**Miracles as Invitations (Acts 5:12-16)**

 God’s miracles invite man to a new life in Christ.

 Greetings dear brothers and sisters in Christ as we take a look at yet another picture of the church in its earliest years. Miracles have been special for Christians, because they have reminded us of God’s still-present power. However, miracles are not just reminders. They are also invitations, and thus, we are going to see today just how God’s miracles are tools to bring mankind to a new reality. Therefore, today we are going to speak about that process and purpose. Again, God’s miracles invite the human being to a new life in Christ.

 When we read the above passage, it is clear that God’s miracles bring man closer to Him. There were many miracles being done through the Apostles. In the previous chapter, Luke describes how John and Peter were persecuted and how they prayed with the church for miracles after the incident. It also tells us how God answered them exactly as they had requested. Seeing the supernatural power, unbelievers were afraid to approach the church, while the believers praised the leaders. It is not accidental that in this context, the believers in the Lord were increasing in number. When miracles were being done, the news was traveling and many had begun to come to the church’s area for their own miracles. The people were hungry and would only be filled with God’s power. It was as if the masses were in such a dreadful and sorry state of affairs that as soon as they heard news of those miracles being done which they had heard of in their own history, they found every means to go and to receive those supernatural signs of love (from God). Again, the people were hungry and no one had satisfied them until Jesus’ disciples showed up on the scene operating in faith and the power that God had given them thru the Spirit. There were not only the paralyzed that were healed, but also the demon possessed and many other kinds of sick people. This is not a coincidence, dearly beloved.

 Just as Moses, by doing miracles (by the power of God), freed the Israelites from the claws of Pharaoh and brought them out of Egypt, the land of slavery, the people in Jesus time also were freed from the powerless and unhelpful Law of Moses through the miracles done in Jesus’ name, to enter the new life of Promised “Land” of freedom and power in the Holy Spirit.

 Miracles have not ceased to happen today. Everybody has a miracle story, a testimony of an intervention by God. In addition, as much as we have told that story to others, by the same proportion we have blessed them and raised their level of faith in God. However, let us not only tell of the miracles that have happened to us 30 years ago (for example). Our walk with the Lord as Holy-Spirit-filled believers is called to be a means for all kinds of miracles at all times! It is not necessary for the miracles to only be of the physical healing variety. But if there are such miracles, far be it from us to keep those works of God to ourselves! Rather, please let us connect and plan on telling those accounts during our worship services.

 God’s miracles are invitations to us to distance ourselves from the covenant lifestyle that is based on the Old Testament Law and to enter the life of the New Testament, led and filled by the Holy Spirit. It is that same Holy Spirit that will do miracles in our lives, even through us, if we ask God to use us as He has the apostles. That is why it is important to remember that God needs us to be his hands, mouthpieces, and overall representatives here on earth. May we never accept the lies of Satan that we are unworthy of miracles, or that such things are impossible or don’t happen anymore. The Holy Spirit waits for us to hear his direction, listen to his promptings, so that we can become a means of miracles as well.

 Do you want to do the work of the Gospel? Don’t simply rely on your words. Ask the Lord and He will give to you His Spirit, so that you also become a means of both physical healings as well as drawing the attention of many who need salvation. God’s miracles bring man closer to God. His miracles invite people to a new life in Christ.

 Therefore, let us ask for God’s miracles: that they would happen to us, as well as through us to others. God invites mankind by signs of His salvation, which are miracles.

 May our miracle-working God give each of us a powerful hunger to ask for His Holy Spirit and not to be satisfied with words-only evangelism and witnessing.

 May the Lord bless you all. Amen.