

An Atmosphere for Miracles
(Sermon Notes)

Text: Acts 3 and 4

Speaker: Dr. Wilfred Graves Jr.

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Introduction

These chapters recount the dramatic healing of a lame man at the Gate called Beautiful and the tremendous impact this miracle has on the preaching and growth of the Christian Church immediately following Pentecost.

Definition

A miracle is an unusual manifestation of God's power in which he glorifies himself and causes wonder and amazement among people.

Setting an Atmosphere for Miracles

Dr. Graves discusses four components revealed in the text.

Point 1 – An atmosphere for miracles is created when believers exalt the name of Jesus Christ in worship and ministry.

Point 2 – An atmosphere for miracles requires faith. Faith is an unshakable trust in the Lord Jesus Christ that causes us to believe and act on the Word of God.

Point 3 – An atmosphere for miracles requires prayer. Prayer is one of the most important activities engaged in by believers (see 2 Chronicles 7:14; James 5:16).

Point 4 – An atmosphere for miracles is created when believers are filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers the Church to become effective witnesses for Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8). He distributes gifts such as healing and miracles for the glory of God and the common good (see also 1 Corinthians 12).

Reflection Questions and Practical Activities

1. What new insights did you receive from hearing this sermon?
2. Have you ever witnessed a miracle like the healing of the lame man?
3. What encouragement do you derive from reading Acts 3 and 4?
4. Locate several passages in the Bible that speak of miracles. Record these in a journal.
5. Pray for someone this week who needs physical healing.

For Further Study

For more on the topic of miracles, read Dr. Graves's book: *In Pursuit of Wholeness: Experiencing God's Salvation for the Total Person* (Destiny Image, 2011). Visit his website at <https://wilfredgraves.org>.