A LIFE OF MIRACLES

365 day guide to prayer and miracles
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A 365-Day Guide to Prayer and Miracles

Bill Johnson
DAY 1 — THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE

Isaiah 58:10—And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 1]  

On a cold and rainy Saturday, church buses were sent to the neediest parts of our city, Redding, to find the homeless and the poor. The bride and groom eagerly anticipated their return and prepared a meal in their honor. The needy were to be the distinguished guests of their wedding.

Ralph and Colleen met while working in our ministry to the poor. They shared a passion for God and a love for the needy. Although it is common for the bride and groom to register for gifts at fine department stores, Ralph and Colleen did so at Target; and all they put on their wish list were coats, hats, gloves, and sleeping bags…to be given to their guests. This was not going to be a typical wedding.

In our pre-wedding meeting the bride and groom encouraged me to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in case He wanted to heal people during the wedding. They had created far too great a miracle opportunity for God not to do something extraordinary.

Following the ceremony, the newly married couple went directly to the reception hall, got behind the serving table, and dished the food for their guests. The hungry became satisfied. God was pleased.

But before the wedding ever started two or three people came to me with excitement in their voice. “There is somebody here who only has two and a half to three years to live!” We had crossed a milestone. Miracles of healing had become more common…to the point that a life-threatening disease seemed more like a potential miracle than it did something to fear. That in itself is a dream come true for me—people in North America expecting something supernatural from God!

They had created far too great a miracle opportunity for God not to do something extraordinary.
DAY 2 — THE MIRACLE CONTINUES

Mark 2:17—On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call on the righteous, but sinners.”

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 1]

His name was Luke. Luke walked with difficulty, needing the help of a cane. He wore braces on each arm, and a large brace around his neck.

My brother Bob and I brought him into the church kitchen, asking him about the braces on each arm. He told us his problem was carpal tunnel syndrome. We laid our hands on his wrists, commanding the tunnel to open and all numbness and pain to be gone. He then moved his hands freely, experiencing the healing he had just received.

When we asked him about his cane and the obvious problem with his leg, he described how he had suffered a horrible accident. As a result he had an artificial shin and hip and had even lost half a lung. When the surgeons put him back together, his leg was an inch too short. We commanded the leg to grow. It did. God was at work. He replaced one inch of missing bone and removed all the pain caused by Luke’s accident.

Next we asked about Luke’s neck. He told me he had cancer and was given a couple of years to live. He went on to explain that the brace was necessary because of the loss of the muscles in his neck. As we began to pray, I heard a doctor from our congregation command new muscles to grow. When we were finished, Luke turned his head from side to side. All was restored. He then placed his hand on the side of his neck and exclaimed, “The lumps are gone!”

His doctor gave him a clean bill of health, and the miracles continued long past the physical healing. Within weeks Luke got a job, the first time he had worked in 17 years. Jesus heals the whole person.

Jesus heals the whole person.
DAY 3 — JUST ANOTHER DAY

Romans 1:16—*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.*

BOOK QUOTE: *When Heaven Invades Earth*  [Chapter 1]

*Take time to read the first two entries. The healing that is shared in the last entry took place during the wedding in the first entry.*

Although this kind of wedding remains unusual, our church’s deliberate pursuit of the poor and the miracles are common. This story is true, and it is closer to the normal Christian life than what the Church normally experiences. The lack of miracles isn't because it is not in God’s will for us. The problem exists between our ears. As a result, a transformation—a *renewing of the mind*—is needed, and it’s only possible through a work of the Holy Spirit that typically comes upon desperate people.

The aforementioned bride and groom, although noble, are ordinary people who serve an extravagant Father. There wasn’t a great person involved, except for Jesus. All the rest of us simply made room for God, believing Him to be good 100 percent of the time. The risks that the bride and groom took were more than God could pass up. In the midst of this marriage celebration God invaded a home marked by hellish disease and established a testimony for His glory.

