

Are Signs and Wonders for Today?

(Should we still expect God to do miracles today?)

Pastor Jerry R. A. Johnson on March 2, 2025

Today's sermon is on the topic of "Signs and Wonders." Without getting into a more technical definition for these, we're really just asking more broadly: "Should we still expect God to do miracles today?" This topical sermon was prompted by our series on the Gospel of Luke, and the various signs and wonders being performed by Jesus. But it's also prompted by a pastoral concern for how confusing and upsetting this topic has become in our modern-day world. Numerous miracle scams and scandals continue to run wild in our world today. Recently I paged through my research folder on miracles, and I found an old letter that I'd kept from one of the many miracle scams. In this letter, they enclosed a "miracle handkerchief": a "holy, blessed, powerful, prosperous, biblical handkerchief." They were basing this on Acts 19, when handkerchiefs that had touched the Apostle Paul, were taken to the sick and demon-possessed and they were cured. The letter includes a mail in form, which has places to check off which miracle you want from God: a car, a house, a better job, etc. And, of course, there's a place to include your financial gift to this ministry as a "Prove God seed gift." (And this is why these miracle scams continue, because these folks are making millions and millions of dollars off of people's desire to get a miracle from God.)

With scams and scandals like this, it's no wonder that many of us have grown skeptical over time.¹ We've either seen right through these scams and grown frustrated, or, we've been tricked by one of them, and still carry the wounds of anger and embarrassment. But if we've been scammed, we shouldn't be too hard on ourselves, because many of these tricksters are professional con artists, and they can seem quite convincing at first, especially with all of the Bible verses that they throw around. Not to mention that all of us have days when we're down on our luck, and a promise showing up in our mailbox one day, of a miraculous provision by God, can be mighty attractive. This is one of several reasons why we need to consider today's question: "Are Signs and Wonders for Today?"

As I was preparing my sermon this week, I came across some old sermon notes from November 7, 2010. The sermon that day was on the topic of "Miracles", and the preacher was Pastor Fred Martin. My notes from that day included the following 3 items. There are **three general approaches to miracles**.² Some people...

¹ A similar scam is Peter Popoff's Miracle Spring Water:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4QkE11IPf8> It's been around for years. Sadly, it's still going strong.

² This list is adapted and modified from my personal notes from Pastor Fred Martin's sermon "What Do You Make of Miracles?" on Mark 4:35-5:43 on November 7, 2010.

1 Reject them... as legendary myths.

(After all, we're now in a more scientific age and we know better, right!?)³

Some people...

2 Reinterpret them. For example, the feeding of the 5,000.

Some people have suggested that this was just an example of one little boy's generous act, which then inspired others to share their food as well.⁴ (In other words, the multiplication of bread and fish wasn't a miracle of God, it was a miracle of human generosity and solidarity.)

Some people...

3 Receive them: Believe that our wonder-working God does miracles when and where He chooses to.⁵

To be clear, God's Word has strong support for the 3rd approach: Receive them, receive miracles from God. Friends, our God is a supernatural being; He's a wonder-working God. His very nature and essence are bound up in His extraordinarily supernatural power! Theologian B. B. Warfield refers to this Christian belief as "unembarrassed supernaturalism." We serve a wonder-working God and that's nothing to be embarrassed about.

From as far back as God's creation of all things back in Genesis, to the 10 plagues in Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea, our God has revealed Himself as an all-powerful, wonder-working God. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."⁶ Exodus 14:21-22 says, "21 Then Moses stretched out his hands over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left." We can trace God's miraculous works from the very beginning of Scripture, all the way through to the time of Jesus and the Apostles, and even right up to our current day, and then even further on to Jesus' future glorious 2nd coming.⁷ But sometimes, in our modern-day, scientific world, we may begin to loosen our grip on this part of our beliefs. It's probably not intentional, but

³ In our modern-day western world, we tend to explain away and dismiss anything supernatural as uneducated nonsense. After all, in our modern arrogance, WE now know and understand EVERYTHING because we're SO smart due to our advanced education and scientific reasoning. However, this way of thinking endangers a right understanding of our God, who is an unseen Spirit, and who has power to work wonders far beyond our limited, meager, human understanding. Ironically, this often leaves those who are less educated, and less informed about modern breakthroughs, not only more open to God's supernatural work, but also much more likely to receive and experience its wonder and blessings. There's something helpful and blessed about having faith like a child. If our God is not a supernatural wonder-working God, then what kind of God is He really? Unimpressive? Uninterested? Unworthy of our highest praise and admiration? I don't think so. See discussion by Darrell L. Bock, *Acts*, Baker, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007, pp. 426-427.

