

life group study guide
Faith vs. the Impossible
October 13, 2013



Faith vs. the impossible. What an interesting couple of words to use together. When one has faith, is anything *impossible*? I suspect we as Christians already know, that seeing the evidence or not, all things are possible with God. We even have confirmation of that hope, that belief...

Read

Matthew 19:23-26

2 Kings 4:1-7

As Christians, I think it is a fair assumption that we are starting from the foundation that God is in control of all things, and that we have a core understanding of who God is and how He "operates," for lack of a better word... I don't really believe in coincidences, and as we progress, can we agree that no matter how we word it, miracles, or the impossible accomplished, God has overseen both? This lesson is written from that perspective...

So let's start with defining some words- what is the difference between "the impossible" and a "miracle"? Are they the same thing?

If discussion says they are something different, what separates them?

If we have separated them, then what is the world's definition of a miracle? What is a Christian's definition of a miracle?

Would a non-Christian profess a belief in miracles? If so, what would be the cause of such an event?

In the story of the widow, is God doing the impossible; is it a miracle or both?

What constitutes God doing the "impossible?"

What constitutes God performing a miracle?

So let's look at a few passages:

Read

Matthew 8:23-26- miracle or God doing the impossible

Matthew 17: 14-20 miracle or God doing the impossible

John 11: 38-44 miracle or God doing the impossible

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A plane crashes and there is one survivor, is that a miracle, or just luck?

Is Childbirth a miracle?

If God has set the world in place, is any intervention by Him a miracle?

Are there things that are attributed miracles that have a natural cause, or are not miracles?

What about the reverse, are there things that should be accepted as a miracle but are rejected as such for a natural cause?

If we don't see it, or know of it, does that mean God hasn't answered or intervened somehow?

Let's turn this discussion inward...

Where in today's world do you think one might see God overcome the "impossible?"

What kinds of storms have you encountered where God overcame the impossible?

What mountain have you encountered where only faith could move it?

What have you seen, been part of, or heard about something that you think should or could be contributed to a miracle?

Where do you think God most intervenes on a regular basis that could or should be considered a miracle?

Money?

Jobs?

Relationships?

Health?

Something else?

I believe that God does intervene in this world, to overcome things that seem impossible as well as personal miracles in our lives. If we consider the list of possible areas that God intervenes, then let's look back to the text for a moment...

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Re-read 2 Kings 4:1-7

Verse 1- There is an insurmountable problem here. -- Does that sound familiar in some way?

Verse 2a- "How can I help you?" What an interesting question. She has come to Elisha and now he is asking how can I help you? -- When we go to God in prayer, when we seek His face, can you also see Him asking of us "How can I help you?" Yes, yes, He knows all things, that's not the point of faith though is it?

...Ask and it will be given... The widow came to Elisha for help with her problem, and he commanded her to ask of him... "How can I help?..."

Is there a correlation between Elisha's question to the woman and Jesus' words in Matthew -- "ASK AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU..." Matthew 7:7

Verse 2b "YOUR SERVANT HAS NOTHING THERE AT ALL"

I have nothing, Lord I am broken. There is nothing I can do to fix this myself...

Verse 3-4 Here Elisha is giving her instructions on what to do.

Verse 5, Consider her actions here-- Read verse 5 again-

Notice the widow's actions. She does as instructed, without question, she follows the commands given her. She has faith.

--When we are praying for God to intervene in some manner, are we being direct? Are we asking Him what we want from him? Is there a difference between taking prayer concerns to God and asking God to intervene?

When we pray and ask God to intervene in something in our lives are we seeking something impossible be done or are we asking for a miracle? Are we just sharing our daily concerns with Him? -Perfectly acceptable of course, but do we, can we grasp the difference?

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How is your faith? Is it strong enough to withstand the storms? Is it strong enough to go to God and ask Him for his intervention? For his hand in doing what seems so impossible to us?

-- "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks the door will be opened.--Matthew 7:7-8