Stories of this nature are becoming the norm, and the company of people who have joined this quest for an authentic gospel—*the gospel of the Kingdom*—is increasing. Loving God and His people is an honor. We will no longer make up excuses for powerlessness because powerlessness is inexcusable. Our mandate is simple: raise up a generation that can openly display the raw power of God. This book is all about that journey…the quest for the King and His Kingdom.

*The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power* (1 Cor. 4:20).

*Seek first the kingdom of God* (Matt. 6:33).

*Our mandate is simple: raise up a generation that can openly display the raw power of God.*
DAY 4 — COMMISSION RESTORED

Acts 2:22—Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know.

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 2]

Jesus could not heal the sick. Neither could He deliver the tormented from demons or raise the dead. To believe otherwise is to ignore what He said about Himself, and more importantly, to miss the purpose of His self-imposed restriction to live as a man.

Jesus Christ said of Himself, “The Son can do nothing” (John 5:19). In the Greek language that word nothing has a unique meaning—it means “nothing,” just like it does in English! He had NO supernatural capabilities whatsoever! While He is 100 percent God, He chose to live with the same limitations that man would face once He was redeemed. He made that point over and over again. Jesus became the model for all who would embrace the invitation to invade the impossible in His name. He performed miracles, wonders, and signs, as a man in right relationship to God…not as God. If He performed miracles because He was God, then they would be unattainable for us. But if He did them as a man, I am responsible to pursue His lifestyle. Recapturing this simple truth changes everything…and makes possible a full restoration of the ministry of Jesus in His Church.

What were the distinctions of His humanity?

1. He had no sin to separate Him from the Father.
2. He was completely dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit working through Him.

What are the distinctions of our humanity?

1. We are sinners cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Through His sacrifice He has successfully dealt with the power and effect of sin for all who believe. Nothing now separates us from the Father. There remains only one unsettled issue—
2. How dependent on the Holy Spirit are we willing to live?

Jesus became the model for all who would embrace the invitation to invade the impossible in His name.
DAY 5 — THE ORIGINAL COMMISSION

Genesis 1:28—God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 2]

The backbone of Kingdom authority and power is found in the commission. Discovering God’s original commission and purpose for mankind can help to fortify our resolve to a life of history-changing significance. To find that truth we must go back to the beginning.

Man was created in the image of God and placed into the Father’s ultimate expression of beauty and peace: the Garden of Eden. Outside of that garden it was a different story. It was without the order and blessing contained within and was in great need of the touch of God’s delegated one—Adam.

Adam and Eve were placed in the garden with a mission. God said, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it” (Gen. 1:28). It was God’s intention that as they bore more children, who also lived under God’s rule, they would be extending the boundaries of His garden (His government) through the simplicity of their devotion to Him. The greater the number of people in right relationship to God, the greater the impact of their leadership. This process was to continue until the entire earth was covered with the glorious rule of God through man.

But in Genesis 1, we discover it’s not a perfect universe. Satan had rebelled and had been cast out of heaven, and with him a portion of the fallen angels took dominion of the earth. It’s obvious why the rest of the planet needed to be subdued—it was under the influence of darkness (Gen. 1:2). God could have destroyed the devil and his host with a word, but instead He chose to defeat darkness through His delegated authority—those made in His image who were lovers of God by choice.

Discovering God’s original commission and purpose for mankind can help to fortify our resolve to a life of history-changing significance.
Genesis 1:26—Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

BOOK QUOTE: *When Heaven Invades Earth* [Chapter 2]

The Sovereign One placed us—Adam’s children—in charge of planet earth. “The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; but the earth He has given to the children of men” (Ps. 115:16). This highest of honors was chosen because love always chooses the best. That is the beginning of the romance of our creation…created in His image, for intimacy, that dominion might be expressed through love. It is from this revelation that we are to learn to walk as His ambassadors, thus defeating the “Prince of this world.” The stage was set for all of darkness to fall as man exercised His godly influence over creation. But instead, man fell.

