

## CCC WHAT TO DO WHEN Part 5

### YOU NEED A MIRACLE

#### Achieving Through Believing - Part 5

#### 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

#### Welcome:

Today we continue our faith seminar which we have called, **Achieving Through Believing** and today we are going to look at specifically “**What to do when you need a Miracle.**” In God’s word, the Bible in 2 Chronicles 20 we see a great miracle of God and I believe many of you here today including myself needs a miracle this week. You may need it in your marriage or at your job or for your health or for your finances, maybe in some relationship. But you need a miracle and you know it. We’ll let me tell you if that is you... you couldn’t have picked a better week to come to Calvary. Because this morning we're going to

talk about “What to Do When You Need a Miracle” See our church right now needs a miracle. We are right in the midst of praying and asking God to give us a miracle. I have asked Bob Goslee to come and read the scripture that we are going to be using today, 2 Chronicles 21: 1-30.

The background of this story is that there were three enemies who were coming to battle against the Israelites. It was a 3-1 odds. It was 3 against here! They had decided to invade. In verse 1 it says, *"After this the Moabites and the Ammonites with some of the Meunites [along with the Dynamites and the Candlelights no I'm just teasing let's start again "After this the Moabites and the Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to war on Jehoshaphat."* Jehoshaphat was the king of Israel and we find him here in big trouble. Three enemies were coming against him and they're going to fight him and he doesn't know what to do.

We just read it says "*after this*" all these enemies came against him. What is the "after this"? It's like a "therefore". The chapter before we find they had just had a spiritual revival in the nation. The point I want to make here is when God is working in a people or a home or a family or a church, the enemy always increases his attacks.

Let me ask you a question, "What is your natural reaction to an enemy coming against you? What is your natural reaction when you face an impossible situation? If you're normal, your reaction is first probably fear. You're afraid and that's exactly what Jehoshaphat did. It says in v. 3 that he was *alarmed* when he heard that these three enemies were coming against him.

Fear is not wrong as an initial response. It's normal, natural, human. But the difference is what you do with that fear. When you face an impossible situation, do you get

discouraged; do you give up without even making an effort or a fight? When you face an impossible situation, are you motivated or are you intimidated?

The people of Israel were not intimidated by this situation and we see that they did six things in their life that brought on a miracle and these are steps you can use in your own life when you're facing an impossible situation.

### **What to do when you need a Miracle**

**Step One** is in v. 3. They had told Jehoshaphat "*A vast army is coming against you and alarmed, Jehoshaphat sought to inquire of the Lord and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.*" Step number one is this: **Get in tune with God.** "God, what do You see about all of this? God, how do You, perceive this? God, what's Your perspective here? God, what's Your viewpoint?" You get in touch with God's will in the situation. That's the starting point when you

need a miracle. "God, what do You think about the problem I'm facing right now?" Get in tune with God. Now one of the best ways to do this and this may be new to many of you. One of the best ways is by fasting. It says, *"he proclaimed a fast."* The entire nation was involved. Man, women and child. Now you may ask, "What is fasting? Fasting simply means to voluntarily not eat food for a specific purpose. Jesus himself said it is a valid spiritual discipline for believers to use. There are many benefits of the benefits to fasting but one I know from it is that it clears your mind. It heightens your sensitivity to spiritual things. It makes you more aware of the spiritual world if you will. It's a purely physical thing but it heightens your sensitivity. We will talk about this more in the weeks to come. Let's move on to step two: **What to do when you need a Miracle.**

**Step Two is Pray about the problem.** We see in verses 5-12 is Jehoshaphat's prayer. It says he stood up before all of the people and prayed this prayer. Prayer ought to be one of the first choice, not a last resort. A lot of times we do everything else and then after nothing else works we use pray. Pray is a last result. There is no problem too big or too small that can't be prayed about.

Let me ask you a question. Do you have faith when you pray? Do you really believe your going to get an answer from God. OR do you think, I'll pray but I don't expect anything to happen." Let me share something with you. If you'll learn to pray the way Jehoshaphat did you will learn to expect. This is a faith building prayer that Jehoshaphat prays. It's a model for every follow of Christ. He asks God three questions.

1. v. 6 he says, talking to God. "Are you not...?"

2. v. 7 he says, "Did you not...?"

3. v. 12 he asks God, "Will you not...?"

There are three questions that build faith in your life so that you can pray and you can get a miracle in your life.