⁴ The story about Stone Soup comes to mind. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stone_Soup

⁵ When I hear this phrase, "wonder working," I can't help but think of the old hymn: Power in the Blood. Listen here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBqUwpCvCL8>

⁶ Jehovah God, the one true God, has been proving Himself to mankind all throughout our history. As far back as the first day of creation. Romans 1:20 reminds us, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made...." (See also Acts 17:24-28.) In other words, the very fact that we are CREATED beings, speaks clearly to the reality that our Creator is a supernatural God. If we don't believe this, then we don't believe the God of the Bible.

⁷ We often rejoice in the miracle of Jesus being raised from the dead on Easter morning. But we dare not forget the still-to-come future miracle of the resurrection of every believer Christ who will one day be supernaturally raised at Jesus' 2nd coming. 1 Corinthians 15:13 says, "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised."

it's certainly dangerous, because we begin to lose track of God's supernatural essence and His miraculous power. Allowing ourselves to fade into a weak and watered-down view of God, can cause us to lose our reverence for God's awesome being, and to diminish our worship of His glory. We dare not forget who we're dealing with here, lest our Christian faith become weak and anemic.⁸ The point is simply this: without a supernatural God, who does miraculous signs and wonders, we really have no "god" at all. After all, the Christian faith isn't just an organized system of good teachings or a collection of moral truths, which inspire us to sing nice songs each week. The Christian faith is directly grounded in our connection to the Living God, who is the all-powerful, supernatural, wonder-working, awesome Creator of the universe!

So some people chose to reject miracles, and others reinterpret them, but I recommend that we receive them whenever and wherever God chooses to do them. Receiving miracles, then leads us to **three Christian understandings of miracles**.⁹ Some Christians believe that...

1 Miracles used to happen... but they're unique to the Old and New Testaments. (This is known as the Cessationist View, which believes that miraculous signs and wonders have ceased in our modern day and age. There's simply no need for them now that we have the completed Bible.) Other Christians believe that...

2 Miracles have to happen: God is obligated to do them today. (One of the more popular versions of this is called the Prosperity Gospel View, which teaches that as long as we can muster up enough of the right kind of faith, then we can "name it and claim it"; God is expected to prosper our lives with health and wealth every time.) Still other Christians believe that...

3 Miracles can still happen: God still does them, but only when and where He chooses. (We could call this something like the Sovereignty of God View. There are no doubts about God's ability to do miracles, but there are also no delusions that we can tell God what to do... or when to do it. We pray, "Thy will be done," and we trust God's decision.)

God's Word shows the best support for this 3rd understanding. This is based on all that we've already talked about, but also on the unchanging nature of God, and His unending rule and reign. In Malachi 3:6, God declares: "I the LORD do not change...."¹⁰ Psalm 9:7 says, "The LORD reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment."¹¹ God is still ruling and reigning over all things; He's going to see things through right on

⁸ For example, consider what happened to Ananias and Saphira in Acts 5:1-11; they forgot who they were dealing with, when they tried to lie to God. Trifling with the supernatural, almighty, living God cost them their very lives.

⁹ This list is adapted and modified from my personal notes from Pastor Fred Martin's sermon "What Do You Make of Miracles?" on Mark 4:35-5:43 on November 7, 2010.

¹⁰ Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." See also Numbers 23:19 and Psalm 102:27.

¹¹ Revelation 19:6 declares: "...Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns."

into eternity. And, given His unchanging nature, and His unending rule and reign, there's no reason to think that He'd stop working in supernatural ways.

Now, that said, Scripture does seem to indicate that there are various seasons of ebb and flow in God's sovereign plans. For example, God allowed a long season of captivity in Egypt, before He eventually set His people free. Exodus 12:40 says, "Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years." So as much as we may marvel over the 10 plagues, and the parting of the Red Sea, we should keep in mind that for over 400 years God's people didn't appear to be experiencing any miracles at all. God's supernatural activity was relatively quiet, which was according to His perfectly timed plan.¹²