Satan didn’t come into the Garden of Eden violently and take possession of Adam and Eve. He couldn’t! Why? He had no dominion there. Dominion empowers. And since man was given the keys of dominion over the planet, the devil would have to get his authority from them. The suggestion to eat the forbidden fruit was simply the devil’s effort to get Adam and Eve to agree with him in opposition to God, thus empowering him. Through that agreement he is enabled to kill, steal, and destroy. It’s important to realize that even today satan is empowered through man’s agreement.

Mankind’s authority to rule was forfeited when Adam ate the forbidden fruit. Paul said, “You are that one’s slaves whom you obey” (Rom. 6:16). In that one act mankind became the slave and possession of the Evil One. All that Adam owned, including the title deed to the planet with its corresponding position of rule, became part of the devil’s spoil. God’s predetermined plan of redemption immediately kicked into play, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Gen. 3:15). Jesus would come to reclaim all that was lost.

That is the beginning of the romance of our creation…created in His image, for intimacy, that dominion might be expressed through love.
DAY 7 — THERE WERE NO SHORTCUTS TO HIS VICTORY

1 Corinthians 15:22—For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 2]

GOD’S plan of rulership for man never ceased. Jesus came to bear man’s penalty for sin and recapture what had been lost. Luke 19:10 says that Jesus came “to seek and to save that which was lost.” Not only was mankind lost to sin, his dominion over planet earth was also lost. Jesus came to recapture both. Satan tried to ruin that plan at the end of Jesus’ 40-day fast. The devil knew he wasn’t worthy of Jesus’ worship, but he also knew that Jesus had come to reclaim the authority that man had given away. Satan said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours” (Luke 4:6-7). Notice the phrase “for this has been delivered to me.” Satan could not steal it. It had been relinquished when Adam abandoned God’s rule. It was as though satan was saying to Jesus, “I know what You came for. You know what I want. Worship me and I’ll give You back the keys.” In effect, satan offered Jesus a shortcut to His goal of recapturing the keys of authority that man lost through sin. Jesus said “no” to the shortcut and refused to give him any honor. (It was this same desire for worship that caused satan’s fall from Heaven in the first place. See Isaiah 14:12.) Jesus held His course, for He had come to die.

The Father wanted satan defeated by man…one made in His image. Jesus, who would shed His blood to redeem mankind, emptied Himself of His rights as God and took upon Himself the limitations of man. Satan was defeated by a man—the Son of Man, who was rightly related to God. Now, as people receive the work of Christ on the cross for salvation, they become grafted into that victory. Jesus defeated the devil with His sinless life, defeated him in His death by paying for our sins with His blood, and again, in the resurrection, rising triumphant with the keys of death and hell.

Now, as people receive the work of Christ on the cross for salvation, they become grafted into that victory.
DAY 8 — WE ARE BORN TO RULE

Romans 5:17—For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 2]

IN redeeming man, Jesus retrieved what man had given away. From the throne of triumph He declared, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore…” (Matt. 28:18-19). In other words: I got it all back. Now go use it and reclaim mankind. In this passage Jesus fulfills the promise He made to the disciples when He said, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 16:19). The original plan was never aborted; it was fully realized once and for all in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. We were then to be completely restored to His plan of ruling as a people made in His image. And as such we would learn how to enforce the victory obtained at Calvary: “The God of peace will soon crush satan under your feet” (Rom. 16:20 NIV).

We were born to rule—rule over creation, over darkness—to plunder hell and establish the rule of Jesus wherever we go by preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. Kingdom means: King’s domain. In the original purpose of God, mankind ruled over creation. Now that sin has entered the world, creation has been infected by darkness, namely: disease, sickness, afflicting spirits, poverty, natural disasters, demonic influence, etc. Our rule is still over creation, but now it is focused on exposing and undoing the works of the devil. We are to give what we have received to reach that end (Rom. 16:20 NIV). If I truly receive power from an encounter with the God of power, I am equipped to give it away. The invasion of God into impossible situations comes through a people who have received power from on high and learn to release it into the circumstances of life.

