

Shalom! Let's reflect on an important truth about miracles and God's purpose for them.

#### Two Purposes of Miracles

Jesus allows miracles in our lives for **two main reasons**:

1. **To bless us and meet our needs** (so we can benefit).
2. **To lead us to repentance**—a change of heart and turning to God.

Many Christians focus on the first reason—seeking miracles for healing, financial breakthroughs, or answered prayers. However, the second reason—**repentance**—is the most important. God's ultimate desire is not just to bless us but to transform us (**2 Corinthians 7:10: “*For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation...*”**).

#### The Example of Peter's Response

When Jesus performed the miracle of the huge catch of fish (Luke 5:4-9), Peter did not just rejoice over the blessing. Instead, he recognized his sinfulness and repented immediately:

“When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!’” (*Luke 5:8*).

This shows that miracles should lead to **awareness of our sin and a desire to change**, not just gratitude for material blessings.

#### The Danger of Rejecting Repentance

Jesus performed many miracles in towns like Bethsaida, Capernaum, and Chorazin (Matthew 11:20-24), but the people did not repent. They enjoyed the miracles without changing their hearts or lives. Because of this, Jesus pronounced a stern warning:

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago... it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.” (*Matthew 11:21-22*)

This passage shows that **miracles alone do not guarantee salvation**. What matters is how we respond. Rejecting the call to repentance leads to judgment.

#### The Purpose of Miracles

From Scripture, we understand that miracles are **signs (John 2:11: “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee...”)** meant to point us to God and His holiness. They are not ends in themselves. They reveal God’s power and goodness but also His justice and call to repentance **(Romans 2:4-5):**

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”

God’s mercy through miracles is an invitation to **turn away from sin and live a holy life** (1 Peter 1:16: “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”).

#### Your Response to God’s Miracles

If God answers your prayers or performs a miracle in your life, understand this as a message: He loves you and wants you to repent. He is not approving any sin or wrong behavior you continue to live in. Miracles should motivate us to:

- Repent sincerely.
- Turn from sin and live according to God's will.
- Receive baptism and the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38: ***"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized...and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."***).

Do not just enjoy the blessings and miracles—allow them to transform you. God's ultimate purpose is not only to bless but to save your soul by leading you to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

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