1 Samuel 3:1 is another example: "The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. *In those days* the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions."^{13 14} We could also consider the 400 silent years between the Old and New Testaments. It was a quiet season followed by a busy season of seemingly constant supernatural activity in the 1st century. What we're getting at here is that the Bible records times of more and less supernatural activity throughout human history. The now-departed pastor/theologian John Stott said it this way: "the thrust of the Bible is that miracles clustered... at fresh [eras] of revelation, particularly Moses the lawgiver, the new prophetic witness spearheaded by Elijah and Elisha, the Messianic ministry of Jesus, and the apostles."¹⁵ So, it could very well be that right now is a season of ebbing tides. And, it could be that this ebb may turn to a flow at any given moment. It's no more predictable, than it is containable or controllable, because GOD is the One who's in charge of when and where He works in supernatural ways.^{16 17} So we need to trust God to do His work, in His way, and according to His own timetable.¹⁸

With this understanding in mind, that "Miracles can still happen," let's circle back to the other two views: the Cessationist View and the Prosperity Gospel View. First of all, I respectfully disagree with those who hold to a strict Cessationist View. There are some within Christian orthodoxy who

¹² Consider Mark 1:15; Romans 5:6; Galatians 4:4; and Ephesians 1:10.

¹³ Consider Amos 8:11-12, Matthew 13:58, and Revelation 1:20, 2:5

¹⁴ Numbers 12:6 says, "...When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams." (*Implying that there will be times WHEN a prophet is NOT among you.*)

¹⁵ John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Acts*, IVP, Downers Grove, IL, 1990, bottom of p. 102.

¹⁶ John Stott says, "If, then, we take Scripture as our guide, we will avoid opposite extremes. We will neither describe miracles as 'never happening', nor as 'everyday occurrences', neither as 'impossible' nor as 'normal'. ...And when a healing miracle is claimed, we will expect it to resemble those in the Gospels and the Acts... inviting investigation and persuading even unbelievers." John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Acts*, IVP, Downers Grove, IL, 1990, p. 104.

¹⁷ In the words of the hymn: "God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform." (#73 in our hymnal)

¹⁸ Intriguingly, among the persecuted church, and in areas of pervasive unbelief, where resistance to the gospel is still strong, God is breaking through in miraculous ways. There are a number of reports, even recently, of God sending people dreams and visions, and performing miraculous signs and healings in Jesus' name. "There may well be situations in which miracles are appropriate today, for example, on the frontiers of missions and in atmospheres of pervasive unbelief." John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Acts*, IVP, Downers Grove, IL, 1990, pp. 102-103.

hold to this view, and they do have some limited biblical grounds for their viewpoint.¹⁹ However, their view is unconvincing when placed next to the whole counsel of Scripture, which lends much more support for the “Sovereignty of God View”.^{20 21}

The Prosperity Gospel View, on the other hand, has absolutely no valid biblical ground to stand on. It’s based on an entirely false understanding that every single believer in God should be healthy and wealthy all of the time, as long as they can drum up enough of the right kind of faith.^{22 23} Friends, this does not line up, in the least, with the teaching of Scripture, so beware, lest you be led astray by this unbiblical view of miracles. This view is particularly prominent today, including right here in America. The Prosperity Gospel continues to greatly mislead and deeply harm millions of people, while it continues to raise hundreds of millions of dollars for its proponents. Now, I don’t mean to offend anyone, but these proponents include popular, high-profile names, like Kenneth Copeland, Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyer, T.D. Jakes, and Paula White, just to name a few.^{24 25}

¹⁹ For example, consider Hebrews 1:1-2, which mentions that in the past God spoke through the prophets, but in last days He’s spoken by His Son. And 1 Corinthians 13:8-12, which some believe refers to the completion of the biblical canon. In other words, God Himself does not change (He is immutable – Hebrews 13:8), but His way of operating in our world does sometimes change according to His plan and purposes throughout certain eras of human history.

²⁰ Many fine Bible scholars hold to Cessationism. And I would imagine that even some of us do, at least, to a limited degree. Cessationists don’t necessarily lack faith or a passion for Jesus, nor are they trying to be unreasonable. Their thought process goes something like this. God only worked through signs and wonders at key points in history, when He was delivering some new special revelation. Now that we have His complete revelation in His written Word (the Bible), there’s not the same pressing need for signs and wonders in our current day and age. One author explains it this way: “When God delivers new special revelation, He employs extraordinary methods such as prophecy and tongues to deliver that revelation... extraordinary signs such as miracles, to confirm those whom we should receive (prophets and Apostles) as His inspired deliverers of that revelation. Consequently, when God is not delivering new special revelation, He does not use extraordinary methods and signs; rather, He works in and through the exposition of His special revelation (Scripture) by gifted teachers and duly appointed church elders.” He goes on to say, “God’s people have gone centuries without a prophet at various times in history. For example, God did not speak to His people by prophets—at least by prophets as we normally conceive of them—from Abraham to Moses. Moreover, first-century Jews recognized that the Lord sent no prophets during the four centuries or so between Malachi and John the Baptist. Yet, God was at work in those eras even when there were no prophets.” Robert Rothwell, *Cessationism*, Tabletalk magazine, April 2020.

