

## The Wonder GAP

What is a Miracle

Acts 16:16-40 and Matthew 26:38-40

A miracle is a supernatural act of God that temporarily suspends the laws of nature. (the natural order of things)

Miracles are always done by God to further God's purpose (will) on earth.

It is right to ask God to do what he alone can do - and he likes it.

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*1 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. 2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. 3 When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. 4 After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.*

*5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. 6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was **sleeping** between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. 7 Suddenly an **angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell**. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the **chains fell off Peter's wrists**. 8 Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. 9 Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. 10 They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. **It opened for them by itself**, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.*

*11 Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."*

*12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. 13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"*

15 *"You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."*

16 *But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. 17 Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this," he said, and then he left for another place.*

Acts 12:1-17

### **Do you find it easy to believe in miracles?**

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Introduce Prayer

Music

Sermon Part 2

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### **The Wonder GAP**

What is a Miracle

Acts 16:16-40 and Matthew 26:38-40

### **Miracle**

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. James 1:5-9*

**Wisdom:** a view of our life from God's perspective.

The questions I should be asking...

- Who am I supposed to be?
- How am I supposed to be?
- Where am I supposed to be?

**What is God 'up' to?**

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**You are ‘in line’ to witness a miracle**

**‘if’**

what you are praying is in line with God’s will  
and serves His purpose here on earth.

**Forgive me.**

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9).*

**Give me strength to obey.**

*12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. (Philippians 2:12–13)*

**Give me a part to play in God’s mission.**

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14).*

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**When we pray, we are not choosing a proposition**

**We are choosing a posture.**

*6 **Humble yourselves**, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because **he cares for you**.*

1 Peter 5:6-7