

Miracles of Christ
Miracles over the demonic
April 14, 2019

We are going to cover Part Four of a series of Miracles of Christ

What is a miracle?

Miracle: A surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.

A “miracle” or a “sign” causes wonder and astonishment, being extraordinary in itself and amazing or inexplicable by normal standards.

Jesus was known as a miracle worker
Crowds constantly followed him because he was a “miracle worker.”

Those that respected Jesus believed that his miracles were the result of the power of God.
Those that despised Jesus believed that his miracles were the result of the power of devil/demons.

The Jewish Historian Josephus referred to Jesus’ “marvelous deeds.”
The Babylonian Jewish Talmud – a commentary on the Torah – “magician.”
Early Roman sources refer to His “miracles.”

Miracles are a sign

Miracles are not miracles for miracle's sake – miracles are a sign
Signs point to something or someone or label something or someone.

Signs tell us something

“What is God saying when His miraculous power is revealed?”

Miracles are God superseding a system

The Miracles of Christ/Jesus can be divided into four categories

Miracles over Nature

Miracles of Provision

Miracles of Healing

Miracles over the demonic/K of Darkness

The first three categories of “miracles” are the superseding of a system

Miracles over Nature – God superseding the systems of nature – weather, seasons, tides, water, gravity

Miracles of Provision – God superseding the system of provision – Work

Miracles of Healing – God superseding the systems of the body

Miracle over the demonic isn't the superseding of a system

Miracle over the demonic is God battling against the system of darkness

Miracles over the demonic or the kingdom of darkness

God created the world and then created Adam and Eve

The serpent visited Adam and Eve and tempted them to disobey God's instructions

That temptation was the beginning of the devil and the kingdom of darkness' battle against God's creation

It's a battle of rebellion against God's rule, holiness, and love

For thousands of years, in every corner of the planet, the k of darkness has been seeking to destroy people made in the image of God

When I'm talking about the demonic or the kingdom of darkness, I'm NOT referring to the "force."

The "force" or the "dark side."

I'm not talking about a force or a cloud that permeates, influences and controls what happens on the dark side.

I'm talking about real entities controlled by a "general" who is out to destroy the human race

Here are some names of Satan found in the Bible:

- "your adversary" (1 Peter 5: 8)
- "the accuser of our brethren" (Revelation 12: 10)
- "an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11: 14)
- "the deceiver" (Revelation 12: 9)
- "Apollyon," "the destroyer" (Revelation 9: 11)
- "the evil one" (John 17: 15)
- "a liar" (John 8: 44)
- "father of lies (John 8:44)
- "a murderer" (John 8: 44)
- "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2: 2)
- "the ruler of this world" (John 12: 31, 14: 30, 16: 11)
- the "serpent of old" (Genesis 3: 4, Revelation 20: 2)
- "the tempter" (Matthew 4: 3)

None of those names sound like an impersonal "force" or "dark side."

The idea of darkness and evil and the devil are often "foreign" concepts/ideas to modern man

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors." C.S. Lewis

The kingdom of darkness is real – The devil is real – demons are real

Ignore it ... Deny it ... "pooh, pooh it" ... all of it is still real.

The battle between God and the devil, and the kingdom of darkness is a reality, and throughout the last 2000 years followers of Jesus have written and taught on "spiritual warfare."

Paul wrote about spiritual warfare saying:

**“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”
(Ephesians 6:12 ESV)**

Peter taught about spiritual warfare using these words

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.” (1 Peter 5:8-9 NLT)

Amid conflicts and controversies, a believer’s battle is not with the person but with the forces behind the person

One day Jesus was teaching the disciples that the Jewish leadership and hierarchy would reject him and execute him, but on the third day, he would rise from the dead.

Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Jesus for talking such nonsense.

Jesus looked at the disciples who were nearby and then spoke to Peter BUT NOT TO PETER but the spiritual forces that were behind Peter influencing him to speak that way to Jesus.

“Turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” (Mark 8:33 ESV)

Jesus and the NT writers taught that we are living in enemy territory

- *“ruler of this world”* – John 12:31
- Satan is called the *“prince of the power of the air.”* – Ephesians 2:2
- John – *“The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”* – 1 John 5:19
- He is called the *“god of this world.”* - 2 Corinthians 4:4

“This is a civil war, a rebellion, and . . . we are living in a part of the universe occupied by the rebel. Enemy-occupied territory—that is what this world is.” C. S. Lewis

The war that continues is a war rooted in “rebellion.”

The war started with the devil’s rebellion against God

The war continues through the k of darkness’ rebellion

AND The rebellion of the human race

No one will tell me what to do

I’m the “I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul.”

The decisive battle occurred on the cross

The ultimate end of the enemies occupying this land will be at the end of time

No follower of Jesus needs to run in fear of the k of darkness

“You belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.” (1 John 4:4 NLT)

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” (Isaiah 43:2 ESV)

Satan is like an animal on a tether.

The animal can go as far as the tether allows, but no farther.

He can act freely within the area defined by his rope, but the rope defines his area of activity.

Satan is on God’s tether, and while he can do many things within the limited area defined by God, he certainly cannot go beyond the limits God has established.

If you are a Jesus follower, it is well worth your time to study spiritual warfare

“We don't want Satan to outsmart us. We know how he does his evil work.” (2 Corinthians 2:11 NIV)

Admonitions in the Scripture about the battle

- Be strong in the Lord and HIS great power
- Put on the armor of God
- Resist
- Self-controlled
- Stand
- Be alert
- Deal with your anger – so that the devil doesn’t get a chance
- Forgive – because bitterness is one of the enemies prime weapons

The battle is a battle of the mind

Battle of deception vs. truth

It’s a battle for what you think

It’s a battle of the voices you listen to

“The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the throwing down of strongholds, throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5 WEB)

Strongholds – ways of thinking

Imaginations

Exalted against the knowledge of God

Bring every thought captive to Jesus

“The true Christian is called to be a soldier and must behave as such from the day of his conversion to the day of his death. He is not meant to live a life of religious ease, indolence, and security. He must never imagine for a moment that he can sleep and doze along the way to heaven.” J. C. Ryle

When we first moved here

Sunday afternoon – cars lined up along the road

Former LA Cop was interested in the land behind SWAG

Worship in the woods

Laying in bed – felt this presence

Laying in bed – couldn't move

Aware of everything going on ... if I could say the name of Jesus or pray in the Spirit