



Have you been waiting and praying to God for a miracle?



*Those who wait on the Lord,
shall renew their strength.*

Isaiah 40:31

— Pr. Paul Rech —

HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING AND PRAYING TO GOD FOR A MIRACLE?

Perhaps you have been praying for a long time for something that has not yet happened. Maybe it is healing from an illness, the restoration of a relationship, the deliverance of a child, a job opportunity, the resolution of a financial crisis, emotional recovery after a loss, or simply an answer from God for a situation that seems to have no way out. You pray, wait, persevere, pray again, and at times ask quietly: "Lord, how long?"

Waiting for a miracle is not always easy. The wait can cause weariness. It can bring doubt, anxiety, and even the feeling that God is silent. But I want to share a principle with you that appears repeatedly throughout biblical accounts of miracles.

When God performed a miracle in someone's life, there was frequently a human response: someone needed to believe, obey, step forward, ask, stretch out a hand, remove a stone, cast a net, or simply take a step in the direction God indicated. This does not mean human effort produces the miracle—the power remains exclusively God's. Nor does it mean a sick person remains ill because they "lacked sufficient faith." Transforming someone's suffering into a spiritual accusation would be cruel and biblically irresponsible.

The lesson is different. Grace comes from God, power comes from God, and miracles come from God; yet God frequently calls us to participate in what He is doing.

Perhaps the question is not only: "God, why haven't You done something yet?" Perhaps we should also ask: "Lord, is there something You are expecting me to do?"

MOSES: THE SEA DIVIDED, BUT HE HAD TO LIFT THE STAFF Before the people of Israel lay the Red Sea; behind them pressed Pharaoh's army. Humanly speaking, there was no way out. The people panicked, and Moses cried out to the Lord. Then God said to him: "*Why do you cry out to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.*" (Exodus 14:15).

Shortly after, God commanded Moses to lift his staff and stretch out his hand over the sea. Moses did not part the Red Sea; God parted it. But Moses had to raise the staff, and the people had to march.

This is a powerful lesson: there are times when prayer is indispensable, but there are also times when, after praying, we must begin to walk. Some people ask God for a new opportunity while ignoring a door God has already shown them to knock on. Others pray for restored relationships but hesitate to take the first step toward an honest conversation, asking for forgiveness, or seeking mediation. Others pray for emotional healing while continuing to delay seeking counseling, medical care, adequate rest, or necessary lifestyle changes.

There are moments when faith prays. There are moments when that same faith must act.

NAAMAN: THE MIRACLE WAS TIED TO SIMPLE OBEDIENCE Naaman was a commander of the Syrian army, a powerful and respected man, who suffered from leprosy. He sought out the prophet Elisha, likely expecting a grand ritual. Instead, he received a remarkably simple instruction: "***Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you.***" (2 Kings 5:10).

Naaman was indignant. His expectations almost prevented him from receiving what God had prepared. Only after listening to his servants did he choose to obey. He went down to the Jordan and dipped seven times. Then healing came.

The water of the Jordan possessed no miraculous power, nor was the number seven a magic formula; the power belonged to God alone. Yet Naaman had to overcome his pride and obey.

How often do we ask God for an extraordinary intervention while resisting a simple instruction? We desire peace, yet cling to things that fuel our anxiety. We desire health, yet neglect basic self-care. We desire financial recovery, yet decline to manage our expenses. We desire better relationships, yet remain unwilling to adjust how we speak, listen, or react. God does not always ask us for something grand; sometimes, our "Jordan" is a small act of obedience.

THE MULTIPLICATION OF THE LOAVES: JESUS USED WHAT WAS PLACED IN HIS HANDS Facing a hungry crowd, the disciples saw an impossible problem. Andrew found a young boy with five barley loaves and two fish, hardly enough for thousands of people. Yet that boy surrendered what he had. Jesus took those few loaves and fish, gave thanks, and multiplied them.

The boy did not feed the crowd, and the disciples did not perform the miracle; Jesus did. Nevertheless, someone placed something into His hands. This account teaches us that God does not require us to have much; He simply asks us to offer what we currently hold.

You might say: "I have so little, little strength, few resources, limited opportunities, minimal knowledge, little hope." Hand that little over to God. In Jesus' hands, the little becomes more than enough to accomplish His purpose.

BLIND BARTIMAEUS: HE DID NOT ALLOW THE CROWD TO SILENCE HIM Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside when he learned Jesus was passing by. He began to cry out: "*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!*" (Mark 10:47).

The crowd tried to silence him, but he cried out all the louder. Jesus stopped. Bartimaeus threw aside his cloak, stood up, and went to Christ. Jesus asked him: "*What do you want Me to do for you?*" He replied: "*Teacher, that I may receive my sight.*"

Bartimaeus demonstrates persistence. Sometimes our greatest participation is simply refusing to give up. Some situations do not resolve quickly; some prayers span months or years. Physical, emotional, relational, or spiritual recovery often occurs step by step. Bartimaeus could have let surrounding voices dictate his response, but he kept calling out.

This perseverance leads to a vital quality: resilience.

RESILIENCE: CONTINUING FORWARD BEFORE THE ANSWER ARRIVES Resilience does not mean a person never suffers, cries, or experiences fear, anxiety, frustration, or exhaustion. Resilience is the ability to face adversity, adapt to circumstances, and continue moving forward without allowing a difficult experience to permanently define the future.

In the Christian walk, resilience finds a deep foundation in hope in God. Paul wrote: "*We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.*" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

Paul does not deny reality; he acknowledges the pressure, perplexity, persecution, and hardship. Christian faith does not demand that we pretend everything is fine when it is not.

