

IF YOU'VE WONDERED...

“Why hasn't a miracle happened?”

It can be confusing sometimes to hear stories about God healing people or bringing the dead to life—especially if those stories don't align with experiences. It is natural for questions to arise about why God hasn't done a miracle in a particular situation. It could appear as if God treats people differently by favoring some and neglecting others. Some may wonder if God has stopped performing miracles or is choosing to remain silent and inactive or refuses to help certain types of people. These questions might also reveal deeper feelings of anger, pain, or neglect underneath them. You or someone you know may feel disappointed when what is wanted from God—or that you think God should be doing—isn't happening. You might even be questioning if you've done something wrong; you might think that you're the reason miracles aren't occurring. You might even begin to doubt whether God can do a miracle at all.

.....➤ What the Bible says:

The Bible does have stories of miracles, but it also has stories where no miracles occurred. There are many in the Bible who never received miracles during their lives. Many of these asked God for a miracle but they did not get one. Whether a miracle occurs or not is not connected to whether a person is good or bad. Some people who followed God faithfully never got a miracle, while others who did wrong still received them. For example, Paul asked God to take away a struggle he had, but God told him that His grace was enough. Job, a man who lived rightly, lost his family and became very sick, and God didn't stop it. Even Jesus, God's Son, was not rescued from death. So miracles do not depend on whether people are praying or acting or thinking correctly.

There are lots of reasons why a miracle may not occur. The Bible gives different reasons why miracles don't always happen. Sometimes, challenges help people grow in perseverance, character, and hope. Other times, suffering can lead others to seek God or bring about something new. In some parts of the Bible, God does not respond because God has already communicated about what would happen. In one story, a king is asking God for a miracle in battle, but a prophet reminds the king that God had already said there would not be a miracle because God wanted the battle to go a certain way. In another story, a prophet seeks God for a miracle for his city but is reminded that God wants to remove an entire city to start over. Sometimes, God explains why a miracle doesn't happen, but other times, He doesn't give an answer. Job is someone who was never told why his family died or why he suffered a severe sickness. Without sharing why a miracle didn't occur, God did respond to Job in a way that Job found very comforting and meaningful. Even when we don't understand, the Bible says God invites us to bring our questions, pain, and frustrations to Him.

Even without miracles, God cares deeply. God shows that care through countless ways that you may not label as miracles. God

frequently shows love to everyone, whether grieving or not. For those who are grieving, the Bible mentions that God is the God of all comfort. God grieves with and for those who are suffering. The Bible reminds us that God does not want any to perish, and it pains God that injuries, sickness, and death occur. However God has also promised something greater—eternal life and resurrection, where sickness, pain, and death will be gone forever. Those who don't experience miracles now will still receive the greatest miracle of resurrection in the future. So even if you have never seen or experienced a miracle there will be one when God resurrects you at the end of time, which will be the greatest miracle of all.

.....> What you could explore:

Discussions about theodicy: Theodicy is a topic that deals with why bad things happen. Writers and speakers have addressed questions about theodicy that address why suffering occurs. Many will look to Biblical passages and themes to develop their perspectives and will wrestle with the question of how a good God allows evil to exist.

Stories from those who suffered: There are many people throughout history who have recorded their reactions to injuries, sickness, and death. The wisdom and comfort that these people can offer can be beneficial to those who are enduring similar situations today. There are even people alive today who can offer wisdom and comfort when requests for miracles go unanswered.

.....> What you could do:

Pray for those in need: While miracles may be beyond your ability, you can pray for those who are sick, struggling, or in need of hope. Prayer invites God to work in ways you may not always understand, whether through healing, comfort, or strength. When you are in need, you can invite others to pray with you for a miracle or a reason God is not doing a miracle.

Express the confusion: When miracles are not occurring, it can be comforting to express our frustrations to each other or to God directly. Communicate the confusion you have regarding why God is not fixing the situation. You can express this confusion verbally or through artwork. Find others who have not experienced miracles and cry together with them.

.....> Where you could look for more information:

- ✱ **Stories of people who didn't get miracles:** Genesis 18 • Numbers 22 • Deuteronomy 3 • Judges 10 • 1 Samuel 28 • 2 Samuel 12 • 1 Kings 14 • 2 Kings 4 • Jeremiah 7 and 11 • Jonah 4 • Habakkuk 1 • Zechariah 7 • Job 30 • Psalm 18 • Matthew 12 • Luke 16 • John 2 • Acts 12 • 2 Corinthians 12 • Hebrews 11-12 • James 4 • Revelation 6
- ✱ **Stories of miracles offered to the rebellious:** Exodus 7 and 19 • Numbers 17 • Judges 6 • Isaiah 7 • Mark 6 • John 12
- ✱ **Passages where no reasons are given for why miracles weren't happening:** 2 Samuel 6 • Habakkuk 1 • Job 1-40 • Psalms 10, 13, 22 • Luke 23 • Revelation 16
- ✱ **God's ways sometimes being unknowable by us:** Deuteronomy 29 • Isaiah 40 and 55 • Jeremiah 16 • Job 42 • Ecclesiastes 8 • Proverbs 19 • Romans 11 • 1 Corinthians 2
- ✱ **Comments about the miracle of resurrection:** Job 19 • Psalm 16 • Daniel 12 • Matthew 28 • Luke 24 • John 11, 20 • 1 Corinthians 6, 15 • 1 Thessalonians 4 • Revelation 20-21