

The Power of Miracles in a 4G Network: From Mustard Seed to Mountain

By Dan Brown



God created the universe in miraculous fashion. It was not miraculous from His perspective, only from ours. Making stars and planets is all in a day's work for God. To us, it is more than we can fathom—it is a miracle. But God was just getting started. He then decided to try something really daunting, like creating humans. He didn't create us to be entertaining little creatures who scurry around getting themselves in trouble and making others miserable. He created us to have a relationship with Him so we could actualize His Holy Spirit in the world He created. He designed

us to be spiritual beings who are extensions of Him, to establish a network of ordinary people connected by an extraordinary Spirit. It is like the mother of all 4G Networks—God, Grace, Gratitude, and Glory—with better coverage than AT&T and Verizon combined. The power of the network flows from the source—God, and extends to us by His Grace—His unconditional love for us and forgiveness of our sinful nature, which we have done nothing to deserve. For this extraordinary gift of Grace, we should be overflowing with Gratitude—unconditionally thankful for the every aspect of our lives and the endless ways in which God blesses us and provides for us. The least we can do is to Glorify Him in everything we do.

And so, when we fulfill God's true purpose for our lives, the way we were originally designed, the Holy Spirit flows through us and enables God's power to accomplish things that are miraculous to us, but routine to Him. Like when Moses split the Red Sea. God didn't "just do it" himself (*He must not have been wearing Nikes that day*) although he could have. No, instead He recruited an accomplice. God told Moses to raise His staff and Moses faithfully obeyed. THEN, and only then, God let His Spirit flow through Moses and voila—the seas parted. But that was Moses. What about those of us who've never split a sea or written five books of the Bible? What can WE do? Not to worry; God had not yet unveiled where He was going with all of this miracle stuff. Even the miraculous exploits of the likes of Joshua, David, and Nehemiah failed to uncover His real agenda.

Along came Jesus. He didn't operate on a "Moses" scale. Jesus sought to be discreet and unassuming, just one of the guys. He was a subtle miracle-worker who preferred to blend in with the crowd. Jesus walked around doing His Father's work up close and personal. He could have performed big awe-inspiring miracles on a grand scale, but instead chose to play the role of humble servant, sharing grace one person at a time. Jesus wanted to show us how WE can perform God's miracles. He set an example, modeling behavior that ANYBODY can do, anywhere, anytime. Jesus told us that what is impossible with men is possible with God (Luke 18:27), and he taught us that even though we can't perform miracles on our own, God is eager and willing to perform miracles through us. In Matthew 17:14-18, Jesus rebuked a demon and His disciples were bummed because they couldn't do it. Then, in verses 19 and 20, Jesus set them straight: *Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

Wow. Nothing is impossible for us when we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. Nothing is impossible for us when we seek to apply our gifts in service to others according to God's will. Nothing is impossible for us when we administer God's grace in its various forms, because it's God's power doing the work, not ours. That's what Peter teaches us about the etiology of miracles (1 Peter 4:10). Peter had firsthand experience performing miracles in the name of Jesus and he openly professed that the miraculous power came from Jesus, not himself (Acts 3:16). We cannot perform miracles on our own; that's impossible. But we can pray for God to reveal to us miracles that He wants to perform through us. That's possible, if we have the faith of a mustard seed. It's amazing to consider that the God of the universe, the omnipotent, omniscient, transcendent Creator of all, relies on us to do His work. He designed this whole miracle thing such that it requires our participation! We are the vehicles by which His power comes to life in the world. We are the answers to each other's prayers. What could be more satisfying than being used by the God of the universe for His purposes? What endeavor could possibly bring greater joy to our hearts? What could be more worthy of thanksgiving? As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, *"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Pray for God to reveal to you the mission that He has ordained for you since the beginning of time. That is your true mission.

Your mission field is neither a foreign country nor a fixed location. It surrounds you 24-7 and travels with you wherever you go. The people you encounter on your mission field, whether they know it or not, are counting on you to be an agent of God, bringing miracles of hope into their lives. *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 15:13). How awesome is that? Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to bring hope to others and experience God's joy and peace as a reward. Indeed, we serve an awesome God. How blessed are we to be connected to His 4G network? He has overcome the world and given us the power to move mountains—all we need to overcome is a tiny little mustard seed. And whatever happens thereafter is truly a miracle.

Read: Romans 12:1-13:1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 4:1-15; 1 Peter 4:7-10

What are the spiritual gifts that God has given you?

What opportunities has God created for you to apply your gifts in service to others?

How can you glorify God by serving others in the same spirit of grace that He has shown to you?

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