

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week November 24, 2013

<u>This Week's Focus</u>: A discussion of signs, wonders and miracles.

This Week's Text: Acts 5:12-16

On the one hand, we ought to honor the uniqueness of Jesus and the apostles and of that revelatory moment in history that gave us the foundational doctrines of faith and life in the New Testament. On the other hand we ought to be open to the real possibility that this too might be a unique moment in history, and in this moment it may well be God's purpose to pour out his Spirit in unprecedented revival—revival of love to Christ and zeal for worship and compassion for lost people and a missionary thrust with signs and wonder. **John Piper**

<u>Related Texts</u>: 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, 2 Corinthians 12:7–9, 2 Corinthians 12:12, Acts 2:43, Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Matthew 24:23–24, James 5:14, 2 Timothy 4:20

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- How does 5:1-11 set the stage for 5:12-16? What is the connection?
- Discuss the three major positions mentioned concerning signs, wonders and miracles.
- What are some of the purposes of signs, wonders and miracles?
- In verses 13-14, the presence of God in their meetings was both attractive and frightening.
 - o Have you experienced a time when that was true for you?
- Can you tell of a time when there was no one who would "dare" turn to Jesus and yet held you in high esteem? Reference verse 13.

- Do you pray believing God can do amazing and astonishing things?
- Discuss the times God has specifically answered your prayers.
- Can you give a testimony of a time God worked a miracle in your life or the life of someone you know?
- In verses 15-16 there is a great picture of friends and family bringing friends and families with needs to the church. What opportunities have you taken to invite others to church?
- The scriptures teach us that God can, but is not obligated to, heal our sicknesses. Yet what should be our main and central message?

Gospel Celebration:

- Because of the gospel we can pray and know that God hears our prayer.
- Because of the gospel we can accept God's will regardless to the answer of our petitions.
- Because of the gospel we know that someday we will ALL be healed.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for opportunities to witness with boldness to others concerning the person and work of Jesus with boldness.
- Pray for strength and wisdom to pray in faith and accept God's will.
- Pray and respond in all circumstances for His glory.

Next Week's Text: Acts 5:17-42.