

# Magnetic for Miracles

Christ wants not nibblers of the possible, but grabbers of the impossible, by faith in the omnipotence, fidelity and wisdom of the Almighty Savior who gave the command. Is there a wall in our path? By our God we will leap over it! Are there lions and scorpions in our way? We will trample them under our feet! Does a mountain bar our way? Saying, 'Be thou removed and cast into the sea,' we will march on! Soldiers of Jesus, never surrender!—C. T. Studd

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*Jesus left there and went to his hometown ... When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed ... "Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith (Mark 6:1–6 NIV).*

Have you ever wondered why some churches and people experience the power of God on a greater level than others? Why some people seem to be magnetic for miracles and the extraordinary, while others only ever hear about them?

There are a lot of reasons, but I believe this passage gives us one huge aspect of the answer.

At this point in His ministry, Jesus was on a roll. In fact, in this chapter of Mark we pick up in the middle of a regional speaking tour, and Jesus was practically packing out coliseums with people who came to hear Him and be healed by Him. You would expect Him to be able to roll into His hometown and do even greater things. But that's not what happens. Instead, all He can do is heal a common cold.

Why does the Bible say Jesus couldn't do miracles? Not wouldn't, but *couldn't*?

When you read the above passage, it's pretty clear. *The miracle-working power of Jesus wasn't limited because His ability subsided.* But because they did not believe. And their unbelief was tied directly to what they saw, and they didn't see much.

Their *exposure* to Jesus was great. But ... their *experience* of Him was limited. That's why He was amazed at their lack of faith. And that's why His power was limited.

God is powerful everywhere. He's powerful on every continent in every time zone. He has the ability to change lives anywhere you go.

The determining factor in the activity of God in our churches and in our lives isn't even who Jesus is. Jesus is the *same* yesterday, today, and forever.

It really comes down to this:

*It's not who He is, it's how we see Him.*

These people saw Him as a carpenter. That's what they got. Others had seen Him as someone capable of miracles. That's what they got.

The same principle is true today.

If you see Jesus as a good teacher, that's what you're going to get.

If you see Him as someone who used to move in power, that's what you're going to get.

If you see Him as someone who still moves in power, that's what you're going to get.

Jesus' infinite miracle-working power hasn't changed. It's still the same, yesterday, today, and forever. What can change today is how you choose to see how that power is available to you. And what can then change is how much you will witness that power flowing through your life.—*Steven Furtick*

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*We naturally gravitate toward what is familiar.* Once we find a place to sit, we'll sit there every time. Once we find a favorite dish, we'll stop trying new things on the menu. Once we get into a routine, it's next to impossible to get out of it. As the old adage put it: *You can't teach an old dog new tricks.* Or can you?

Most of us live most of our lives in *the land of the familiar*. We never cross the border into *the land of unfamiliarity*. Why? Because *unfamiliarity is full of uncertainty*. We know that is where life's greatest discoveries are to be made, but we don't dare cross *the bridge of risk*.

Here's how it plays out spiritually. God moves in a profound way and we don't know what to do, so we do what we've always done. We return to the land of familiarity. *We quickly sing a song or pray a prayer.* Is there anything wrong with that? No. But that is the land of the familiar. Maybe God wants to give you a *new song*, a *new vision*, a *new gift*.

Remember what it says about Abraham? "He went even though he didn't know where he was going." He ventured into unfamiliar territory. No map. Just a compass. *Most Christians want a map, but God gives us a compass. His name is the Holy Spirit.* He points us and prompts us and stirs us. He is the voice behind us saying, "This is the way, walk in it." And He always leads toward the land of unfamiliarity. But we don't want to have to rely on hearing His voice, so we settle for the land of the familiar. And that is where most of us die. We die of familiarity. *We're buried in the land of familiarity.*

If you want to experience God in a new way, *you can't keep doing the same old thing.*

"Behold, the former things have come to pass. New things I now declare."<sup>1</sup>—*Mark Batterson*

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The Christian life is best lived dangerously. Playing it safe won't yield much fruit. People who risk friendships or jobs or, even worse, their own lives for the sake of the Gospel will get

the most results. Living the faith well—“fighting the good fight”—requires strict discipline, self-denial, and a willingness to expose oneself to danger. This is where trust comes in. God may not deliver you from suffering right away, but He will sustain you and ultimately reward you. And the knowledge that you have risked all for His sake will exhilarate you.—*Brad Locke*

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You have to find something that you love enough to be able to take risks, jump over the hurdles and break through the brick walls that are always going to be placed in front of you. If you don't have that kind of feeling for what it is you're doing, you'll stop at the first giant hurdle.—*George Lucas*

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If you are not willing to risk the unusual, you will have to settle for the ordinary.—*Jim Rohn*

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To every man there comes in his lifetime that special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to him and fitted to his talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for the work which could be his finest hour.—*Sir Winston Churchill*

[1](#) Isaiah 42:9.