**1. First he reminded himself who God is.** That's what you do. You remind yourself who God is. v. 6 *"Oh, Lord, God of our fathers, **are you not** the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms and all the nations."* The starting point is you remind yourself who God is. God is all-powerful. God is all knowing. Is there anything too hard for God? No! You remind yourself in your prayers, who God is. Jesus said, *"With God all things are possible."* Wow! That's a pretty blanket statement. All things are possible. ***"Are you not the God who can do anything?"***

The second part of this prayer that will build your faith is:

**2. Remind yourself what God has done in the past.** v 7 ***"Did you not...** help us in the past? Didn't you drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people and give it to the descendants of Abraham?"* Jehoshaphat says, "God, we just want to pause here and not only remember who You are... but we want to remember what You've done in the past to build our faith. You've helped us out in the past." What we do is recall the incidents where God has done miracles before in our lives. That's a faith builder. Jehoshaphat reminds himself in verse 9. *"If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment or plague or famine, we will stand in Your presence."* He says here no matter what happens, "God, we know who You are and we know what You've done." The third part of this prayer that will build your faith is:

**3. Ask God to do it again.** In v. 12 *"Oh, God, will you not judge them."* Jehoshaphat says, "God, won't You do an instant replay, a repeat performance. We know who You are, we know what You've done in the past. Lord, do it again! Help us we need you!" If you learn to pray this way, you will have the faith to pray for miracles. Prayers that build faith ask God to do it again.

Okay let's get back to the third step when needing a miracle. **Step Three -- You admit your need for help.**

When you need a miracle you need to admit your need for help from Him. That's the second part of verse 12. *"Oh, our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that's attacking us. And we don't know what to do."* Confess your inability to god, confess your inadequacy, and be honest. Miracles never take place

until you admit that it's impossible without God's help.

"Lord, we can't do it! It's impossible!"

Calvary it is at an impossible place right now. Think about it for a group of maybe 200 regular attenders in our church to go out and spend \$850,000.00 for the Expansion program and obtain all the plans and permits needed. It's impossible, we need a miracle. But nothing is too hard for God. Nothing is impossible and we say Help God we need your miracle with our expansion program.

"God, help us. We know who You are. We know what You've done for us in the past years. Do it again." You admit your need for help. We have no power. Look at v. 12 where he says, *"We have no power, "power and might are in Your hand."* We don't have the power to do it, but, Lord, You have the power to do it. Admit your need for help.

**Step Four -- Focus on God not the problem.** v. 12 *"God, will You not judge them? We have no power to face this vast army that's attacking us. We don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."* Not our eyes and thought and energy are on the problem, not that our eyes and thoughts and energy are on the circumstance, not that our eyes and thought and energy are on the impossibility, not on the situation -- but, our eyes are on you, God and You are able to do all things! Focus on God, not your problems.

Too many people focus on the circumstances. That's why they never accomplish anything in life: "How you doing?" -- "So far, so good, under the circumstances." God says, **"What are you doing under them.** You ought to be on top of them. Circumstances are like a mattress. If you get on top of them you rest easy. If you get underneath them, they suffocate you. Focus on God not the problem. We

gravitate or move toward that which we are focused on. When we were going through the recession, too many people were reading the newspaper instead of the Bible. "It's getting worse!" They were looking at the problem instead of looking at God.

When we assume the attitude -- "We can't do it but we know You can!" – Friends listen, God always responds! v. 15 God says to the people after they've done these things (tuned in and everything) *"Listen, King Jehoshaphat, and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem. This is what the Lord says to you. 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours but God's.'"*

That's good news! Do you know why you're so tired? You're trying to fight God's battles. Do you know why you get defeated? Because you're trying to solve situations that

are God's battles. No wonder we get so tired. We're trying to play God.

When we assume God's roles -- "Lord, I'll solve all the problems by myself." -- we try our best and we fail and we come back saying, "Lord, I'm so sorry. I've really let You down!" God says, "You didn't let Me down because you weren't holding Me up." You don't help God. He helps you and you need to understand that. God says, "It's not your battle. It's My battle." God says, "Let Me assume it!" As long as you're out there trying to solve it on your own, I'm going to just sit back and watch."

v. 13 *"All of the men of Judah with their wives and their children and even the little ones stood before the Lord."*

Everybody got involved. When God does a miracle, He wants the whole family involved.

