern correctly.

YOU NEED AN ACTIVE SPIRIT



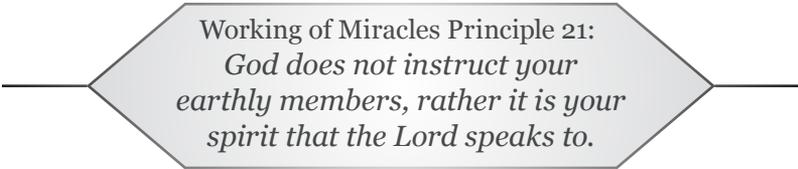
Working of Miracles Principle 20:
*The fundamental truth about
listening for miracles is that
you listen with your spirit
and not with your ears.*

The word of God is so important that the word was there at the beginning, the word was with God, and in fact, the same word is God (John 1:1). No doubt the word of God is a mystery. This is why we need to listen, really listen, to get the current message for a life of miracles.

The fundamental truth about listening for miracles is that you listen with your spirit and not with your ears. The Bible teaches us that we must compare spiritual things with spiritual things. We know from the Scriptures that God is a Spirit and He demands that those who worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

The reason for this is that a carnal man cannot access the information that he has for our lives. To listen for miracles, our

spiritual ears must be open because that is the one that is able to receive the kind of instructions that make miracles. In 1 Samuel 3, Eli and Samuel were in the same quarters, but Eli couldn't hear God's call to Samuel. Thank God Eli had the knowledge on how to counsel Samuel and on how to receive the call. God speaks to the spirit of man not to the flesh. God does not instruct your earthly members, rather it is your spirit that the Lord speaks to.



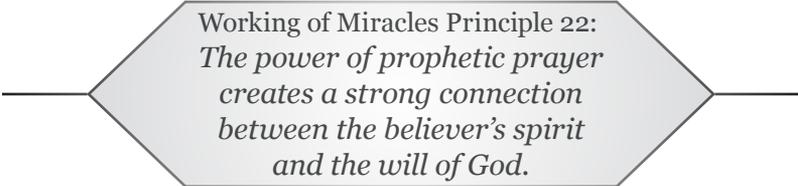
Working of Miracles Principle 21:
*God does not instruct your
earthly members, rather it is your
spirit that the Lord speaks to.*

Proverbs 20:27 says, "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly." The Lord uses our spirits to guide us through the maze found in this world. Once a man's spirit loses contact with God, death comes. In the Garden of Eden, the first death that the first man and woman experienced was spiritual. They ate the fruit and their spirits were cut from God as a result of disobedience. But thank God that we have been redeemed through the Blood of Jesus Christ and our lives are renewed in Him. Our responsibility is to keep our spirit alive.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:19, we are admonished not to extinguish our spirit. This means that our spirit can actually be groomed and grow in Christ. Please note that whatever you train yourself to listen to is what you hear. If you are trained to listen for miracles, you will keep hearing of the mighty works of God. These three things will be helpful in keeping your spirit alive to connect with the miraculous power of God.

How To Keep Your Spirit Active

First, you have to fellowship constantly and consistently with other believers. Miracles happen when the power of God is at work. Jesus told us that when two or three people are gathered, He is there. And we have seen this time and again, the moment people agree to worship the Lord in spirit and truth, He comes down to commune with them.



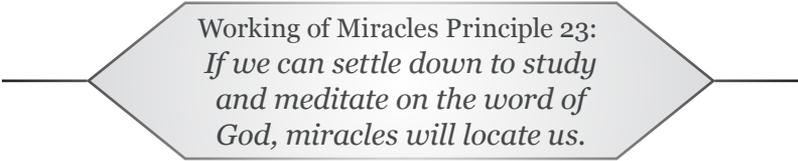
Working of Miracles Principle 22:
*The power of prophetic prayer
creates a strong connection
between the believer's spirit
and the will of God.*

God loves the gathering of His people. Wherever the people of God are gathered, miracles are expected. God releases special graces when people are together in worship. Certain instructions that were elusive in personal devotion come alive when people agree in corporate prayers. Zacharias was in a heightened state of congregational worship when the angel came to him with the good news of a miracle child. As believers, we must never doubt the tremendous power that can come upon us when we pray with the brethren.

Perhaps nothing aligns our spirit more with the Lord than prayer. It is said that a prayer-less Christian is a powerless Christian. The power of prophetic prayer creates a strong connection between the believer's spirit and the will of God. Prayer is the engine room of believers; it is our platform for conversing with our Creator.

Jesus said in Luke 18:1, that men should always be praying. Similarly, in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, the Bible admonishes us to pray ceaselessly. The best way to sharpen our spirit is to pray continually.

Our prayer life becomes more potent when we pray in the Spirit, that is, when we pray in tongues. By praying in God, we no longer pray in understanding, but allow the Spirit to take over and lead our spirit to pray.



Working of Miracles Principle 23:
*If we can settle down to study
and meditate on the word of
God, miracles will locate us.*

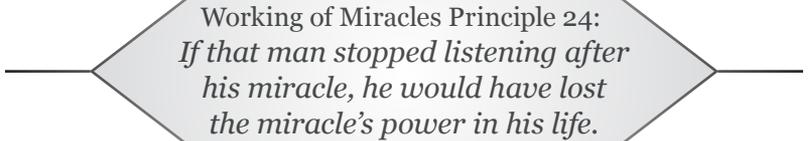
The study of the word of God is also essential. We cannot overemphasize the word of God, because it leads and instructs our lives aright. The Bible is a life guide. Every day there are fresh instructions to guide our walk. If we can settle down to study and meditate on the word of God, miracles will locate us. As we study the word of God, we hear God speak to us from the letters and transform the letters into the revelation of the instructions that our lives require.

The study of the word commends us unto God as children worthy of the mighty revelation and power that He has for us (2 Timothy 2:15). Jesus, the great miracle worker, used the word and loved the word. In Matthew 4, when the enemy came to tempt him, all His responses were laden with scriptures. Jesus kept saying, "It is written." Do you know what God has written concerning the miracles He has for you and in you?

BRINGING IT TO PASS

Listening is continuous. Until the miracle comes, you need to keep on listening. Even after you have received the miracle, you need to keep on listening. In John 5:14, Jesus told a man that he healed that he should not go back to sin, lest a more grievous thing befall

him. If that man stopped listening after his miracle, he would have lost the miracle in his life. Listening is a lifelong event for believers. We keep listening to Him and living for Him until we see Him in glory. In listening to bring your miracle into existence, you must be committed to working it into existence.



Working of Miracles Principle 24:
*If that man stopped listening after
his miracle, he would have lost
the miracle's power in his life.*

What must you commit to in order for you to call your miracles into existence?

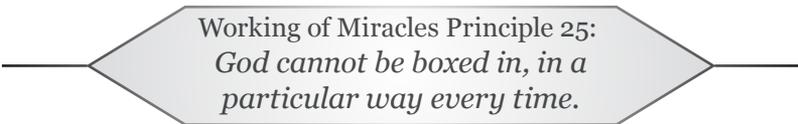
Wait.

There is a saying that Rome was not built in a day. It was not the day David was anointed king that he was enthroned; he waited for the appointed time. Many that are hungry for the miraculous power of God are often guilty of trying to rush God to fit into their schedule. We have to humble ourselves and wait for the power from above to anoint us for miracles. (See Acts 1:8)

Be open-minded.

Rigidity is not a fruit of the Spirit. God is constant, not rigid! When you receive an instruction that is most unlikely, don't be in a hurry to throw it out. God works and speaks in diverse ways. The fact that you never imagined His words in the way it came doesn't mean it is not valid. The woman with the issue of blood did not seek a space to be touched by Jesus, like all the others did. Instead, she decided to touch Him. The result was powerful. Virtue from Jesus flowed into her and she was healed. God cannot be boxed in,

in a particular way every time. Listen to what He is saying expressly to you.



Working of Miracles Principle 25:
God cannot be boxed in, in a particular way every time.

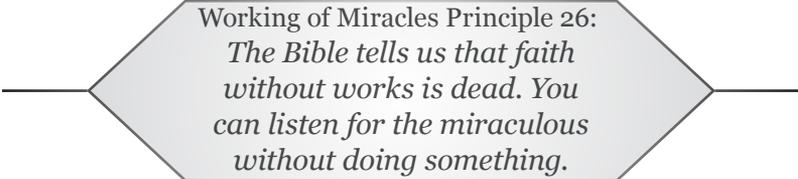
Test Spirits.

In 1John 4:1-5, the beloved Apostle told us clearly that we must not believe every spirit. Many people have been derailed by prophets who said, “Thus saith the Lord!” Many people have made a shipwreck of their calling because they judge a voice as the Lord’s, when it wasn’t. In Matthew 14:28, Peter asked the question he did to confirm that it was really Jesus who was speaking to them. Dear friend, don’t jump in the waters until you are sure that it is Jesus that is calling you. Any attempt to do the miraculous outside the leading of God will lead to provocation. Make sure you are sure of the voice you heard before carrying out instructions.

