



April 19/20, 2025 (Easter)

Victory in Miracles: “Are We Living Beneath Our Privilege?”

Key Passage: **Romans 8:11**

Introductory thoughts:

1. The Resurrection is the heart of the Christian faith

1 Corinthians 15:17

***17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.*

2. One major support for the Resurrection: the eyewitnesses
 - 500 plus saw Jesus alive in **1 Corinthians 15:6**
 - Some mentioned by name - as if Paul is saying, “If you don’t believe me, go talk to them!”
 - Dramatic life changes: Paul and James especially

Victory in the Resurrection!

1. Over sin

Romans 4:24b-25

24b *It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, **25** who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

2. Over death

1 Corinthians 15:55

55 *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*

- Thomas Aquinas's view of heaven and the Summa Theologica

3. Over the devil

1 John 3:8

8 *Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

- Martin Luther encounters the devil one night

But there seems to be a **fourth victory** for believers in Jesus because of the Resurrection:

THE 4th VICTORY: MIRACLES HAPPENING IN AND THROUGH US

Romans 8:11

11 *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

Mark 16:14-18

14 *Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. **15** And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. **16** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. **17** And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; **18** they will pick up*

serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

John 14:12-14

12 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. **13** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.*

John 15:7

7 *If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

Matthew 21:21-22

21 *And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. **22** And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."*

Matthew 17:20-21

20 *He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." **21** But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting*

Matthew 19:26

26 *But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

1 Corinthians 12:9-10

9 *to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

Are we Christians living beneath our privilege?

- Augustine in the City of God: "I am pressed by the promise of finishing this work that I cannot record all the miracles I know."

- John Wesley (founder of Methodism), A.W. Tozer, and R.A. Torrey recount their many miracles
- Contemporary Christians: J. P. Moreland, Craig Keener (a book recounting thousands of miracles worldwide), Lee Strobel, and Eric Metaxas among others write books about miracles
- And, of course, Jesus said: **Greater things!** Paul: the power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us who believe.

That's why MOHC regularly has been doing in worship what we call **"Miracle time:"**

Three recent examples:

1. Harrison James
2. Frank Heckel
3. Pat Swisher

As things get darker, Christians must shine brighter.

Finally, don't forget: the greatest miracle of all is the new birth

- **John 3:3**
3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- **2 Corinthians 5:17**
17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- The outward evidence of this inward reality/new birth is **baptism**
- **Romans 6:1-5**
1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

1. Under the water and death to self

2. Out of the water and new life in Jesus

Again, the Resurrection gives us victory over:

1. Sin
2. Death
3. The devil
4. And miracles!

MOHC and all Christians: Let's not live beneath our privilege!

1. Pray without ceasing
2. Believe with great faith (even a mustard seed is enough!)
3. For yourself and for others
4. Watch in wonder as Jesus cares for and uses YOU!

And ask:

- Would God do a miracle FOR you?
- Would God do a miracle THROUGH you?

As always, to Jesus alone and always belongs all the glory!

Miracle time!

To baptisms!