I know a lot of you and your families, have been praying three times a day for this Expansion Program and your kids have been praying too. It's exciting seeing even the little ones involved. They're going to look back on their lives one day and say, "Remember when we had a part in that expansion program. Remember when we were able to be a part of a miracle." Remember what our God did for us Everybody got involved from the elderly to the brand new children.

Here at Calvary, during the next two weeks were focusing on God's ability not our inability. Let's move on to step 5 **Step Five**, verse 17. This is a strange battle. God says, *"The battle is not yours but God's."* In verse 17 He says, *"You will not have to fight in this battle."* That's the kind of battle I like! Nobody gets hurt here. You don't have to fight in this battle. You can't get hurt. v. 17 is a significant

verse. God says, "*The battle is not yours, it's Mine.* You don't have to fight in it." It's God's problem. Let Him solve it.

Whose church is Calvary's anyway? It's God's. So whose problem is it whether we get the permits, plans and funds for the expansion Program? It's God's. God says, "If you are My child, then your problems are My problems. If you're serving Me, who assumes responsibility for the servant? The Master. "Your problems are My problems." You trust Him to work it out. Let God be God! **Relax in faith.**

Did you know that God never lost a battle? He doesn't lose battles and that's good news in your battles. When I know that I have given my life completely to Jesus Christ and I'm trying to live for Him to the best of my ability, I don't have to sweat the small stuff. I may lose a

few skirmishes here and there but ultimately, I'm on the winning side.

There's an important phrase in v. 17. He says, "*Take up your positions and stand firm.*" What does it mean to stand firm to us? Stand firm is a mental attitude of quiet confidence. Stand firm! It is never God's will for you to run from a difficult situation. I've discovered that when I run from a difficult situation, inevitably God always brings it back around and gives me another chance. If I run from it, that's ok. He'll just bring it around again and I'll face it. It's inevitable. Why? Because God wants us to learn and He wants to teach us through experience that in every situation He is sufficient. He is competent and capable and He will meet our needs in that situation. Don't be afraid. Fear is the opposite of faith.

What am I to stand firm on while I'm waiting for a miracle? While I'm waiting for the miracle in my finances or my marriage or my business or in a relationship whatever, what do I stand firm on? You stand firm on two things:

v. 20 *"Listen to me, Judah, and the people of Jerusalem. Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld. Have faith in His prophets and you will be successful."* We stand firm on two things:

1) **The character of God**. He's faithful. He does not bring us this far just to let us down. He doesn't bring you out on a limb and then cut the limb off. Have faith in the nature, the character of God.

2) **Have faith in the truth of His word** -- the Bible -- the spoken word, through these men of old, these prophets. Have faith in God's word. There are so many

thousands of promises in this book that you can have faith in.

You tune into God. You pray about the problem. "Lord, we can't do it on our own, but we're going to keep our eyes on You." And God says, "That's ok. It's My battle anyway." You don't need to fight in it. Stand still. Watch Me do it. Just believe. Have faith."

**Step 6: The final step is thank God in advance.** v. 21

*"After consulting with the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise Him for the splendor of His holiness as they went out at the head of the army saying 'Give thanks to the Lord for His love endures forever.'"*

Get the picture: The enemy is on one mountain; the Israelites are on another mountain. They're getting ready to

go into the valley for battle. Right before they go, Jehoshaphat says, "Here is our battle plan – I want the praise and worship team up front." Patton would have fainted! MacArthur would have had a heart attack. That is not your typical strategy for war maneuvers. "I want the them out in front, and I want you to sing my favorite song 'Let's Thank God'." It is a symbolic statement saying, "We are thanking God in advance for the victory. We are moving out in advance." It's symbolic because faith is thanking God in advance. Praise is verbalized faith.

They said, "Give thanks to the Lord." They're going out praising God in advance for the victory, before it has even happened.

Notice the awesome power of faith, of praying, of believing, of expecting, of thanking God in advance. v. 22

*"As they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambush against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mt. Seir who were invading Judah and they were defeated."* Something miraculous happened. There was some kind of ambush. There was some kind of confusion among the ranks. They began to fight each other and kill each other -- the three opposing armies -- while the Israelites stood and looked up, while they were singing their choruses and praising God. It says, *"The Lord set ambush."* There is power in thanking and praising and expecting.

