

MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

"Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in His name, when they saw the miracles which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them..." - John 2:23,24a

A popular televangelist said to this lame man, "Be healed in Jesus' name!" The man stood up and the faith healer said, "He is free from his wheelchair." However, he stumbled off stage with crutches and heavy braces on his legs. When our Lord Jesus, or His apostles, performed a miracle it was complete and it was clearly obvious.

While in Jerusalem, the people saw the miracles which Jesus did and believed. However, they believed in Jesus only as a Miracle Man. Understand, faith in the Miracle Man Jesus

falls short of saving faith. That's why our scripture says, "But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them." The Lord Jesus knew what was in those people's heart. He knew that the faith they expressed was because of the miracles and not in the words He spoke.

You see, the New Testament was originally written in the common Greek language of the day. That's important because when we look up the word "miracle" in the original Greek New Testament we surprisingly find that it's not used. Our English New Testament translators took words like "sign," "wonders," and "power" and constructed the idea of "miracles." Most of the time when we read our New Testament English word "miracle" it is actually the Greek word "sign." That's good to

know because everyone has his or her own definition of a miracle. Many times we call God moving naturally in providence a miracle when it is not, according to Biblical understanding. A miracle is a sign, and signs obviously point to something. That is the way our Lord Jesus and His apostles used miracles. They were signs that moved above our common, ordinary, natural way of life into the extra-ordinary for the purpose of pointing out that God was revealing His word to a people who were in spiritual darkness (John 14:10,11; Acts 2:22, 41-43; Acts 13:50).

Obviously, God is surely merciful to those whom He has healed by a miracle. However, miracles are not totally for the purpose of the afflicted person. The miracle first is a heavenly "sign" pointing to God's word and

His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. We are not to be like the people in Jerusalem who accepted Christ Jesus as just a Miracle Man. Christ will reject that kind of faith. We are to receive and believe His word and His person as both Lord and Savior of the world (Romans 10:9-13; John 4:40-42).

Dear soul, understand that miracles, or better yet "signs," have never produced saving faith. Only God's word produces true faith (Romans 10:17). So before you call something a miracle, replace it with the word "sign" and then ask yourself, "What is this pointing to?" Is it pointing to the true miracle - God's word, called the Bible?

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