Be Sincere.

When listening for miracles, don’t tell yourself things that you do not believe.⁸ You have better chances of success in working in the areas that you believe, than others that you do not. When a person is insincere in his faith when it comes to the working of miracles, he will create what he believes in — his miracle will not come to pass. If God hasn’t commissioned you for a task yet, don’t behave as if you have the mandate. Living in faith and living in lies are not the same. Faith is based on God’s word, that is, the person must have

heard from God. While living in lies is making decisions based on speculation and fleshly ambitions.



Working of Miracles Principle 26:
*The Bible tells us that faith
without works is dead. You
can listen for the miraculous
without doing something.*

Work.

Listening is never enough. Listening is to spur you to action. In Acts 3:1-11, Peter and John told the man to rise and walk, but he didn't. They didn't rest on their laurels. Rather they stretched forth their hands and pulled him up. If you have been expecting the miraculous and it is not coming forth, you need to ask yourself if you are doing what you should be doing.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. What is God telling you right now?
2. What actions can you take with regards to what God wants you today?
3. How can you clear the lines of communication between your spirit and the Lord?

REFLECTION TIME

Dear Lord,

Please sharpen my spirit to hear more clearly from You. Please help me to listen correctly and take action on Your word.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



CHAPTER
3

CREATING A CLEARING FOR MIRACLES

*“It is not what a man does that determines whether
his work is sacred or secular; it is why he does it.”*

A.W. Tozer

POWER TRUTH

“Let us go to the Jordan, and let us collect logs there, one for each of us, and build a place there for each of us to live.” He said “Do so.”

2 Kings 6:2 NRSV

THE STUFF THAT CONTROLS OUR LIVES

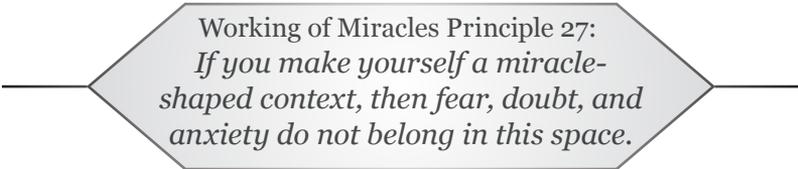
Most of us live our lives like a small part of a picture, rather than the frame for the bigger picture. In other words, we’ve let the stuff in our lives, or the content,

shape our experiences. However, we were created in the image and likeness of God, and thus, we were meant to set the context for our experiences.

An example of the context is a basketball game. The ball is just a content in this game. If the ball exists in a soccer game, then the experience (i.e. the rules of the game, the players, and the spectators) would be different). The context of a person's experiences governs his thoughts, his words, and his actions. The content is dictated by the context.

When you live as a content of your experiences, you live powerless to create miracles. You allow the situation to dictate your thoughts, your emotions, and actions. On the other hand, when you live as a context for your experiences, the context you set would frame the situation. For example, if you live your life as the context of miracles, then everything in your life can be viewed and experienced as a miracle. As a result, you'll live your life feeling grateful, victorious, and hopeful for the future.

Limiting content can become mental parasites. Examples of limiting contents include fear, anxiety, envy, covetousness, pride, bitterness, and unforgiveness. You can pick it up anytime and anywhere, and from the people that surround you. It is important to be careful about what or who you let influence you. More importantly, this is why it is important to be aware about the context of your life is operating on.



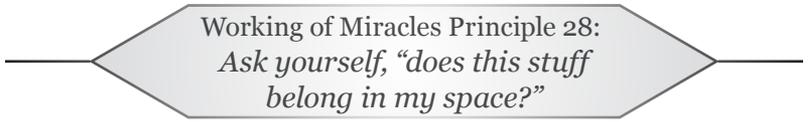
Working of Miracles Principle 27:
If you make yourself a miracle-shaped context, then fear, doubt, and anxiety do not belong in this space.

Every time you allow this negative content into your “space” you

feed it and make it stronger. If you make yourself a miracle-shaped context, then fear, doubt, and anxiety do not belong in this space. If you allow these contents in your life, this negative content can even contaminate positive contents, simply because you put them into the same space.

Here are two steps to overcome your limiting contents. First, recognize these contents for what they are. Second, challenge them. Ask yourself, “does this stuff belong in my space?”

When you hear limiting contents from the news or from a friend or partner, recognize them and filter them before you let your mind absorb these things. For example, you hear of news of a poor economy. If you are led by content, you will think that this economy will harm your business. Rather than being a space for miracles, you allow a negative financial mindset to lead your decisions. You decide to close down your business or cost-cut until the economy is better.



Working of Miracles Principle 28:
*Ask yourself, “does this stuff
belong in my space?”*

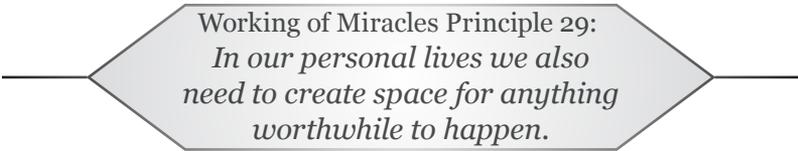
CREATE SPACE

Not much can be accomplished in a cramped place. In order to get the best from any endeavor, there has to be sufficient space to work. One of the reasons why auto mechanics ask that the machines be dropped to be picked up at a later date, is because of space. The repairer could easily carry out the repairs in the presence of the owner, but he gets a sense of comfort when he works without the client breathing down his neck.

In our personal lives, we also need to create space for anything

worthwhile to happen. We need to allow ourselves to take a break from all else and enjoy a moment of quiet. In schools, children are not taught all day, they are allowed a moment to rest. The break time is not because of lack of things to teach, but to allow the students to be refreshed and take space from their work.

The issue of space has been from the beginning of creation. Before God made any pronouncement, His Spirit moved upon the face of the deep (Genesis 1:1-2). God needed that space in order to determine what to do with the messy situation that He saw. After creation job was done, the Bible tells us that God created a space to rest (Genesis 2:2).



Working of Miracles Principle 29:
*In our personal lives we also
need to create space for anything
worthwhile to happen.*

You need space. Creating a space allows you to be refreshed in order to do greater things. Working without a clearing to do more will wear the worker out. In order to continue to produce optimum results, you must be willing to create space that your body, soul and spirit need to be refreshed. Many times in the ministry of Jesus, we see Him retreating from the large crowd, who were always looking for Him.

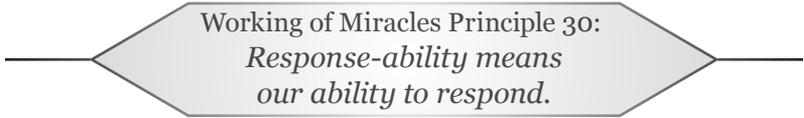
In Luke 5:15-16, the Bible tells of a large crowd of people who came to hear Jesus and to be healed, but Jesus departed from them to pray. That was Jesus creating space. The people always wanted him to speak to them and perform miracles but He knew there was a time to retreat. Creating space helps us to be refreshed to do more.

You need space also to be able to enjoy miracles. In 2 Kings 6:1-7, the prophets who were with Elisha had a realization that the place

that they were dwelling was too small for them and they decided to create space. In creating space, they got a new location and cleared the land. In the process of creating space, they experienced a miracle. If anyone is going to enjoy miracles, he must be ready to create space for it.

SPACE WITHIN

Proverbs 27:19 (NIV) says, “As water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart.” The reflection a man sees of himself in water or in a mirror shows him what he looks like on the outside, but his entire life shows a reflection of what happens within him. The state of a man’s heart determines the destination he is heading.



Working of Miracles Principle 30:
*Response-ability means
our ability to respond.*

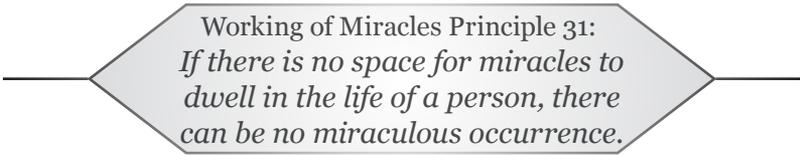
Proverbs 23:7a (KJV) says, “For as he thinketh within himself, so is he.” Anything that is happening within a man determines where his life will lead. If a man is internally stable, his life will be seen to be outwardly stable. The expectation of God concerning us is that we take charge of our heart and instruct it to be actively profitable. We have the responsibility to choose what we allow.

Response-ability means our ability to respond. One thing we must understand is that response-ability does not translate to fault, praise, blame, shame or guilt. But every man has to choose because we are made to have free will. The choices we make determine the path of our lives. No one can blame God or another person for what he thinks in his heart or what he chooses to follow.