Some of you are facing a difficult situation right now in your personal life. When are you going to start thanking God for the answer? When it occurs? Is that faith ... When you thank God for something after it's already happened? That's not faith, that's gratitude. Faith is thanking God in

advance. For three weeks we've have been praying and thanking God for the miracles that we need."

Notice the results: When you let God fight the battles, when you let God work the miracles, when you relax and let Him solve the impossible situation in your life, there are a couple of exciting results. v. 25 *"After they had won the battle Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder. And they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and articles of value, more than they could take away [underline this]. There was so much plunder that it took them three days to collect it."* Tremendous riches!

When God is allowed to solve your problems:

1. He always gives more blessing than you can handle. He always outdoes Himself. He always outdoes our expectations. It says *"On the fourth day they assembled in*

*the valley of Beracah where they praised the Lord. This is why it's called the valley of Beracah to this day."* Beracah, in Hebrew, means "blessing". God wants every believer to live in the Valley of Blessing. There was so much wealth, so much prosperity in the battle -- the spoils of war -- it took them three days to carry it off.

2. v. 29 *"Then the fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel and the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace for his God had given him rest on all sides."* When God does a miracle because people believe, it becomes a testimony to unbelievers. Everybody else heard about it -- all the kingdoms of the countries. The world takes notice when Christians live by faith and God loves to demonstrate His power in people who believe and who will expect. One of the reasons I'm

excited about what God is doing right now in our church is because it is a testimony to other people. It is a testimony saying, "This is what God can do when people will simply have faith." I encourage you to begin telling everyone one around about what God is doing to do here at Calvary with the expansion program and how it will only happen with a miracle from God.

Prayer:

I'm going to share with you a couple of practical ways you can apply these principles as a part of our church. But first I want to apply this to your own personal needs and your own problems. I don't know what kind of difficult situation you're facing this morning. Maybe your marriage is coming unraveled. Maybe the pressure at work is really getting to you. Maybe you're about to explode inside. Maybe you're about to lose your home or your job. Maybe

you feel like everything is ganging up on you and you're in need of a miracle.

Let's review these principles right now as you pray about them.

One, tune into God. Say, "Lord, how do You view my problem? Help me to see this difficulty from Your viewpoint." Problems shrink when you see them from God's viewpoint.

Two, pray about it. Right now say, "Lord, I know that nothing is impossible with You. I know how You've helped me in the past. I'm asking You to do it again. Help me."

The next step: Admit your inability to solve the problem on your own. Say, "Jesus, You know it's not getting any better and I admit that my biggest problem is me." Be

honest! "Lord, I know that I'm going under unless You bail me out. I really need Your help today."

Next, you focus on the Lord, not the problem. Say, "Jesus, I've been living under my circumstances and I don't know what to do but my eyes are on You. I want to focus on You."

The next step is you relax in faith. You're not here by accident this morning. God brought you here for a purpose and He has a specific word for you. God says to you this morning: "The battle is not yours. It's mine. Relax. Trust Me. Stand still in quiet confidence. Let me handle it." God says to you this morning, "I'm in control. Just give Me all the pieces."

Some of you have been thinking about this for weeks or months or even years and today you're saying, "Jesus Christ I'm going to commit my life to You totally. Today I give You every area of my life and ask You to work it out. I give You my marriage, my career, my health, my problems, my talents and abilities, my finances, my dreams. Christ, be the manager of my life." Relax in faith.

Finally, thank God in advance. "Jesus, I believe that this morning is the turning point and I thank You for it. Change me wherever You need to. Help me not to be afraid. I want to cooperate with You. I now thank You in advance for solving the problem. I relax and trust You."

*Message Notes*

**WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU NEED A MIRACLE**  
**Achieving Through Believing - Part 5**  
**2 Chronicles 20:1-30**

**STEP 1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(vs. 3-4)

**STEP 2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(vs. 5-12)

\* Remind yourself \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 6)  
*"Are you not...?"*

\* Remind yourself \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.7)  
*"Did you not ...?"*

\* Now ask God \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 12)  
*"Will you not...?"*

**STEP 3:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(vs. 12b)

**STEP 4:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(vs. 12c)

God's Response (vs. 15)

" \_\_\_\_\_ "

**STEP 5:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(vs. 17)

What am I to "stand firm" on? (vs. 20b)

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**STEP 6:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(vs. 21)

The Results:

vs. 25-26

vs. 29-30