

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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MIRACLES

Everyone seems to love hearing miracle stories and stories of divine healing. Certainly all born again, spirit-filled believers do, and my experience is that many others do as well.

So I thought I would just write about a few and share. Our world is in such an upheaval and so much of that is so dismal, it is good to focus on the wonders of God and the joy we all have when we see that.

Let me begin with a trip Cathy and I took many decades ago, before John Newlin Ministries had even been established. I had been dealing with some mysterious digestive issue, and finally a doctor had given me a prescription and had said I had to take that medicine every day the rest of my life.

Well, at that point in life, I was just beginning to realize the wonders of divine healing, of all that was available to the believer. We heard about a healing program to be held by a well-known "healing" minister in Jacksonville Florida for a couple of days so off we went.

God was active in obvious ways the entire trip. We drove several hundred miles to get there and checked in at our hotel before going to the large arena where the first meeting was to be held. At the hotel we encountered three women in choir robes. They said they were part of the thousand person choir at the program but had missed the bus to take them to the arena! So we offered them a ride, and we got to hear all about the choir on the way over. One said we should join the choir, and I said I couldn't sing. She explained how that would all change in the choir. For example, she said that in previous programs after it was all over, she would be singing all the way home for several hours, and gradually her voice would return to her normal voice, which evidently was not so good.

After dropping them off we parked and went to stand in the huge line of people waiting for the afternoon program. The arena was near the stadium where the Jacksonville Jaguars football team plays. Eventually and slowly the line moved and we got in. That was wonderful in itself as we soon learned that huge numbers did not get in and had to watch in some other location or listen outside!

Upon entering we had difficulty finding seats. Up one stairs to a section and then up another. Finally we found two seats on the upper deck on the right of the stage. The choir was warming up and the stadium was packed. It was a happy group. I spoke with the woman on my right. Cathy was on my left. As the choir began to practice some of their songs, the audience joined in.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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A wonderful time of praise and worship and the program had not even started yet. The Holy Spirit was clearly moving. As we joined in and sang and maybe raised our arms in praise – I can't remember – suddenly I had a realization. No special feeling. Just a realization. And I turned to Cathy and said, "I don't have that problem anymore!" And to this day I have never taken again any of the medicine I had been given! I had been completely cured. Not asking. No dramatics. Just being in the presence of God.

(As an aside, about a year later or so for some reason I was back in that doctor's office. The doctor asked me whatever happened with that problem I had had. He was looking right at me. And behind him out of his sight stood his nurse. I responded that I had gone to a healing service in Jacksonville and had been healed of that. And I looked past the doctor to see the nurse beaming and holding two thumbs up!!! And that is the way life is, isn't it. Some knowing and being in touch, and others just having no idea. The doctor I recall just didn't say any more about it.)

Well, we were thoroughly enjoying the wonderful healing services in Jacksonville, especially all the praise and worship and being around so many spirit-filled believers. We went back that night for the next session. This time there were so many that even though we got in the building we could not find a seat. We went to section after section and no seats. We were beginning to think we would have to miss this session. Then, as we stood at the top of a stairway in one section, I noticed Cathy looking across the giant arena to the other side at a specific spot. I could barely distinguish people there, but she evidently could. And she began to lead me down out of that section and around the arena to the other side. There we went up the stairs and upon coming into the seats, she led me down several steps to a row where a woman stood a few seats in. It was the wife of a former pastor we knew back home who had moved to the Jacksonville area a year or so before! She was beaming and smiling at us. Her husband was walking somewhere in the place at the moment, but beside her were two seats. She said, "We have been saving these two seats. I guess they are for you!" In a moment her husband appeared, and he was flabbergasted to see us sitting there.

God just takes care of things. He handles situations. For his believers. If we let him. There were all sorts of wonders there in the various sessions, with people being healed and the Holy Spirit present in such power. I remember once the minister mentioned the Holy Spirit was moving through the crowd, and suddenly in my right cheek I got an enormous electrical shock. It was so strong that the area was sore for a few days. That shock had to be the power of the Spirit, although I have never experienced it that way since.

When we returned home days later, the pastor of our church asked us to say a few words at the Sunday service before he would speak. So I gave a summary much like the above. And then he went on with his planned service. Another minister friend in the congregation remarked to me that he thought they had already had church after hearing our summary of events.