Our rule is still over creation, but now it is focused on exposing and undoing the works of the devil.
DAY 9 — THE KEY OF DAVID

Matthew 16:19—I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 2]

The gospel of salvation is to touch the whole man: spirit, soul, and body. A study on the word evil confirms the intended reach of His redemption. That word is found in Matthew 6:13 (KJV), “Deliver us from evil.” The word evil represents the entire curse of sin upon man. Poneros, the Greek word for evil, came from the word ponos, meaning “pain.” And that word came from the root word penes, meaning “poor.” Look at it: evil—sin, pain—sickness, and poor—poverty.

Jesus destroyed the power of sin, sickness, and poverty through His redemptive work on the cross. In Adam and Eve’s commission to subdue the earth, they were without sickness, poverty, and sin. Now that we are restored to His original purpose, should we expect anything less? After all, this is called the better covenant!

We were given the keys to the Kingdom—which in part is the authority to trample over all the powers of hell (Matt. 16:19; Luke 10:19). There is a phrase key of David, which is mentioned in both Revelation and Isaiah (Rev. 3:7; Isa. 22:22). All that the Father has is ours through Christ. His entire treasure is at our disposal in order to fulfill His commission. But the more sobering part of this illustration is found in controlling who gets in to see the King. Isn’t that what we do with this gospel? When we declare it, we give opportunity for people to come to the King to be saved. When we are silent, we have chosen to keep those who would hear away from eternal life. It was a costly key for Him to purchase, and it’s a costly key for us to use. But, it’s even more costly to bury it and not obtain an increase for the coming King. That price will be felt throughout eternity.

When we are silent, we have chosen to keep those who would hear away from eternal life.
DAY 10 — A REVOLUTION IN IDENTITY

Ephesians 3:20—Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 2]

It’s time for a revolution in our vision. When prophets tell us, your vision is too small, many of us think the antidote is to increase whatever numbers we’re expecting. For example: if we’re expecting 10 new converts, let’s change it to 100. If we were praying for cities, let’s pray instead for nations. With such responses, we’re missing the sharp edge of the frequently repeated word. Increasing the numbers is not necessarily a sign of a larger vision from God’s perspective. Vision starts with identity and purpose. Through a revolution in our identity, we can think with divine purpose. Such a change begins with a revelation of Him.

Some believe that the condition of the Church will always be getting worse; therefore, tragedy in the Church is just another sign of these being the last days. In a perverted sense, the weakness of the Church confirms to many that they are on the right course. The worsening condition of the world and the Church becomes a sign to them that all is well. This kind of thinking requires no faith!

Embracing a belief system that requires no faith is dangerous. It is contrary to the nature of God and all that the Scriptures declare. Since He plans to do above all we could ask or think, according to Ephesians 3:20, His promises by nature challenge our intellect and expectations. The result of forgetting His promises is not one we can afford.

We are often more convinced of our unworthiness than we are of His worth. Our inability takes on greater focus than does His ability. But the same One who called fearful Gideon a Mighty Warrior and unstable Peter a Rock has called us the Body of His beloved Son on earth (Judg. 6:12; Matt. 16:18). That has to count for something.

Embracing a belief system that requires no faith is dangerous.
DAY 11 — REPENT TO SEE

Luke 24:47—And repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 3]

Israel expected their Messiah to come as the King who would rule over all other kings. And He did. But their misunderstanding of greatness in His Kingdom made it difficult for them to grasp how He could be born without earthly fanfare and become the servant of all.

They expected Him to rule with a rod of iron. In doing so they would finally have revenge on all those who had oppressed them throughout the ages. Little did they realize that His vengeance would not be aimed so much at the enemies of Israel as it would be toward the enemies of man: sin, the devil and his works, and the self-righteous attitudes fostered by religion.

