

**EVANGEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)**

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**Sunday Worship 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM**

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**Who Needs Miracles?**

In Matthew 12:22 we find Jesus healing a demon possessed man. The crowd was amazed and began to wonder if Jesus might be the promised Messiah. The religious leaders sought to deflect their admiration but Jesus quickly silenced them.—Matthew 12:23-37

Then some of the Jewish scholars stepped forward and said, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.” But He responded, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign, and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet.”

Faith is believing what God has said because it is God who said it. It is the Holy Spirit who gives faith.—Ephesians 2:8-9 Just as it is the Holy Spirit who gives spiritual life.—Ephesians 2:5 This request for a sign was an exercise in unbelief. Jesus would not cater to their unbelief; He would not let them set the standard of Faith.

As C.S. Lewis says, “The irresistible and the indisputable are the two weapons which the very nature of God’s scheme forbids Him to use.” Remember without Faith it is impossible to please Him. Paul writes, “Hope that is seen is not hope.”—Romans 8:24

Faith is being certain of what God has told us. Faith grows not by seeing miracles but by studying God’s Word and making use of the means of grace which God has provided to His Church.

We have been given a completed revelation via the incarnate Word and the written Word.—Hebrews 1:1-2 We are to expect no new revelation to answer immediate problems. God’s Word has been, “Once for all delivered to the saints.”—Jude 3

Many today lament the fact that Jesus is not here to do His remarkable miracles. Many can’t stand the absence of these miracle working powers and invent these powers themselves and claim they possess them.

People wouldn’t feel so desolate about this and imagine that they too have such powers if they realized what these miracles were to indicate.

The real wonder was not that Christ raised the dead, made the blind to see and the lame to walk. The real miracle, that continues, is the healing of the soul of which these other miracles are mere indications.

Perhaps the best illustration of this is the healing of the paralytic who was carried to Jesus.—Matthew 9:2-7 He first said, “Your sins are forgiven.” The scribes said, “Who does this man think he is that he can forgive sins?” Jesus didn’t say, “I am the Son of God.” He said, “Which is harder to say, your sins be forgiven you or take up your bed and walk? But to show you that I, the Son of Man, have authority to forgive sins,” He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed and walk” and he arose and took up his bed and walked.

Jesus is saying, a person who has power in Himself to do miracles, can forgive sins. The real significance of Christ’s miracles was the ability to forgive and bestow life.

No one today has the power to make the dead rise, the lame walk and the blind see. But we have a much greater power. We have the power to say, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved forever.” I am not handicapped because I cannot with a word, raise the dead etc. I can do something far greater than that. I can declare to you on the authority of Jesus Christ; you lame, you blind, you with Aids, whatever your affliction may be; if you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ you will be saved body and soul forever.

Jesus said, “An evil and adulterous generation craves a sign...”—Matthew 12:39 Jesus offers us not a sign but Himself. He said, “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”—John 4:14