



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Build A Strong Prayer Life
Topic	Expecting Divine Intervention
Speaker	Ps Nicky S Raiborde
Date	23 rd August 2015, 2 nd Service

Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: How to See God's Miracles in Our Lives

Key text: John 6:5-13

Our God is a God of miracles. He desires to do a mighty work in us and through us. Using the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand, the speaker revealed how God uses people to make miracles happen. God desires to intervene in our lives and requires Man's action to make it happen. Not because He cannot, but so that He can build our faith.

There are many points in Scripture where Jesus did not perform miracles because of people's unbelief (Matt 13:58, Mark 6:5) God intervenes because of His favour – whenever miracles happen, there is a connection between God's favour and our exercise of faith.

Ps Nicky quoted Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China, "There are three stages in any great work attempted for God: impossible, difficult, done." Whenever God performs a miracle, He begins with seemingly impossible work and the smallest of starts.

Below are the five points the speaker shared on how we can exercise our faith to see God's miracles:

5 Lessons from the Story of Jesus Feeding the Five Thousand

1. **Divine interruptions lead to divine miracles – be willing to change your plan**
Jesus and His disciples had headed up a mountainside for a rest, but were followed by a great crowd. Instead of taking their rest, Jesus asked His disciples if they could feed the people.

We need to allow God to change the plans that we have set. When walking with God, we must recognise that the times and seasons of our lives are in the hands of the Lord. This requires us to demonstrate trust – while faith is an act, trust is an attitude. Divine intervention requires both faith and trust; trusting the Lord Our Shepherd whose eyes are above our own, and being open to change in our agenda and plans.

2. **People, not money, are always God's solutions**
When Jesus asked His disciples to feed the crowd, there were different responses. Philip said that money was insufficient, while Andrew answered that there was a boy who had five loaves and two fish.



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One disciple calculated the cost, the other looked for a person. Ps Nicky taught us to pray for favour, rather than specifically for things we require. Like Ruth who found favour with Boaz, we should ask God to help us find a person in whose eyes we may find favour.

3. **Determine your operating system (Ephesians 2:2)**

The speaker asked this poignant question: Do we live by the principles of God's word or by the ways of this world? We should exercise our faith by practicing God's operating system.

He highlighted 3 points:

- Do things not through our own strength and wisdom, but through the Lord
- God multiplies our faith when we sow our seed
- It is more blessed to give than to receive

4. **Be willing to cooperate and follow instructions**

In John 6:10, Jesus instructed His disciples to make the people sit down, and only then did he take the loaves and fish and distribute them to the disciples and people.

This illustrates that before we want God to intervene, there is oftentimes something that needs to change in our lives (e.g. honouring Him). We need to seek His wisdom in knowing what these things are. To do so, we need to be conscious of God's presence, and to be in tune with the Holy Spirit. Listening and obeying the Lord when He speaks will help us walk in union with Him.

5. **Set up the miracle as a spiritual landmark, not for worship, but to build faith.**

After the miracle, the disciples boarded a boat, but the wind was against them and they were afraid. Only when Jesus walked over the water onto the boat with them, and when the winds had ceased, were they amazed. This showed that despite what Jesus had done, the disciples continued to lack faith.

As His disciples, we need to remember that God is the source of all miracles, no matter how big or small, in our lives. We should use what God has done in our lives to build our faith and propel us forward, and not merely worship at the milestones that God has put in our lives.



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Questions

1) Share examples of God's miracles that you have experienced personally or in the lives of others.

(Fill In Answer Here)

2) Ps Nicky shared ways in which we can exercise faith for us to see God's miracles in our lives. Which of these is particularly difficult for you and why?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) What are some practical steps you can take to build your faith today and to trust God for the impossible?

(Fill In Answer Here)