This means that you must be ready to take charge of your

own experiences if you must receive miracles. In Mark 5:25-34, the woman with the issue of blood tried everything before she tried Jesus. There must have been a battle within her as to whether or not her decision to touch the hem of Jesus' garment would yield fruit, since everyone was thronging Him. She had to make a decision, and she concluded on touching Him. She created the needed context in her heart, touched the garment of Jesus and received her miracle.

Every major miracle starts from inside, not outside. If there is no space for miracles to dwell in the life of a person, there can be no miraculous occurrence. Everyone that is interested in miracles must create the right atmosphere in his heart to receive the miracles. By creating space, you are preparing your heart to be activated by faith.



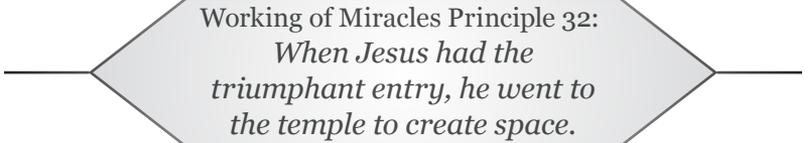
Working of Miracles Principle 31:
If there is no space for miracles to dwell in the life of a person, there can be no miraculous occurrence.

SPACE WITHOUT

Your surroundings determine what you are perceived as. A man living on a dunghill cannot make claims that he is a king, because his physical surrounding does not support that proclamation. It is not enough to create space for miracles without taking care of the physical things that affect your life. The people around you, the places you go and the general lifestyle you keep are great influences on the quality and quantity of miracles that will be coming your way.

Miraculous events are tied to miraculous places and events. Several times in the Bible, you discover that details of the place of miraculous happenings are mentioned. It is not by accident, it is deliberate. The place of miracles is the dwelling place of God. When

Moses had his first encounter with God, the Lord asked him to take off his shoes because he stood upon holy ground (Exodus 3:1-6).



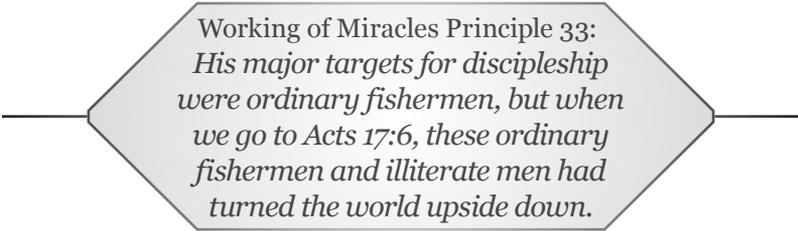
Working of Miracles Principle 32:
*When Jesus had the
triumphant entry, he went to
the temple to create space.*

Any claim to a miraculous life that is just within the individual, without an outward manifestation, is not a sure claim. Miracles are generated within, but are meant to be manifested outwardly. You need to create a physical space for God to move the miraculous in your direction.

When Jesus had the triumphant entry, he went to the temple to create space. All the buying and selling merchants in the temple were thrown out. You will notice that the moment he threw those that were merchandising out, sick folks came to him and he healed them (Matthew. 21:12-14). There is a need for outward cleansing, if we want to experience the miraculous in our lives.

STRIP YOURSELF

Heaven is not interested in recruiting generals. Generals at the point of entry are no good to the kingdom. The Lord seeks ordinary men that can be turned into kingdom generals. Jesus told the Pharisees that he did not come to call the righteous (Mark 2:17). If a man is already righteous, he does not need salvation. This was the major problem the Pharisees had. In their own eyes, they were already righteous, so they could not accept anything that Jesus was offering.



Working of Miracles Principle 33:
His major targets for discipleship were ordinary fishermen, but when we go to Acts 17:6, these ordinary fishermen and illiterate men had turned the world upside down.

A man who is already full, cannot receive anything more. If you are already something, you cannot receive anything from the Lord. Is it not interesting that when Jesus picked disciples, he picked the lowliest of men? His major targets for discipleship were ordinary fishermen. But when we go to Acts 17:6, these ordinary fishermen and illiterate men had turned the world upside down. God is still looking for such lowly men, men who consider themselves to be nothing in comparison what God has made them, men who would think nothing more of leaving everything behind and following Jesus.

The Apostle Paul was no doubt one of the greatest apostles of all times. In his generation, he was one of the most enlightened men. He was not only a well-noted Pharisee, but he was also a man of influence. After he encountered Jesus, he equated all his accomplishments with dung (Philippians 3:8). The argument here is not that you shouldn't strive to become successful in the sphere of your influence, the direction is that regardless of what you have accomplished, it should not go to your head.

Some preachers may begin to proclaim that they are bigger than other men when they begin to see miracles happening in their ministries; this should never be. In the book of 1 Timothy 6:7, we see that we brought nothing into this world and will take nothing out. We must know that it is when we make ourselves nothing before God that He elevates us to be vessels of honor in His hands.

Working of Miracles Principle 34:
*Jesus told us that except that grain
of wheat enters the ground and
dies, it remains a single seed.*

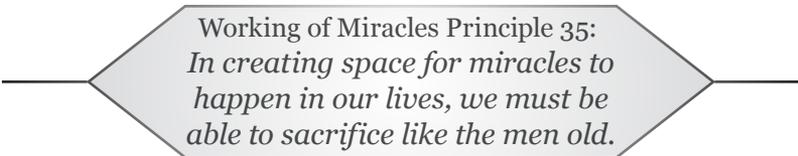
Let's use the illustration of a little child. If you give a child something and you demand it back, the child is likely to hide it from you, forgetting that it was you who gave it to him in the first place. Oftentimes, this is the nature of man with God. We forget too quickly that whatever we have or who we are today comes from God. No man can become anything except by the grace of God. Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:10, removed all doubt about his success in life and ministry by simply telling us that all he was, he became by the grace of God.

Jesus paints a vivid example of what is expected of a life that experiences miracles. He gave the example of a grain of wheat. Jesus told us that except that grain of wheat enters the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it enters the ground and dies, it qualifies for the miracle of multiplication (Jn. 12:24). This is typical of our lives. If a man still holds on to what he is, at best he would remain at that level. But if he releases all that he is to the Lord, he can experience the miraculous. Miracles come to those who have emptied themselves to the Lord.

YOUR LOSS IS FOR GAIN

In Matthew 19:27, Peter asked Jesus what the lot of those who had forsaken all to follow Him would be. This is a question we all need to ask ourselves. If we are going to leave all that we are and have accomplished to follow Jesus, what will be our gain? Jesus told them what they would have at the very end; he told them they would

inherit eternal life. That alone is more than enough. But much more than that, we saw in their lives that they inherited more.



Working of Miracles Principle 35:
In creating space for miracles to happen in our lives, we must be able to sacrifice like the men old.

The things they lost cannot be compared to the miracles that came to their lives. Before they met Jesus, they never thought they could stand before crowds to teach the word of God, not to mention raising the dead, healing the sick, casting out demons and so on. The things they left behind were nothing compared to what they gained.

In our lives, we must take account the cost of being with Jesus. In creating space for miracles to happen in our lives, we must be able to sacrifice like how these men did. The Lord gives us freely all things, but there is a price to pay. The disciples paid the price of leaving all to follow Jesus and they reaped a life of miracles here on earth and eternal life in the kingdom to come.

BECOME NOTHING TO RECEIVE YOUR MIRACLE

Why did Jesus gain the name, name above all names? He humbled Himself to take on the form of human flesh. He did this and even permitted Himself to taste death. Jesus became nothing to become everything that He is. We are to follow the example of Jesus. We cannot expect to glorify our status and expect the grace of God for miracles to abound upon us. God uses those who acknowledge that they need help.

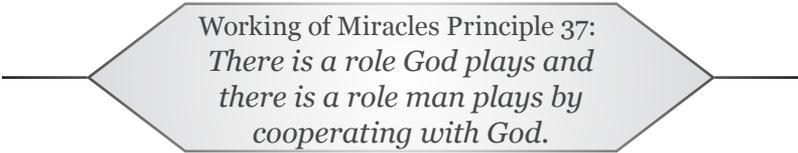
Working of Miracles Principle 36:
*Humility is a non-negotiable
character for anyone who will
work in the supernatural.*

Elisha was a greater prophet than Elijah in terms of number of miracles recorded in their prophetic ministries, but this was possible only because he stayed humble and followed Elijah until the very end. To become a great prophet, he first became a servant mocked by other prophets. Eventually, those that mocked him, bowed to him when he received double the anointing of Elijah. Humility is a non-negotiable character for anyone who will work in the supernatural.

Jesus did not speak in parables when He said that without Him we couldn't do anything (John 15:5). Philippians 4:13, takes it further by saying "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." The Bible says ALL; this means, remove Jesus and nothing can be done. If anyone wants to become something in the hands of God, the flesh has to die. You cannot work the works of Christ in the flesh.

