

0 (0s):

All right. Everybody, as my lovely wife mentioned, this, this be the miracle that is next Sunday, December 12th. So I want to make sure everybody is going to be here and you're inviting our friends. Okay? All your friends, even your enemies invite them. And this car that's on the chairs. If you're here in person is for you to give it to somebody and invite them to come. We want to pack this place out because we are packing meals and our goal is 45,000 meals. So that's going to take a 300 of us to be here over the three service times of 8, 9 30 and 11. You can go see Alex in the back at the table. If you want to get some more information, even see one of the bags of what we're going to be packing next week. So make sure you guys come to that. We do imagine the nine 30 and 11 to be a little bit fuller. So if you guys are able, I know you guys are the late risers right here in this crowd, but if you're able to come to the 8:00 AM, that's going to be really good.

0 (45s):

And also with the giving for that. So it costs 25 cents to, to produce the food, manufacturer it for us to package it and for it to get all the way shipped to a family in need in Haiti, 25 cents. Is it for a meal? Which is awesome. So what that means is we've got to raise the funds to make that happen as well. So that's about \$12,000, which seems like a lot. But if everybody just came and said, Hey, I'm going to pay for what I'm going to pack. So each person that can on average pack about 150 meals, that'd be \$38 and 50 cents. So if everybody came next week and said, Hey, I'm gonna bring \$38 and 50 cents or 40 bucks just round up a little bit. And then maybe some of you are going to be led to give even more than that, which would be awesome. But if we just did that, we'd have enough, but I know there's gonna be some people that are like, I can't do that.

0 (1m 27s):

So please give for other people as well. And you can do that arise. denver.com/meal-pack as well, or, or at our just normal giving, make sure you click the dropdown for the meal pack ministry for that. Cause we gotta raise that \$12,000. So come next week and bring some money to bring some cash. Okay. Especially when you're inviting friends, you pay for them, right? That's what we do. Okay. Last week we had a special prayer for those people who are medical workers, those who are working in hospitals, nurses, and doctors and technicians. We know it's just been a crazy time, but I also know it's been a crazy season for those who are teachers, those who are teachers at school, administrators, TAs, nurses, lunchroom workers, all those people that are working with kids right now, it's been difficult and challenging.

0 (2m 9s):

So I wanted to say a special prayer for you. Also, if you are one of those people, if you work with kids, would you please stand up right now? Just so we can see you and it kind of encourage you. Could you please stand right now and let's give those people a hand. Thank you so much for your service to kids. And let's, if you see one of those people around you, let's, let's reach out to our hands and kind of pray for those people together. Could we do that? You can have a seat. If you want know, Lord God, we are just so grateful for those who have given their lives to invest in the next generation to teach, to love, to serve our kids and the kids of our community. We pray that you'd bless them right now in this extremely challenging season, have

already having to figure out being online, over zoom or wearing masks and be in person and figuring out how to communicate in a way that kids can understand and having to do with all the different crazy COVID Lord.

0 (2m 60s):

I pray that you'd continue to give them strength and courage. Not only to finish out this year, but to enter into next year, even stronger, Lord God, we pray that they would all be just encouraged right now as we pray. And I pray this all in Jesus' name. Amen. All right, miracles. Well, I challenged you last week in the first week in our series on miracles to ask God, to show up with some miracles. That was kind of my challenge. Just everybody say, just ask God, God, could you show up and do some miracles in my life because who doesn't want to see some pretty cool miracle miracles? Wouldn't that'd be awesome. I think even if you don't believe, you're like, I'd love to see some miracles. So that was my challenge last week. And I shared with you that I had something kind of cool happened because it was two weeks ago on a Tuesday morning that I prayed and woke up and I'm like, God, I would like to see some miracles.

0 (3m 44s):

Like that would be awesome to be able to see some more miracles in our life and just to be able to praise God for who's who's working these awesome things. And then that day we went in for a dentist appointment and found out that we were going to have to add an additional procedure, which is always fun when the dentist tells you that. Right. They're like, great. Okay. Then we go up to the front desk to schedule this dental procedure and they're like, oh, and by the way, you know, because your insurance you're kind of already hit your, your frame. So you're going to owe about \$800 for this procedure. I'm like great Merry Christmas to us. Right. You know, and normally 800 bucks. Okay. That's not a ton of money, but it's enough when you've already budgeted all your excess to go to Christmas presents right into the meal pack.

0 (4m 25s):

Yes. Okay. And we're like, oh great. So I talked with Melissa. I'm like, okay, well we didn't budget for this. And we're like, okay, we'll figure it out. We'll we'll figure it out. And but, but then Melissa was like, maybe I could call back. Maybe they had a mix-up with the insurance or something. So she calls back. No, mix-up okay. There was no mix-up we owe this 800, almost \$800. And she's like, well, can't you give a discount and they're like, we could give you 15% off. And we're like, oh, awesome. Praise God. That's great. Right. And then a couple hours later, I was, I was working and Melissa texted me. She said the dentist office just called. And they said they still had all the insurance stuff. Right. But they were just going to give us this procedure for free. I was like, what? Who does that? Right. Yeah. Pretty cool. Right. And I was like, eh, so then I texted her back.