Jesus the Messiah came…full of surprises. Only the contrite in heart could keep up with His constant coloring outside the lines and stay unoffended. His purpose was revealed in His primary message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17). Now there’s something that caught them completely off guard; He brought His world with Him!

Repentance means much more than weeping over sin, or even turning from those sins to follow God. In fact, turning from sin to God is more the result of true repentance than it is the actual act. Repentance means you “change your way of thinking.” And it’s only in changing the way we think that we can discover the focus of Jesus’ ministry—the Kingdom.

This is not just a heavenly mandate to have happy thoughts. Obeying this command is possible only for those who surrender to the grace of God. The renewed mind is the result of a surrendered heart.

Repentance means you
“change your way of thinking”
DAY 12 — AN ABOUT-FACE

Hebrews 6:1—Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God.

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 3]

Repentance is often defined as doing an about-face. It implies that I was pursuing one direction in life, and I change to pursue another. Scripture illustrates it like this, “Repentance from dead works...faith toward God” (Heb. 6:1). Faith then is both the crown and the enabler of repentance.

This command has been preached strongly in recent years. It has kept us from the purity that breeds boldness and great faith. Repentance is not complete until it envisions His Kingdom.

The focus of repentance is to change our way of thinking until the presence of His Kingdom fills our consciousness. The enemy’s attempt to anchor our affections to the things that are visible is easily resisted when our hearts are aware of the presence of His world. Such awareness aids us in the task of being co-laborers with Christ—destroying the works of the devil. (See First Corinthians 3:9; 1 John 3:8.)

If the Kingdom is here and now, then we must acknowledge it’s in the invisible realm. Yet being at hand reminds us that it’s also within reach. Paul said that the invisible realm is eternal, while that which is seen is only temporal. (See 2 Corinthians 4:18.) Jesus told Nicodemus that he’d have to be born again to see the Kingdom. (See John 3:3.) That which is unseen can be realized only through repentance. It was as though He said, “If you don’t change the way you perceive things, you’ll live your whole life thinking that what you see in the natural is the superior reality. Without changing the way you think you’ll never see the world that is right in front of you. It’s My world, and it fulfills every dream you’ve ever had. And I brought it with Me.” All that He did in life and ministry, He did by drawing from that superior reality.

Faith then is both the crown and the enabler of repentance.
DAY 13 — LIVING FROM THE UNSEEN

Matthew 5:6—Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 3]

“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter” (Prov. 25:2). Some things are only discovered by the desperate. That highly valued Kingdom attitude (see Matt. 5:6.) is what marks the heart of true Kingdom royalty [“and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth” (Rev. 1:5.)] The God who put the gold in the rocks brought His Kingdom with Him, but left it unseen.

Paul dealt with this in his letter to the Colossians. There he informs us that God hid our abundant life in Christ. [“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3).] Where is He? Seated at the right hand of the Father, in heavenly places. (See Ephesians 1:20.) Our abundant life is hidden in the Kingdom realm. And only faith can make the withdrawals.

Look at the word Kingdom—King/dom. It refers to the King’s Domain, implying authority and lordship. Jesus came to offer the benefits of His world to all who surrender to His rule. The realm of God’s dominion, that realm of all sufficiency, is the realm called the Kingdom. The benefits of His rule were illustrated through His works of forgiveness, deliverance, and healing.

The Christian life has been harnessed to this goal, verbalized in the Lord’s Model Prayer: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10).

His dominion is realized when what happens here is as it is in heaven.

And only faith can make the withdrawals.
DAY 14 — THE GREATEST SERMON

Matthew 5:12a—Rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in Heaven...

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth  [Chapter 3]

The actual Presence of the Spirit of God upon Jesus stirred up a hunger for God in the people. That hunger brought a change in their attitudes. He could have put it this way: This is how the repentant mind looks.