CLEAR YOUR SPACE

Life may be full of different variables and conditions that influence actions. However, in order to be authentic, "you need to literally be the author of your life."⁹ One of the major challenges of the 21st century Christian is that he expects God to do everything, especially in the realm of the supernatural. He places all the responsibility on God. There is a role God plays and there is a role man plays by cooperating with God. It is a sign of irresponsibility to expect miraculous works will be handed down without your personal involvement.



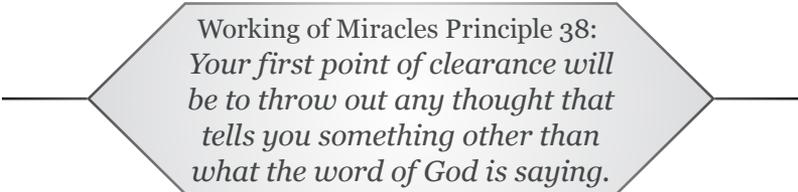
Working of Miracles Principle 37:
*There is a role God plays and
there is a role man plays by
cooperating with God.*

Clear your thoughts.

Anything that succeeds in defeating you in your mind has defeated you. In the prime life of the boxing legend Muhammad Ali, he used a lot of mind games to weary the opponent. By the time they got into the ring, the opponent was half defeated, and he proceeded to dance around, further playing with the opponent. In no time, the context was over, because he played with their minds.

The Bible tells us that we are to cast down imaginations and anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God in our lives (2 Corinthians 10:5). Everyone wants to live in the miraculous, but there are thought patterns that limit what we can achieve. There are some thoughts that tell us only of our flaws and inadequacies. Such thoughts limit miraculous occurrences.

Your first point of clearance will be to throw out any thought that tells you something other than what the word of God is saying. God is not going to cast out evil thoughts for you; that is own your responsibility. You must make up your mind and engage the spiritual weapon of prayer to weed out any unprofitable thoughts.



Working of Miracles Principle 38:
*Your first point of clearance will
be to throw out any thought that
tells you something other than
what the word of God is saying.*

Clear out your friends.

Your friends make you or mar you. Jonadab, the cousin and trusted friend of Amnon, led him to an early grave. He advised his cousin to pretend to be sick so that Tamar, Absalom's sister, would visit him. In the end, Amnon raped her and then despised her. Absalom heard it and planned his attack, which killed Amnon (2 Samuel 13). Friendship killed Amnon.

The kinds of people that surround you can boost your contact with the miraculous. The early disciples, after the ascension of Jesus, stayed together and had all things in common. It is therefore no surprise that they were living the miraculous life. They had a corporate anointing amongst them.

Also, in Mark 2:1-11, the man sick of palsy was carried by his friends to Jesus. All the man did in the story of his healing was be surrounded by the right kinds of friends. His friends carried him and even created space amidst the overflowing crowd that surrounded Jesus. Are your friends aiding or killing your miraculous adventures?

Clear out your closet.

The phrase to have a skeleton in one's closet means to have a secret that you would rather not have disclosed. Secrets are good, but nothing can be hidden from the sight of the Lord. The Lord God Almighty is the Omnipotent and Omniscience God. He is everywhere and knows everything. If we are going to work with Him to locate a miracle, we must not attempt to hide anything from him.

Working of Miracles Principle 39:
*Jesus warned of a “white sepulcher”
lifestyle. This is a lifestyle where
the outward appears glorious,
but the inside is rotten.*

Gehazi inherited the leprosy of Naaman because he was greedy and attempted to cover up his greed with lies. No man can lie to God, and the good news also is that God does not lie. Jesus warned of a “white sepulcher” lifestyle (Matthew 23:27). This is a lifestyle where the outward appears glorious but the inside is rotten.

In clearing out your closet, the issue of sin must again be addressed. Don't try to cover up or hide anything from God. More importantly, anything that you have done that needs to be confessed should not be overlooked (James 5:16). Some sins are not forgiven until they are restituted for. Jesus asked us to be reconciled first with our neighbor, before bringing gifts to the altar (Mt. 5:24). If the Lord will not accept the gifts of a sinner, He will not permit him to taste of the miraculous. Clean out your closet.

Clear out the flesh.

The Apostle Paul says, “But I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified (1 Corinthians 9:27). Paul had an understanding of how to live the miraculous life and he lived it. The Spirit and the flesh cannot agree together — one must be in charge. The flesh wants the pleasures of this world, but the Spirit desires the things of God. This is why you must clear out the flesh so that the Spirit can find full expression.

Working of Miracles Principle 40:
*The Spirit and the flesh
cannot agree together —
one must be in charge.*

One of the ways to shut down the activities of the flesh is to engage in fasting. Jesus said in Mark 9:23 that there are some miraculous works that cannot be done except by prayer and fasting. Apostle Paul also revealed that he fasted often (2 Corinthians 1:27). This was probably one of the reasons great exploits were recorded in his life.

Fasting simply means denying yourself of pleasures, especially food, in order to strengthen your spirit. Jesus himself solidifies this point. Even though He is the Son of God and represents the Godhead bodily, He fasted forty days before he began his public ministry. If Jesus fasted, you need to engage this powerful tool as well.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. What are the things that you need to clear yourself up of?
2. What are the areas that the Holy Spirit is pointing out to you in terms of what is cluttering your life and your spirit?
3. What is the biggest challenge for allowing yourself to be an open space for miracles to take place?

REFLECTION TIME

Dear Lord,

Thank you for all You sacrificed for me. Lord today
I commit to leaving all for You and living purposely
for Your glory. Please help me Lord.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



SPEAKING THE WORD FOR MIRACLES

*“When a man is filled with the word of
God you cannot keep him still, if a man has
got the Word, he must speak or die.”*

Dwight L. Moody

POWER TRUTH

“The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed.”

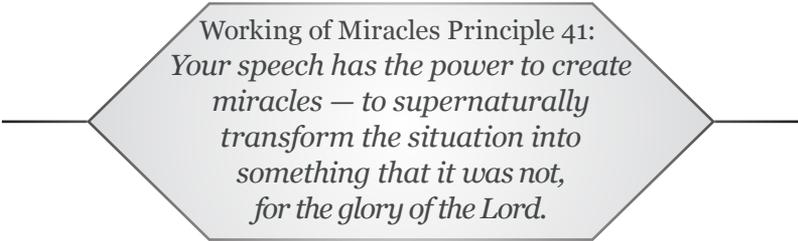
Matthew 8:9 NRSV

SPEAK LIFE

When you know what you are (a space for miracles), you can reject negative thoughts with your words. You have the power to say something that counteracts fear or doubt or anxiety. You can say something that makes it not true. You may need to search for a few verses from the Bible.

Words are powerful. Use the power of words to counteract the limiting beliefs that you hear from other people. After all, you are your language. You have the power to do it, you just have to believe and declare it with your words (1 Timothy 2:7).

Your tongue has the power over life and death. Words have caused the death of marriages, families, friendships, and even churches. People can really live on or die from things you say. The Bible says, “A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit” (Proverbs 15:4 NRSV). Spoken words reconciles people, makes peace, makes marriages sweet, families strong, and churches healthy.



Working of Miracles Principle 41:
Your speech has the power to create miracles — to supernaturally transform the situation into something that it was not, for the glory of the Lord.

Do you speak more death or life to your miracles? You must always let your mouth be a fountain of life. You must seek opportunities to speak life into other people and into the situation. Your speech has the power to create miracles — to supernaturally transform the situation into something that it was not, for the glory of the Lord.

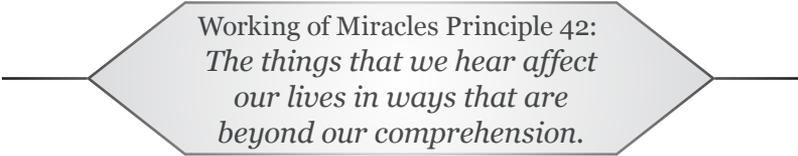
MADE TO CONNECT

Human beings are contact beings. Everyone cherishes a physical presence whether he or she admits it or not. When we are happy, we need people to celebrate with us. When we are sad, we need people to comfort us. Regardless of the socio-economical class we belong to, we all need somebody to be with.

The understanding of this is first revealed in the statement of the Almighty God, the One who created us and knows our frame. The Lord made a clear statement that it is not good for man to be alone (Gen. 2:18). This is the reason why God gave Adam a partner. We are not made to be alone. What makes us truly not alone is communication. Without communication two people can be together and still feel lonely and alone.

We were created to communicate, touch, feel, perceive and speak to one another. There is no doubt that one of the most powerful tools of communication is the use of words. This is because words can directly contact a man's heart, which is the seat of transformation. The Bible says that we are to guard our hearts because from it proceeds the source of life (Prov. 4:23). The things that we hear affect our lives in ways that are beyond our comprehension.