This distinction is especially crucial regarding mental health. A person can deeply love God while simultaneously navigating anxiety, depression, burnout, grief, trauma, or periods of intense emotional suffering. Seeking help does not indicate a lack of faith. Confiding in a trusted person, receiving pastoral guidance, consulting a mental health professional, and prioritizing sleep, nutrition, rest, and healthy relationships are all valid aspects of responsible stewardship over the life God has granted us. Praying and seeking appropriate help are not mutually exclusive; we can do both. We can ask for divine intervention while taking responsible action within our reach.

LAZARUS: "TAKE AWAY THE STONE" One of the clearest illustrations of this principle appears in the resurrection of Lazarus. Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus arrived at the tomb and said: "*Take away the stone.*" (John 11:39).

Consider this: Jesus, who was about to raise a man from the dead, certainly possessed the power to move a stone. Yet He did not move it Himself; He instructed the people to do so. Once the stone was removed, Jesus called out: "*Lazarus, come forth!*" And the man who had been dead walked out.

There is deep significance in this scene: humans could move the stone, but only God could restore life. That is the key insight: there are things only God can do, but there are also tasks assigned to us. We cannot perform the miracle, but we can remove the stones.

- The stone of unforgiveness.
- The stone of pride.
- The stone of procrastination.
- The stone of destructive habits.
- The stone of isolation.
- The stone of hesitating to seek help.
- The stone of a decision we know we need to make.

Do not attempt to carry out the part that belongs solely to God, but do not neglect the responsibilities He has placed in your hands.

PETER: TO WALK ON WATER, HE HAD TO STEP OUT OF THE BOAT In Matthew 14, the disciples were in a boat when they saw Jesus walking on the sea. Peter said: "*Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.*" Jesus replied simply: "*Come.*" Then Peter stepped out of the boat.

That single word called for a monumental choice. Peter could have remained in safety, observed Jesus from a distance, discussed the miracle, or affirmed his belief in Jesus' power to sustain him. But the moment arrived when he had to place his foot outside the boat.

The miracle lay outside his comfort zone. How often do we pray, "Lord, change my situation," while God responds, "Come"?

Take the first step. Make that call. Have that conversation. Start again. Seek help. Forgive. Organize your affairs. Resume your studies. Care for your health. Step away from what is harming you. This is not about impulsive action; it is about responsible, prayerful action aligned with God's Word.

FAITH IS NOT PASSIVITY A misunderstanding of faith can turn patient waiting into passivity. Someone might say, "I am waiting on the Lord," yet waiting on God does not mean remaining idle.

A farmer asks God for a good harvest, but still needs to till the soil, plant seeds, and tend the crops. We can pray for employment while updating a resume and applying for positions. We can pray for health while consulting medical professionals. We can pray for emotional balance while establishing boundaries, resting, and seeking support. We can pray for a marriage to be restored while actively listening, acknowledging errors, and engaging in counseling.

Action does not replace God; action can be a direct expression of trust in God.

PERHAPS THERE IS SOMETHING YOU NEED TO DO If you are waiting for an answer from God today, consider praying a different prayer. Beyond asking, "Lord, perform the miracle I need," add: "Lord, show me my responsibility in this process."

- Perhaps He will say to you, as He did to Moses: *Go forward.*
- Perhaps, as to Naaman: *Go down to the Jordan.*
- Perhaps, as with the loaves and fish: *Offer what you have.*
- Perhaps, like Bartimaeus: *Keep calling out.*

- Perhaps, before the tomb of Lazarus: *Remove the stone.*
- Perhaps, like Peter: *Step out of the boat.*

And perhaps, in certain situations, God will simply say: *Wait and trust.* For there are also seasons when our role is to stand firm while God works in ways beyond our present sight.

WHILE YOU WAIT, GOD IS ALSO WORKING IN YOU We often focus entirely on changing our circumstances. However, God may be using the waiting period itself to cultivate transformation within us.

- While we wait, we learn perseverance.
- While we wait, we recognize our limitations.
- While we wait, we build resilience.
- While we wait, we learn to accept help.
- While we wait, we mature.
- While we wait, we realize that our ultimate hope rests not solely on a specific outcome, but on the God in whom we trust.

Paul wrote: "***Tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.***" (Romans 5:3-4).

Do not undervalue what God is shaping inside you while you await what He will do around you.

REMOVE THE STONE AND LET GOD DO THE IMPOSSIBLE Have you been waiting and praying to God for a miracle?

Continue praying. Continue believing. Continue waiting.

But also ask: *Is there something I need to do?*

Do not carry the burden of producing the impossible, that power belongs to God alone. But do not abandon the responsibility of doing what is possible.

- If there is a stone you can move, move it.
- If there is a step you need to take, take it.
- If you need to ask for help, ask.

- If you need to start over, start over.
- If you need to rest, rest.
- If you need guidance, seek it.
- If you need to persevere, persevere.

Do what is within your reach, and entrust to God what only He can accomplish.

Moses lifted the staff, but God parted the sea. Naaman entered the Jordan, but God brought the healing. The boy offered the loaves, but Jesus multiplied them. Bartimaeus called out, but Jesus restored his sight. The people moved the stone, but Jesus called Lazarus back to life. Peter stepped out of the boat, but Christ's power sustained him on the water.

This is one of the most profound lessons of biblical miracles: God does not call us to accomplish the impossible. He calls us to trust Him enough to do, in obedience, what lies within our power and leave the impossible in His hands.

Therefore, regarding the need in your prayers today, ask two questions:

1. "Lord, what can only You do?"
2. "Lord, what is my part to do?"

Have the faith to leave the first answer to God. And have the courage, obedience, and resilience to step into the second.

***The miracle belongs entirely to God,
but the next step may be yours!***

Pr. Paul Rech