Blessed means happy! The following is a personal paraphrase of Matthew 5:3-12.

3. You are happy if you are poor in spirit, for yours is the kingdom of Heaven.
4. You are happy if you mourn, for you shall be comforted.
5. You are happy if you are meek, for you shall inherit the earth.
6. You are happy if you hunger and thirst for righteousness, for you shall be filled.
7. You are happy if you are merciful, for you shall obtain mercy.
8. You are happy if you are pure in heart, for you shall see God.
9. You are happy if you are peacemakers, for you shall be called sons of God.
10. You are happy if you are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for yours is the kingdom of Heaven.
11. You are happy if they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
12. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Examine the promised result of each new attitude—receiving the Kingdom, being comforted, obtaining mercy, seeing God, etc.

This is important because many approach the teachings of Jesus as just another form of the Law. Grace is different from the Law in that the favor comes before the obedience. Under grace the commandments of the Lord come fully equipped with the ability to perform them...to those who hear from the heart. Grace enables what it commands.

Grace is different from the Law in that the favor comes before the obedience.
DAY 15 — DOMINION REALIZED

Colossians 1:15-16—*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in Heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.*

BOOK QUOTE: *When Heaven Invades Earth* [Chapter 3]

The unseen world has influence over the visible. If the people of God will not reach for the Kingdom at hand, the realm of darkness is ready to display its ability to influence. The good news is that “His [the Lord’s] kingdom rules over all” (Ps. 103:19).

Jesus illustrated this reality in Matthew 12:28, saying, “If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” There are two things to notice. First, Jesus worked only through the Spirit of God; and second, the kingdom of God came upon someone in his deliverance. Jesus caused the collision between two worlds: the world of darkness and the world of light. Darkness *always* gives way to light! And in the same way, when the dominion of God was released through Jesus to that man, he became free.

That same collision between light and darkness happens when the sick are healed. Walter had experienced two strokes in the previous year, which left him without feeling on the entire right side of his body. Conviction, one of the words used to detect faith, (see Heb. 11:1 KJV) began to burn in my heart. I had become aware of the Kingdom where no numbness existed. I didn’t want to become more aware of how severe his problem was. Soon after I started to pray he told me that he felt my hand on his shoulder and could even feel the fabric of my shirt with his right hand. That world began to collide with the world of numbness. Numbness lost.

Faith is the key to discovering the superior nature of the invisible realm. It is the “gift of God” within to uncover.

*Darkness always gives way to light!*
Matthew 6:6—But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

BOOK QUOTE: When Heaven Invades Earth [Chapter 4]

Faith has its anchor in the unseen realm. It lives from the invisible toward the visible. Faith actualizes what it realizes. The Scriptures contrast the life of faith with the limitations of natural sight. (See 2 Cor. 5:7.) Faith provides eyes for the heart.

Jesus expects people to see from the heart. Many of us have thought that the ability to see into the spiritual realm is more the result of a special gift than an unused potential of everyone.

We are born again by grace through faith. (See Eph. 2:8.) The born-again experience enables us to see from the heart. (See John 3:3.) A heart that doesn't see is a hard heart. (See Mark 8:17-18.)

Faith was never intended only to get us into the family. Rather, it is the nature of life in this family. Faith sees. It brings His Kingdom into focus. All of the Father's resources, all of His benefits, are accessible through faith.

To encourage us in our capacity to see, Jesus gave specific instruction, “Seek first the kingdom of God…” (Matt. 6:33). Paul taught us, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2). He also stated, “For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Cor. 4:18). The Bible instructs us to turn our attention toward the invisible. This theme is repeated enough in Scripture to make those of us bound by the logic of this Western culture quite nervous.

Herein lies the secret to the supernatural realm that we want restored to the Church. Jesus told us that He only did what He saw His Father do. Such an insight is vital for those who want more. The power of His actions, for instance, the mud in the eye of the blind, is rooted in His ability to see.

Faith provides eyes for the heart.
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