When a child is born, he begins to learn from his immediate environment. If he is born into a well cultured home, his life is likely to be patterned into responsible living. This is because the words that have been used on him since inception have been words good for edification. Words hurt. Words heal. We must thus, guard ourselves from unprofitable words. Anyone who speaks words that discourage rather than encourage should be interacted with at a distance.

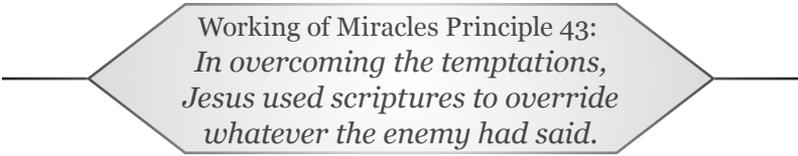


Working of Miracles Principle 42:
*The things that we hear affect
our lives in ways that are
beyond our comprehension.*

EDIFICATION OR MANIPULATION

Not every word spoken is true and just. Many people have been derailed by what they believed to have been words that proceeded out of the throne of grace but in actual fact, were words unto destruction. In Matthew 4:1-11, the devil came to tempt our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ after he had been fasting and praying for forty days. Everything the devil used as basis of his temptation of the Lord was based on scriptures. If Jesus had not been discerning, He could have fallen to the well-quoted scriptures the devil raised. In overcoming the temptations, Jesus used scriptures to override whatever the enemy had said.

So, you see that words can be used for edification and they can be used for manipulation. We must note that there are only two ways to influence human behavior. You can either manipulate it or you can inspire it.¹⁰ The purpose for which the words used come out determines whether it is been used unto edification or manipulation. A person could give a seemingly good counsel and the result could be disastrous.



Working of Miracles Principle 43:
*In overcoming the temptations,
Jesus used scriptures to override
whatever the enemy had said.*

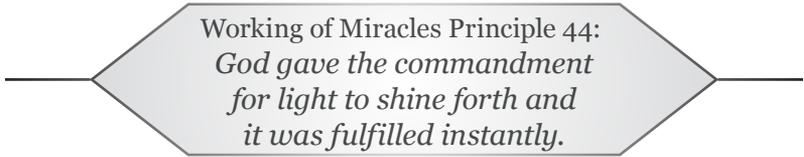
There is a story in 2 Samuel 17:1-14 that sheds light on how

good words can end up destructive. Absalom had successfully ousted David from the throne and was looking to finish him. He asked the counsel of Ahitophel, who told him to attack David immediately but Hushai opposed it saying the advice was not good. Hushai gave a counter advice that eventually allowed David to win the battle. The truth is that unknown to Absalom, Hushai was loyal to David. In the end, the good advice that he gave was actually to manipulate the situation in David's favor.

We have to be careful what we do with the words that we hear. Before you make any decision based on the words spoken to you, ask yourself if the words are profitable to you or not. You must guard yourself against being a victim of manipulation. Because words are powerful, you must not open up yourself for undue attacks.

From business to politics to every area of life, manipulations run rampant. You can also see this in all forms of sales and marketing. Typical manipulations include sales, promotion, using fear, peer pressure, inspirational messages, and promise to influence behavior – be it to purchase, vote, or support.¹¹ Don't allow yourself to be manipulated. Guard your heart!

THE NATURE OF THE WORD



*Working of Miracles Principle 44:
God gave the commandment
for light to shine forth and
it was fulfilled instantly.*

Words are powerful. The first miraculous work in all of creation was manifested because of the word that God spoke. Genesis 1:3 was the very first time that we heard from God and it produced an absolute wonder. The word that God spoke found expression immediately

and was performed instantly. God gave the commandment for light to shine forth and it was fulfilled instantly.

The word of God is the active ingredient in miraculous engagements. This is because until God speaks nothing happens. In Genesis 1:1-2, the Spirit of the Lord moved upon the face of the deep and nothing happened. Even though the Lord was moving around, there was no manifestation of His presence until He spoke. The moment God spoke, light came, and since then God has not stopped speaking.

THE NATURE OF GOD'S WORD

The nature of God's word is revealed in the following truths:

It produces without fail.

Any word that comes from the Lord surely produces the results for which it has been sent out. There is yet to be a recorded instant where the Lord released a word and it did not find fulfillment. The integrity of God is manifested in His word. Everything God says comes to pass exactly as He has said it. God's word is fruitful and productive. It always comes into effect. Isaiah 55:11 says "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Working of Miracles Principle 45:

*The integrity of God is
manifested in His word.*

There are four things that can be seen from Isaiah 55:11. One, the word of God proceeds from His mouth. Whatever we read in

scriptures is the inspired word of God; not empty written letters. Two, His word will not return empty. This means that it will produce fruits. Three, the word of God accomplishes the purpose for which it was sent out. God's word is focused on what it was sent to do. Finally, God's word always succeeds.

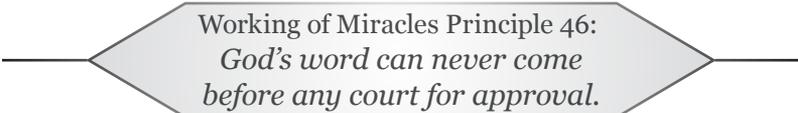
The word is alive.

In Ezekiel 37:1-10, everything that made the valley of dry bones to become a valley of a great army can be summarized as the word of God. Every time prophet Ezekiel spoke as the Lord instructed him to, something happened. The word of God is the potent power that makes man a living soul. The Bible tells us that God Himself is the Word (John 1:1). In Genesis 2:7, God breathed into man and he became a living soul.

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

The reason why the word of God is able to do all that it does in this piece of scripture is because it is alive. The word of God is not stale recitations; it is powerful, alive and fully active to deliver in all its engagements.

It is settled.

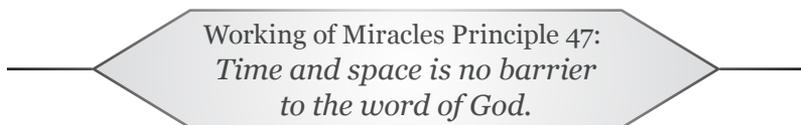


Working of Miracles Principle 46:
*God's word can never come
before any court for approval.*

Perhaps one of the most quoted scriptures as it relates to the word of God is Psalm 119:89. The Bible says “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven (KJV).” What does this mean? It means that God has already settled the matter at hand before He spoke. It also means that once the word of God comes forth, everything on earth must obey because the case has already been settled at a higher realm.

The word of God cannot be debated. God’s word can never come before any court for approval. The intent of God’s word is not in doubt and it cannot be contested. The throne of God is in heaven and anything that comes from heaven carries the embodiment of the power of God. Whenever the word of God shows up there is confidence that God Himself has shown up. God is one with His word.

It transcends time and space.



One major beauty to behold about the word of God is that it is not limited by time and space. Whether or not the people who benefit from the word of God are in physical contact or not is immaterial. This is because the word of God carries supernatural power to move through space and time. The word of God can be sent from Africa and it will create waves in Europe. Time and space is no barrier to the word of God.

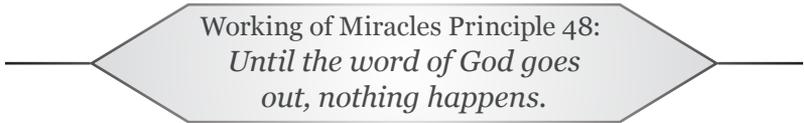
In Matthew 8:10, the centurion caused Jesus to marvel when he displayed the understanding of this truth. The centurion’s servant was sick and Jesus offered to go and heal the servant but the

centurion refused. He said that Jesus should speak the word and it will be done. That's great understanding!

Jesus therefore spoke the word and it was done. The truth is that many of us glorify physical contact above the work that God's word can do. The word of God doesn't have to engage you physically to impact you. Emphasizing physical contact really doesn't portray a good understanding of God because God is everywhere and is one with His word.

It births miracles.

The word of God indeed is a miracle. The kind of results that the word of God produces really is beyond comprehension. Every miraculous work recorded and that will be recorded is going to be based upon the word of God. Until the word of God goes out, nothing happens. The word of God can do absolutely anything. Luke 1:37 tells us that with God nothings shall be impossible. When the word of the Lord is engaged, nothing is impossible.



Working of Miracles Principle 48:
*Until the word of God goes
out, nothing happens.*

HINDRANCES TO THE WORD

With the immense power that is attached to the word of God, why are people not getting results? Some have claimed that they held on to the word and nothing happened. Some of the reasons why this happen may include:

Manipulating God's Word.