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2020/04/cessationism/>

²¹ We should note, that within the EFCA, we don’t see this as an issue to divide over. I don’t personally agree with Cessationism, other than in perhaps a very limited way (This is well articulated in a Theocast podcast: <https://theocast.org/blogs/theocast/what-about-tongues-healing-and-prophecy>) In fact, I’ll admit there are some verses in the Bible that do seem to support at least part of this way of thinking. For example, Hebrews 1:1-2 says, “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.”

²² Scripture not always, but often, ties faith and miracles together, so it’s worth considering where our personal faith stands in relation to believing in God’s wonder-working power. However, unfortunately, overfocusing on FAITH has led many people in various wrong directions. Some of us end up in shame and embarrassment, because we assume that our faith has fallen short, and that’s the explanation for God not granting our miracle. Others end up embracing an attitude of arrogance and entitlement, thinking we can control God’s hand because we’ve drummed up enough of the right kind of faith.

²³ A favorite expression of Luke was “your faith has ‘saved’ you” (cf. 7:50; 8:48; 17:19; 18:42). For the tie between faith and miracles, cf. 7:9, 50; 8:25, 40, 50; 17:5, 6, 19; 18:42. (Robert H. Stein, Luke, vol. 24, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 176.)

²⁴ Learn more about “Word of Faith” beliefs here: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Word-Faith.html>

²⁵ Here are some other helpful articles regarding the dangers of the Prosperity Gospel: “What is the Prosperity Gospel?” by John Piper: <https://youtu.be/jLRue4nwJaA> Links to various Desiring God articles regarding the Prosperity Gospel: <https://www.desiringgod.org/search/results?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=Prosperity-gospel#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=Prosperity%20gospel&gsc.page=1>

1 Thessalonians 5:21 teaches us to "...test them all; hold on to what is good."²⁶ And there are indeed some good things that these various Christian leaders have taught. But, those good things, are mixed in with a deeply concerning pattern of unbiblical teachings. And when any teacher of God's Word finds themselves off base and out of sync with Scripture, they should immediately correct their course, lest they become guilty of teaching a false gospel.²⁷ ²⁸ The false teachings of the Prosperity Gospel have disenfranchised the faith of millions of Christians around the world, who've been devastated by unmet expectations from false promises and lies. They believed they could trust the men and women who were making these false promises, because they're so convincing in the way they misrepresent God's Word in order to make money. This is why every believer needs to be part of a biblically grounded local church that holds its leaders accountable for what they preach.²⁹ To be clear, Jesus never said "come and follow me and you'll always be healthy/wealthy." Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."³⁰

Regarding our health, temporary suffering is sometimes part of God's plan. 1 Peter 1:6-7 reminds us, "6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."³¹

- Paul's thorn in the flesh had a purpose: to keep him humble and to reveal how God's power is made perfect in weakness.³²

- Job's suffering had a purpose: to display the eventual blessing that comes from faith that ENDURES through deep loss and struggle.³³

- Even Christians of sincere faith and deep godliness, are not promised perfect health. As believers, our suffering has a purpose, so let's not allow teachings like the Prosperity Gospel to lead us away from what God is really up to.³⁴

²⁶ Romans 16:18 says, "By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naïve people." 1 John 4:1 warns us, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." 2 Timothy 4:3 predicts, "For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." 2 Peter chapter 2 records a chilling description of the corruptness of false teachers and their eventual destruction under God's wrath. Acts 20:29-32 warns of savage wolves, even from your own number, distorting the truth. See Colossians 2:8.

²⁷ James 3:1 says that "we who teach will be judged more strictly."

²⁸ Galatians 1:6-7 comes to mind, "6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ."

²⁹ Consider the Berean Jews in Acts 17:11, as well as the sober message of Jeremiah 23:33-40.

³⁰ Luke 14:27.

³¹ Consider Hebrews 2:10.

³² 2 Corinthians 12:1-10.

³³ See Job 42:10-17 and James 5:11.