0 (5m 6s):

I'm like, you know, I prayed for some miracles and it, it happens on the same day that I'm asking God to show up. And I'm like, is it a miracle? That's pretty cool. Right. It's an answer to prayer. It's something that I was excited about and something to celebrate. And I'm like, that is really cool. But even as I'm telling you

that, some of you are like, eh, man, it's just a coincidence. I get it. Okay. I get it that you think it's just a coincidence that it just happens to be that today you asked for a miracle, something out of the blue happens, but it could have happened. It would have happened anyway. Right. That's what some people might say. And if that's you that's okay. Because we're going to talk about this idea of coincidence. Is there a such thing as coincidence or are there no coincidences in the world and there is a concept and I'll just, let's just talk about it.

0 (5m 50s):

That there's a Chinese proverb that says no coincidence. No story is how it translates because you only have the good story to tell something bizarre happened. Right. We, we, we can acknowledge this, that sometimes it's just the bizarre happenstance that you happen to run into that person in the middle of nowhere when you're visiting a foreign country and you're like, wait, what, how did you get here? Okay, crazy. Cool. It seems like this cool coincidence. I don't know if it has any deeper meaning. So I'm going to say this and CS Lewis always talks about this idea that there's this road that you're supposed to drive on. That's right. Okay. And it's very easy to fall into the ditch on either side of the road. So when we're talking about this concept of coincidences or miracles or God's hand being at work, there is on one side full skepticism.

0 (6m 32s):

That no way that's just complete chance and even weird things happen by chance. It was completely a coincidence and anything is a coincidence. There's no such thing as divine work. Okay. That's a ditch that you can fall on and it is not a good ditch to be in. Okay. Let me tell you this. I don't want you in that ditch, but there's also on the other side, let's be honest. There's this ditch of gullibility that you just believe everything. Every weird coincidence. Oh my gosh. I picked up this quarter and this means this, right. It's like, okay, maybe you just found a quarter. Okay. You know, I know people that have made decisions like marry someone because they saw the person's name on like the side of a billboard. Like, okay. Maybe it was God, but I don't know. Like, I don't know. Like, but now you guys are having some fights and need to go counseling.

0 (7m 14s):

Okay. But, okay. The point is we can fall either sides, the skepticism or the goal ability. And we don't want to be either one. We want to be right in the middle, which is saying, Hey, there is sometimes we can healthily say, Hey, I'm not sure that that's quite a coincidence, but I'm open to the fact that it could be a miracle. And, and then we do need to believe some things. We do need to believe some things that God is at work. And we're going to see that very clearly from some scriptures we're going to look at today and what I'm going to teach you. If you're listening right now, lean in a little bit. There's the big idea. Don't want you to leave without this is that there is no coincidence with prayer and Providence. There's no coincidence with prayer and Providence.

0 (7m 55s):

So that's what we're going to focus on today. As we learn from God's word. Now, we're going to jump around to a bunch of different scriptures today. So if you have the Bible app, the YouVersion Bible app, if you go to the bottom right-hand corner, there's a button that says more. It's like three lines. You hit more. And then if you find our event, you can look for an event and just type in a rice church. Denver, we do that every week. And if you're watching online, you can just click that link on there and it'll direct you to, it has all the scriptures. We're gonna look at today, a place to take notes. And it also has a link to our website with different things like the meal pack and giving. And also we have a page dedicated for this series called the rise, Denver to comp slash miracles, which has a bunch of stories in resources that you can click on. If you guys want to dive deeper.

0 (8m 36s):

So go ahead and open there. And our first scripture we're going to look at today is in first Peter chapter one verses 10 through 11, rural short scripture, because in this series, we're talking about the miracles of Chris Christmas and how they point us to something that can impact our lives today. And some deeper questions that we all have. So in first, Peter, one, 10 and 11, we learn about some of the prophecies that are fulfilled in Jesus firsthand. Peter, one of the main disciples of Jesus says this. He says, concerning this salvation. Now he's referring to the salvation that is found in Jesus and Jesus alone, that he came down from heaven to love us, to serve us, to die for us on the cross. That if we believe in his name, that we can have eternal life in heaven forever.

0 (9m 19s):

So he said all that salvation that's good stuff. So he's wrapping up a section. He says, concerning this salvation, the prophets who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. So Peter is saying that there were these profits and they spoke and they wrote over a thousand years time in what we call the old Testament from the book of Genesis, all the way to the last book in our old Testament, Malakai, which is a name that means the messenger is all these prophets spoke.