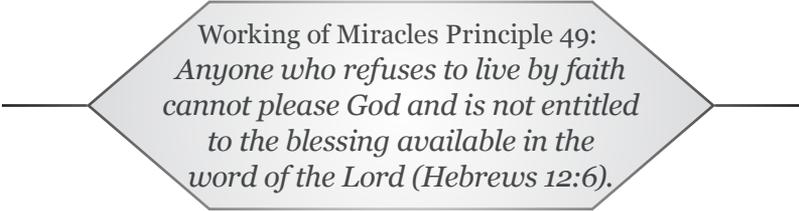
The word of God is the will of God. That is, what God wills

can be fully revealed in His word. Some have tried to manipulate the word of God to work in their favor by forcing it to work in their own will. This obviously will not produce any result.

If the Lord has spoken expressly to a man that he should wait for a season before getting married, he shouldn't begin to pick scriptures that point to the fact that marriage is the will of God. God has a timetable and a good plan for our lives. We should rest in it. Any attempt to manipulate the word of God to alter His plan will not produce results.

Doubt

James 1:6-8, chronicles the life of a double-minded person. The word of God labels that person as unstable and says such cannot receive anything from the Lord. If you do not believe the word, it cannot deliver for you. This does not mean that God's word is weak; it only means that you are not strong enough to receive the blessings that the word carries.



Working of Miracles Principle 49:
Anyone who refuses to live by faith cannot please God and is not entitled to the blessing available in the word of the Lord (Hebrews 12:6).

If any man will hear God's word in faith, it will profit him. Romans 1:17 tells us that the righteous shall live by faith. Anyone who refuses to live by faith cannot please God and is not entitled to the blessing available in the word of the Lord (Hebrews 12:6). This is because one of the rewards of pleasing God is the delivery of the word of God. Samuel pleased God and God did not allow his word

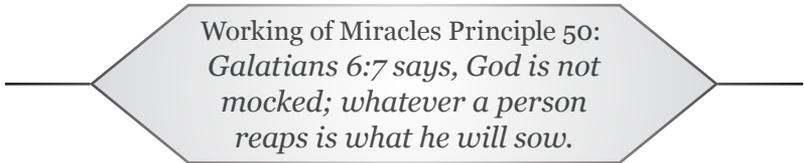
to fall to the ground (1 Samuel 3:19). Because Samuel was pleasing to the Lord, his words always came to pass.

Lack of Perseverance.

The preacher talks about seasons and times (Ecclesiastes 3:1). This is very important in our walk with God. This is where patience comes in. One of the pointers to maturity in Christ is the ability to wait for His words to find fulfillment. This was one of the major flaws of King Saul. He was expected to wait for Samuel but he went ahead to carry out the offering without him. Just as he was concluding, Samuel came in (1 Samuel 13:8-10). This saw the kingdom scattered from him.

Haste is not a fruit of the spirit. You must be able to wait for the word of God to accomplish its desire in you. If a man cannot wait for the manifestation of God's word, he is simply saying to heaven that he is smarter than God. Such an act cannot produce profitable results even though it supposedly premised on the word of God

No identity in Christ.



Working of Miracles Principle 50:
*Galatians 6:7 says, God is not
mocked; whatever a person
reaps is what he will sow.*

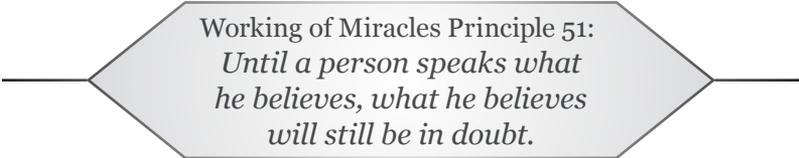
The Lord is committed to respond to the cries of His own. A shepherd cannot cater for the needs of other sheep ahead of his own. Any attempt by a sinner to make use of the word of the Lord will likely result to frustration. God cannot be cheated. A man cannot be living in unrighteousness and hope to reap the rewards

of righteousness. Galatians 6:7 says, God is not mocked; whatever a person reaps is what he will sow.

If anyone wants to begin to see the word of God perform, as it should, he must first settle the issue of sin. God is not pleased with sinners and His word cannot be used by sinful hands. In Isaiah 59:2, the Bible tells us that God is still able to save if we can turn away from sins. If there is any stain on your garment, settle it before you attempt to use the word of God for the miraculous.

Speak the Word

Until you speak the word heaven is not committed to move. The mark of faith is the confession that we make. Until a person speaks what he believes, what he believes will still be in doubt. In order to enjoy the word's miraculous power, you must speak the word. These truths will help you to speak the word for miracles.



Working of Miracles Principle 51:
*Until a person speaks what
he believes, what he believes
will still be in doubt.*

Don't think about the results.

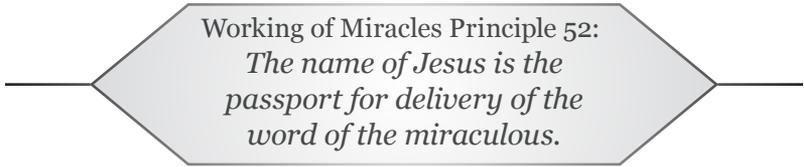
Many people are too focused on the end product of what their word will bring. Some ask, "What if I speak the Word and nothing happens?" Such questions and lines of thought do not proceed out of faith. It is not your responsibility to perform miracles, it is God's.

Always use the Name of Jesus.

The words that we refer to here are words that will produce miracles. Everyday words do not perform miracles. Miraculous

works need powerful words. The Name of Jesus is the only name by which miracles can be performed. In John 16:24, Jesus told his disciples that they have not been asking in His name, but they should begin to ask in His name to receive their requests.

In Acts 3:6, notice that the miracle that Peter and John did was in the Name of Jesus. The name of Jesus is the passport for the delivery for the word of the miraculous. Whenever the Name of Jesus is mentioned, everything on earth and heaven move to produce results.



Working of Miracles Principle 52:
*The name of Jesus is the
passport for delivery of the
word of the miraculous.*

Believe what you say.

If you don't believe what you say, don't expect the conditions to obey and change. Jesus said in Mark 11:23, that if you have faith, you will ask a mountain to move into the sea and it will obey. When Jesus said this, he wasn't speaking a parable. He was saying the conditions to have your word deliver the miraculous. When David confronted Goliath, he didn't have any doubt that he was going to win. As believers, we should never speak the word without faith.

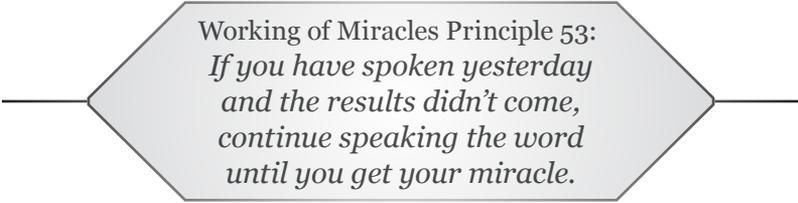
Be bold.

The reason why the lion is regarded as the king of animals is not because it cannot be defeated in a fair battle; it is rather because of its boldness. The word of God says the righteous are as bold as a lion (Proverbs 28:1). The King of kings is your Father and Shield. When you speak, don't speak with fear. If you study the life of Prophets

Elijah and Elisha, they never spoke in fear. They took courage and stood upon the word of God. Don't use the word of God in timidity. The Spirit that is in you, is a bold spirit.

In Acts 4:31, after the early disciples were threatened not to speak of Jesus again, they rose up and prayed for the spirit of boldness. The Spirit came. In the midst of the threats and killings of their day, they continued to preach the word of God with great signs following. Speaking the word of God with boldness makes anyone tremble. You are not called to be terrified, rather your calling makes you a terror.

Keep speaking it.



Working of Miracles Principle 53:
*If you have spoken yesterday
and the results didn't come,
continue speaking the word
until you get your miracle.*

The word of God is not for one time use--- it is an eternal word. The fact that you spoke the word of the Lord yesterday, doesn't mean you should not speak it today. If you have spoken yesterday and the results didn't come, continue speaking the word until you get your miracle. God is not tired of speaking. Don't be tired of saying what He says.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Are you speaking life or death in your life?
2. What can you declare right now for your life to call your miracle into existence?
3. What can you do to control your tongue?

REFLECTION TIME

Dear Lord,

I pray that You give me the grace to sanctify my tongue. I pray You remind me to speak life over every area of my life and to the people that I encounter. I pray my words would always be a blessing to others.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



PARTNERING WITH OTHERS

*"I can do things you cannot, you can do things
I cannot; together we can do great things."*

Mother Teresa

POWER TRUTH

"Do two walk together unless have made an appointment?"

Amos 3:7 NRSV

YOU CANNOT DO IT ALONE

In the beginning, God created all animal species in two's. Man was created male and female. This makes it clear that the Creator is interested in teams and partnerships. We are created to be together. There is a popular saying that "no man is an island."