THEY DON'T KNOW BECAUSE THEY REALLY DON'T KNOW

All of us have people like them. Neighbors. Close relatives. Co-workers. Friends. People who quite obviously do not know Jesus. They may be just plain unbelievers with no interest in God or church or anything like that. More likely, many of them actually attend churches regularly or from time to time, attending out of tradition, maybe even thinking they are doing what they are supposed to do. But you know, because you know them and are around them and see their actions and hear their words, you know they don't know Jesus. They just don't.

This insight may even extend to some who are actually involved in a church doing good works, holding a position of some sort there. But when you try to share your heart, your commitment to God, the truths you hold dear, they listen respectfully and then go on. There is no fire there. No understanding. They don't really know Jesus.

It all comes back to an essential truth that can be hard for all of us to accept. No one can come to Jesus unless his father, God the Father, draws that person to Jesus. The Lord made that point twice (John 6:44 and 6:65). And every day of our lives we can see the truth of that point.

You know, Jesus was very clear about someone truly being with him. In John 3 in dramatic fashion he explained to Nicodemus how a person must be born again, or in other translations born anew or born from above, even to see the Kingdom of God. And to be in the Kingdom a person must be born of water and the Spirit. Just after that discussion is the well-known John 3:16 where Jesus points out that whosoever believes in him shall not die but have everlasting life, the word "believe" there obviously being strong, firm life-changing belief. John in John 1 went further to explain that when a person is born again God actually becomes their father. A person is born initially of human parents, physical human parents. But when he or she is born again, God himself becomes their father. They get a new spirit. Spiritually they are born again. The rest of their lives they are working things out to renew their minds and to gain full control over their physical bodies. If someone truly knows the Lord and is a member of the Kingdom, they can't listen passively to discussions of Jesus and his truths and then go on to daily activities without any reaction. They just can't.

We want our children and grandchildren, our spouses, our parents, our neighbors, our friends, everyone to truly know the Lord, to be born anew, to be in the Kingdom. It is just not something we can completely do ourselves. That fulfillment belongs to God. I remember one precious older lady who attended several of our programs years ago. She was so concerned about her son, who was in his fifties and was involved with drugs and quite obviously lost. For so long she had prayed for him to be saved. And she would ask me about that. More than once. And the only real answer is that no one can make another be a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. No one. But we can take action. We can pray that the Father would draw that person to Jesus. And as possible and led by the Holy Spirit, we can share the truths of the gospel with that person. Sometimes that itself is just not possible easily. In that case – and in fact always – we should ask the Holy Spirit to orchestrate opportunities for us or someone else as appropriate to be able to share those truths with the person.

It all comes down to this. God himself is collecting a group of people. The CHURCH. True born again, spirit filled believers in Jesus Christ. I've always liked a definition of the CHURCH that I encountered

some years ago – it is a collection of people who have been called out of the world and are part of a new society headed by Jesus. That is the CHURCH. It is not a collection of buildings or denominations or anything like that. It is a collection of human beings who know the Lord. One time years ago late in the wee hours of the night, maybe around two or three in the AM, in a time of prayer and communion with God, suddenly the Lord said to me, “John, they don’t know because they really don’t know.” That is the truth of it all. These many people – and they make up the vast majority of humanity – just don’t know. It is not that they are intentionally opposing you. It is not that they are intentionally trying not to know. It is not that they are so evil they refuse to accept God. None of that. They just don’t know. Just like I don’t know how to design a nuclear reactor or write a musical piece like Beethoven wrote. I just don’t know those things. And all these lost people just don’t know Jesus. They don’t know God. They don’t even know what they don’t know. And they can’t know unless the Father leads them to Christ.

So keep praying for God the Father to lead all those lost people you know to Jesus. And keep asking the Holy Spirit to orchestrate whatever opportunities and openings he would for you to share the gospel with them in ways they might receive and understand. Keep your eyes on Jesus at all times. Realize we are near the end of the age and the Lord is coming very soon. And realize that you are not going to save everybody. In fact you can’t completely save anyone. Only God can lead someone to Jesus.

OUR THANKS AGAIN TO ALL THOSE SUPPORTING THIS MINISTRY WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL DONATIONS!

Beyond all the wonderful things we have seen and been involved with in this ministry, the Lord’s overriding assignment to us surely still is what he told me one night in 2005 while I was preaching: John, tell them who I am and that I am coming soon. With your wonderful help we are still doing that. *(All contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. – whether money or material goods or stocks or bonds – are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 © 3 nonprofit corporation.)*

STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH AND KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS! SOON YOU WILL BE SEEING HIM IN A WHOLE NEW WAY!

**THE DARKNESS THAT IS IN THIS WORLD WILL NEVER OVERCOME THE
LIGHT THAT IS JESUS.**

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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