³⁴ 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 says, "16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us

Regarding our wealth, contentment is clearly God's plan. 1 Timothy 6:6-10 says, "6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." So God is not obligated to give us whatever miraculous provision that we ask for. He doesn't "have to" give us what we want just because we're His children. He doesn't owe us because we've mustered up enough of the right kind of faith for a transactional give and take.

There's a ton of inaccurate and misleading information out there regarding miracles, so let me recommend a few resources that you may find helpful:

Miraculous Healing (Why Does God Heal Some and Not Others?)
by Henry Frost (This one may be a little tough to find.)

A Place of Healing (Wrestling with the Mysteries of Suffering, Pain, and God's Sovereignty) by Joni Eareckson Tada

Suffering is Never for Nothing by Elisabeth Elliot

The Problem of Pain by C. S. Lewis

I also came across a relevant podcast episode this week on the **Theocast**. (Full disclosure, it's from a Reformed perspective.) That said, their recent episode from February 12th, 2025, is titled: "What about Tongues, Healing, and Prophecy?" It's quite good and I'd recommend giving it a listen if you want to learn more about God's supernatural work in our current day.³⁵

In terms of today's message title: "Are miracles for Today?", the answer is yes, but yes within a biblically informed framework. Whenever God chooses to perform a miraculous work, we should receive it as a gift from God, and give Him the praise! With all that we've considered today, let's make sure that our prayers include asking God to do miraculous things. Let's not allow our past hurts or disappointments, or our confusion about the supernatural, to hinder us from humbly asking God to move in miraculous ways. And then let's wait and see what He does.

Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."³⁶ ³⁷ Should we actually pray for miracles though? Well, on

an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

³⁵ My thanks to my friend Tom Sehman who mentioned this episode to me during a phone call this week.

³⁶ See also Ephesians 3:12.

³⁷ Jesus' Parable of the Persistent Widow in Luke 18:1 says, "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." Jesus taught His disciples to ask, seek, and knock.

the one hand, if we're not careful with our understanding of the framework, praying for miracles could present a danger of raising false hopes, or of disenfranchising our faith. On the other hand though, *not* praying for miracles, presents the danger of diminishing our understanding of God's glory and what He's capable of. Not praying also puts us at risk of missing out on God's supernatural activity in our lives, and in the lives of the people we love, including the ministries about which we care so deeply.

When Jesus taught His followers to pray in Matthew 6, the prayer began like this: "9 ...Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." And when Jesus prayed in the garden He modeled this same pattern in Luke 22:42, "...yet not my will, but yours be done." So even as we approach the throne of grace with freedom and confidence, we also approach with humility as we offer up our requests according to God's will.^{38 39} The author Henry Frost says it this way: "Faith means trusting in God's sovereignty so that when God does not answer as requested, the believer rests content in God's mysterious but sufficient grace."^{40 41}

Friend, we can trust God as He does His good and perfect will. We know His power is unlimited, and we also know His ways are not our ways.⁴² He works all things for the good of those who love Him and for His ultimate glory, but not always in the ways we might choose. And often not according to the timing we might prefer. But since we know that we're praying to a wonder-working God, let's make sure that our prayers aren't small or trivial.⁴³ The name of Jesus is not small, and it is not trivial! The name of Jesus is mighty and powerful! So let's pray in the name of Jesus, let's call out to God boldly and humbly, and then let's watch for His will to be done.

³⁸ Compare and contrast Luke 18:9-14 with Hebrews 4:14-16.

³⁹ Yes, we should approach God with reverent humility. NO, we cannot and should not demand anything from God. And certainly, we always pray for God's will to be done, not ours. Even so, the biblical model for prayer is boldness and persistence. Even audacity. See Luke 11:8-13 and James 4:2b-3, 5:13-16. Also consider Exodus 6:5. Contrast Isaiah 38:5 with 2 Chronicles 16:12-13.

⁴⁰ Taken from the article, "Should Christians Today Expect God to Heal Them?" (Observations of Henry Frost), p. 2.

⁴¹ The beautiful faith of Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego comes to mind from [Daniel 3:17-18](#), "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. 18 But even if he does not..."

⁴² See Isaiah 55:8-9 as well as 40:13-14.

⁴³ Now, it could be that we are simply in a period of history where there is a little bit of a lull in God's plan for signs and wonders. And we should never make disrespectful demands of God as though He were some kind of a magical genie or vending machine. But as long as we ask with a genuine reverence for God, as long as we trust His sovereignty and pray "thy will be done," it would be more than appropriate for us to pray bigger than we do.