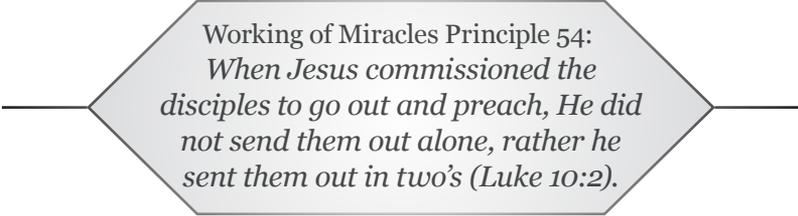
This means that no man can survive without the love and support of others.

Can you imagine what it would be like to wake up one morning and discover that you are the only one left in the world? I bet it wouldn't be something to look forward to. If that were to happen, what would that single person be doing daily? How will he even survive the psychological blow of not having anybody to talk to?

This situation is similar to what Adam faced. He was created in a beautiful garden with all that he could eat and drink, but he had direct access to the Almighty God. But despite the fact that he was in a dream place, God discovered that he wasn't fulfilled because he was alone. God solved that problem by making a partner for him.

One person who would have been all alone like Adam, was Noah. In Genesis 7, God destroyed the world with water. Everything that had life was destroyed because of the great sin all through the earth, except Noah and his household.

The Bible tells us that Noah was righteous before God and that he found grace in God's eyes. We cannot tell if Noah's entire household was as upright as he was, but God did not spare his life alone — He kept his family members. Noah and his wife, his sons and their wives, were preserved alive because it is in the plan of God that no man should be alone.

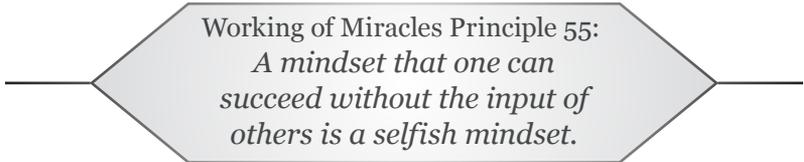


Working of Miracles Principle 54:
When Jesus commissioned the disciples to go out and preach, He did not send them out alone, rather he sent them out in two's (Luke 10:2).

We are not made to do it alone. When Jesus commissioned the disciples to go out and preach, He did not send them out alone,

rather he sent them out in two's (Luke 10:2). The Lord considered it more effective to send the disciples out in two's than to send them out all alone.

A mindset that one can succeed without the input of others is a selfish mindset. The power of friendship and support can carry us to places that we couldn't have gotten to on our own. In Mark 2:1-11, four people brought a man sick of palsy to Jesus. In that portion of scriptures, all the sick man had to do was to lay down. The man did practically nothing in the process of contacting his miracle. It was the people with him that located Jesus and eventually carried him to Jesus. That man would probably have died of the ailment if he did not have people around him to assist him.



Working of Miracles Principle 55:
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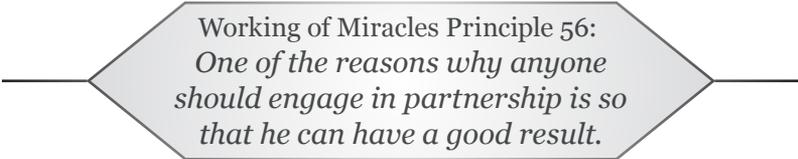
In a similar situation, a man had been waiting for the miracle of healing for thirty-eight years, but the thing eluded him all the years he tried, because according to him, he had no one to help him. This is the account of the man that was at the pool of Bethesda. In John 5:1-15, the Bible records that an angel went to stir the water yearly and whosoever went into the water first after the stirring was made whole of any ailment. When Jesus asked the man in question if he wanted to be healed, the man told Jesus that he had no one to carry him into the water.

God is the ultimate source of all help, but oftentimes he uses people to help people. Joseph told the chief butler not to forget him after he had interpreted his dream, yet the man forgot him. But God made an arrangement for the chief butler to remember Joseph by

causing Pharaoh to dream a dream that could only be interpreted by Joseph. The chief butler remembered Joseph, and Joseph was brought before the king. Joseph would never have fulfilled his destiny without the help and recommendation of the chief butler.

TWO IS BETTER

The Bible in Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NSRV) says, “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.” This portion of scripture is a regular in marriage counseling sessions because it is a major pillar of marital success. One of the reasons why anyone should engage in partnership is so that he can have a good result. The bible goes further to give reasons in verses 10-11 why this is so.



Working of Miracles Principle 56:
*One of the reasons why anyone
should engage in partnership is so
that he can have a good result.*

First, if they fall, one will lift the other up. It is painful to fall, but when a person falls and has people around to assist him, the fall's impact can be quickly recovered from.

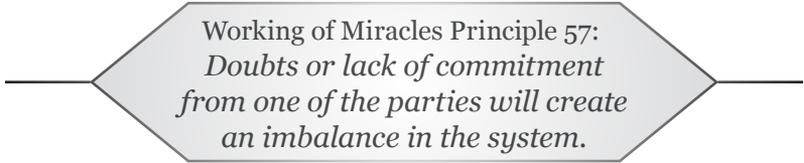
Also, two people can feel warmth. Warmth is an expression of love. The reason why people strive to make great accomplishments is so that they can enjoy it with family and friends. What is the purpose of sharing a testimony of accomplishments without anyone to celebrate with you?

Finally, it is easier to overcome one person than it is to prevail against two. One person is easier to defeat but when there are two of them, it takes more effort to bring them down. So, a person who is not alone is a dangerous person to have as a foe.

With the immense advantage of engaging the power of two,

many are yet to fully appreciate its value and blessings because it works based on the principle of trust. It is impossible to get full benefits from a relationship where trust is lacking. There must be total commitment on the part of both parties that the reward for their labor will bear fruit. Doubts or lack of commitment from one of the parties will create an imbalance in the system.

If you are able to gain the trust of a potential member by building a good connection, they may be more open to sharing their personal concerns with you. Trust is built in open conversation. It is easier for your partner to trust you and share with you when he believes that the information you are sharing is true and sincere.



*Working of Miracles Principle 57:
Doubts or lack of commitment
from one of the parties will create
an imbalance in the system.*

To build a partnership of trust, openness is an indispensable requirement. If you cannot have an honest conversation with someone sharing your fears and strengths, then such person is not a veritable candidate for partnership with you.

THE POWER OF AGREEMENT

One of the most important references made in scriptures to attest to the power of agreement is in Genesis 1:1-9. The whole world spoke one language and was with one accord. The people agreed to build a tower to heaven and they went to work. As the work progressed, God looked at what they were doing and said, because these people are in agreement, nothing shall be difficult for them to do. God had to scatter their languages to stop the world.

Working of Miracles Principle 58:
There is great power in agreement.

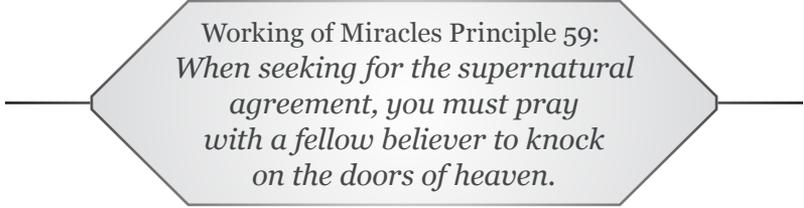
Man agreed to do something as remarkable as building a temple to heaven and they almost did. One must not forget that they did not have the kind of technology we have now, but they were resolved and God recognized that this thing they aspired to do would be done. There is great power in agreement.

In Matthew 18:19, Jesus said on the issue of prayer that “if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.” Now that is powerful. Jesus did not say that if they agreed concerning some things, but He said concerning anything. This passage tells us that if someone had been laboring in prayers all alone for extended periods with no results, such a person should consider agreeing with another in prayers.

Proverbs 27:17 says, “Iron sharpens iron.” This relates to the power of friendship and agreement. When people agree, there is no limit to what they can accomplish. The game of soccer shows us to an extent what agreement can do. The players on a team have the same goal, but do not perform the same tasks. Even though anybody can knock the ball into the opponent’s net, there is an agreement to position some of them as strikers, others as midfielders and defenders. They also designate one to keep the goal post. All of them have an agreement to pursue the same goal. In a game where the team players fail to keep the game plan, it is likely to end up as a defeat.

When seeking the supernatural agreement, you must pray with a fellow believer to knock on the doors of heaven. In Acts 2:1-4,

when the Holy Spirit first came down, the power fell upon them all at the same time. Part of the conditions that brought the power that day was that they were on one accord; they were in agreement. Their prayer was made with singleness of heart and purpose. The believers that received the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost were of one mind.



Working of Miracles Principle 59:
*When seeking for the supernatural
agreement, you must pray
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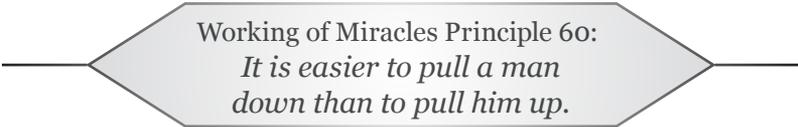
In Acts 12:5, the church was praying without ceasing for Peter. Notice that it was not one person praying, but the church. A body of people was gathered together praying for Peter. Peter had been arrested by Herod and was marked for death, but the body of Christ agreed in prayer. By the power in their agreement, the Lord sent an angel and Peter was released from the prison of his captors.

In battle, it is good to have a large army, but it is better to have a unified army. God used Gideon's three hundred men to win a great battle. The Lord trimmed away those that were fearful and ultimately, He gave Gideon three hundred men that had one mind. When people agree, it is difficult to refuse them of anything. One of the reasons why democracy is being suggested by many world leaders as the best form of government is that it is viewed to be the only system by which the people can unanimously agree to select a leader.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTNERSHIP

A popular maxim says birds of the same feather flock together. Every living being moves with species of its own kind. A tree brings

forth fruit based on its own kind. This is the program of God. Thus Amos 3:3, asks if two can walk together without being in agreement. The answer is, no, because if they even begin the walk, they will break up before they can achieve anything tangible because of lack of agreement.



Working of Miracles Principle 60:
*It is easier to pull a man
down than to pull him up.*

To this end, you cannot be in partnership with just anybody. It is easier to pull a man down than to pull him up. In as much as it is good to be in partnership, each of us has a responsibility to choose our partners correctly. One principal thing is that partnership must be contracted based on similar goals and destination. Don't enter into partnership with someone who desires to go backwards while you are aspiring to go forward.

Jethro, the father in-law of Moses, gave him a counsel that helped his ministry. In Exodus 18, Jethro brought Moses' wife and sons to him in the wilderness and attested to the glory of God around Moses and the people he led. But while he was there, Jethro noticed that Moses was the only one who listened to the people's petitions; and he alone judged their cases. Moses was about this task all they long and Jethro gave him counsel in verse 21. He said,

Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. (Exodus 18:21 NRSV)

From this counsel, we can decipher the quality of men that we should enter into partnership with, knowing that our partnerships can either expose us to or shrink us away from a life of the miraculous.

Ability

Ability is the power to do something. When seeking men to partner with, it is best not to choose mediocre men. The Bible tells us that diligent men will stand before kings. Working with people who have no skill will end in frustration, especially if you are posed to get a good performance. If you surround yourself with people who are not trained or skill in the venture to which you aspire you cannot blame anyone for unsatisfactory results.

Abraham trained the men of his household and they were useful for him in the rescue of Lot. In Genesis 14:14, the Bible tells us that Abraham had 318 trained men who were born in his house. This means that it was Abraham that trained them. This is good news because it means that if the men that are available to work with you are not trained, they can be trained. The major ways by which ability improves is by training, exposure, and continuous use. Connect with able men; if those available do not have the ability, train them.

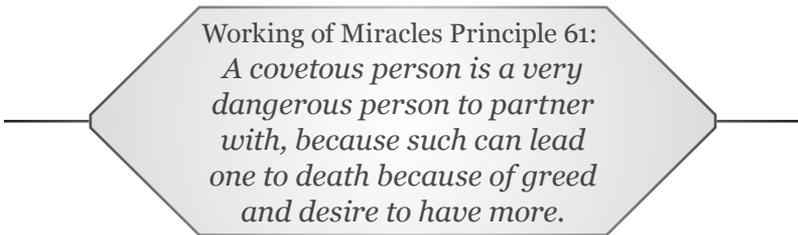
Truth

Don't enter into partnership with someone that you cannot trust. As stated earlier, you do not trust a person you cannot agree with today. Where there is no agreement, there cannot be correct partnership. Gehazi would have inherited a powerful ministry from Elisha, but he did not possess the character of truth. He was covetous and he was a liar. His lies brought the leprosy of Naaman upon him.

Partnership is a serious business because it involves you dealing

fairly with your partners. If you cannot trust yourself to reveal the whole truth about a matter to a person, don't enter into partnership with the person. This is even more pertinent in spiritual things, because the Lord will not entertain excuses. Ananias and Sapphira died at Peter's feet because they sold a piece of land that belonged to them, but lied about the amount they made from it.

Contentment



Working of Miracles Principle 61:
A covetous person is a very dangerous person to partner with, because such can lead one to death because of greed and desire to have more.

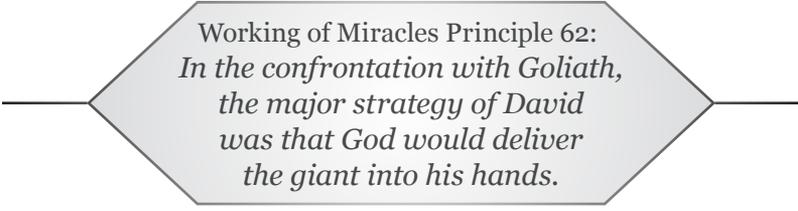
A covetous person is a very dangerous person to partner with, because such can lead one to death because of greed and desire to have more. Judas Iscariot threw away a golden and eternal opportunity because he was covetous. He saw all the miracles that Jesus did, he ate with Jesus and walked with him but he was too greedy to obtain the eternal crown that is prepared for the apostles.

Can you imagine that Judas betrayed the King of kings for money? That is what a covetous person does. Such people do not care what it costs them to get more. Such people should not be in partnership with you, because very soon they will want it all for themselves.

PARTNER WITH GOD

The greatest partner a person can ever have is God. It is wisdom to partner with a person who is stronger than you, because you have

the opportunity to learn, grow, and improve yourself based on that partnership.



Working of Miracles Principle 62:
*In the confrontation with Goliath,
the major strategy of David
was that God would deliver
the giant into his hands.*

David was a wise man. From a very tender age he had good relationship with God, and this translated into victories for him. In the confrontation with Goliath, the major strategy of David was that God would deliver the giant into his hands. David did not waste time in disposing of the giant because God was with him. When you partner with God, there is no mountain that is insurmountable. A partnership with God makes you a co-partner in creating miracles.

In Nehemiah 2, the king granted Nehemiah an unbelievable request. He gave him the opportunity to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. He gave him letters that will lead to getting provisions for the building of the walls. It was an unbelievable decision such that great opposition arose because of it but the One that Nehemiah partnered with is stronger than anyone opposition.

One major advantage of partnering with God is that He reveals secrets. In Deuteronomy 29:29 (KJV) the Bible says “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.” Our God is the possessor of all secrets and those that partner with Him are privileged to have knowledge of what He shares with them.

Working of Miracles Principle 63:
*One major quality of those that
must partner with God is that
they live pure and holy lives.*

Our partnership with God exposes us to revelation that people of the world do not have. How did Joseph become Prime Minister of Egypt? How did Jacob break the yoke of Laban's hardship? How did Daniel excel in captivity? All of these great men did exploits because they had a partnership with God.

One major quality of those that must partner with God is that they live pure and holy lives. 1 Peter 1:15 tells us to be holy even as God who has called us is holy. Holiness is a total standard; it doesn't have any short cuts. If we will partner with the Lord, we must follow the example of men like Joseph who had opportunity to lie to his master's wife but refused. He made up his mind not to sin against God. God desires for us to live the miraculous life and He will support us and help us if we live for him in righteousness.

PARTNERING FOR MIRACLES

The power of God in people who agree together produces miracles. No doubt one must partner with God to perform miracles but one should also partner with like men. On his missionary journeys, Apostle Paul was always keen on joining at least with one person. This is because there is power in agreement.

If God has called you to perform miraculous works, there are partnerships that you must build to help your ministry. People have gone ahead of you, you need the information and counsel they possess to be able to carry out your assignment with ease.

Working of Miracles Principle 64:
*If God has called you to perform
miraculous works, there are
partnerships that you must
build to help your ministry.*

Also, there are lives that you must raise to carry out the assignment with you. Miracles are gifts from God and are bigger than personalities. It is not good to monopolize the knowledge and power of God in your life. Share with others what God is doing, work with others and grow with others.

Finally, miracles work with prayers. When you pray the prayer of agreement, God is committed to intervene. This is because he has said that if two or three agree in His name, He will show up (Matthew. 18:19).

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Who are you partnering with in prayer to call your miracles into existence?
2. Who are the people you can surround yourself with to pray miracles into existence?
3. What can you do right now to build a strong partnership with the Lord?

REFLECTION TIME

Dear Lord,

I pray that You would bring me people whom I can partner with in prayer. I pray that our partnership

E. Bernard Jordan

would be strengthened. I pray that I would always
protect our partnership no matter what.

In Jesus' Name. Amen

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ENDNOTES

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