0 (10m 1s):

Speaking about a Messiah, a savior who would come and it even says, fascinatingly enough, it was the spirit of Christ. Christ means Messiah. So the Messiah who we know as Jesus was speaking through these profits for over a thousand years, he'd stir their hearts. He carried along these authors as they spoke. And as they wrote down these different various prophecies saying, Hey, there's going to be this Messiah coming in. These, these prophets were so excited about it, that they were praying asking, when is this going to happen? They're searching intently, trying to figure out the time, when is this going to happen? Where is it going to happen? What what's going on with the Messiah. And what's really interesting. A few weeks ago, we had a message that just looked at the, the prophecies about Jesus, his suffering, death and resurrection, which

there were 17 prophecies was pretty cool.

0 (10m 48s):

Cool to look at those, but about the birth of Jesus. And that's what we talk about at Christmas time, right? The birth of Jesus, there were at least 11 prophecies about this Messiah who would come at least 11. And I want to go kind of quickly through these because these prophets had these prophecies about the Messiah. And then there were all like wondering, okay, when and where is it going to be? And they were given from over a thousand BC early to about 400 BC. The last prophet Malakai wrote in 400. And then there was this period that they call all so often this 400 silent years when there were no prophet speaking. And they're all waiting eagerly. I mean, some of us can't wait four minutes for something to get out of the oven, right? 400 years, they're waiting, searching. People are praying and longing for the Messiah to come.

0 (11m 30s):

So I want to show you some of these 11 prophecies from the old Testament, these first several are about the lineage of the Messiah. The first one is given to Abraham that it would be from Abraham, one of his descendants. That would be the Messiah, but then it goes on. And if you see here, we're not going to read these scriptures here, but, but you can look at them on the left underneath each one of these prophecies. It says this, the old Testament scripture where it's prophesied Genesis 12, 13, and then on the right next to the arrow, it says the new Testament scripture that shows that that was fulfilled. And you guys got that. So you can look that up on your own, do your homework. Okay. The first one would be from Abraham, but then Abraham had two sons. Okay.

0 (12m 9s):

Yes. And it was a messy situation cause only one of them was through his wife. Okay. Yes. People in the Bible had messed up lives, just like you do. Okay. There's grace for all of us. Okay. Abraham had his first son Ishmael through his conky mine. And then he actually got pregnant through his wife, Sarah. And that was the child Isaac. So there's a second prophecy that says it's going to be through Isaac, not any one of Abraham's children, but only through Isaac's line. But then there's a third prophecy after that, it would be one of Isaac son because Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. And it was through Jacob that the Messiah would come. So here's, here's three prophecies already just narrowing down this lineage. But then it goes on. There's even more prophecies about the lineage of the Messiah.

0 (12m 53s):

It would also be not only one of Jacob's sons cause he had 12 and that's a lot of kids, right? Just 12 boys. It's a lot of boys. Anybody have 12 boys in here? No, I didn't think so. Okay. But one of them, Judah, it would come through Judah's line for the Messiah would come. But then it was going on even generation after generation. After that, there was a man named Jesse who was a shepherd and it was prophesied that it was B from Jesse that the Messiah would be born. And even after that, Jesse son David the king to be a Royal Messiah who would come. So these first six prophecies we see is it narrows and narrows down this family

tree. The Messiah would come from this line, but this is where it gets a little wild.

0 (13m 36s):

You guys ready for this? There's another prophecy that the Messiah would be conceived of a Virgin. Okay. If the first six were like, well let's just lineage. Okay. We're just narrowing down which family part of the family tree. And we're snipping off some lines over there. Okay. But this one in case you didn't know is impossible. Okay. And I said this next week, but I feel like I need to reiterate because some of you are like, well, maybe they didn't understand. They understood biology back then. Okay. This basic biology people in the past, we're not all idiots. If you think that urine idiot, Hey, they knew what it took for a baby to be born. And yet there's this prophecy that the Messiah would be conceived from a Virgin.

0 (14m 16s):

The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a child. Virgin conception. Well, we know that happened when Mary, this young teenage girl got pregnant before she was married before she had been with a man. But then there's even more prophecies about the birth of Jesus. There's one that he would be honored by desert dwellers and Kings. Interesting that they would honor this baby who was born. And we know that when the child was born, Shepherd's out in the field and the deserts came to worship this baby who was born being led there by an angel. And we also know that the match by the wise men, the Kings from the east came to worship the Messiah as well, fulfilling this prophecy from the Psalms.

0 (14m 58s):

But then it gets more specific about location. There's another prophecy in Micah that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Now Bethlehem was not a thriving metropolis of those days. Maybe about 200 people lived in this tiny little town, 200 people, middle of nowhere, Podunk rural village. And it would be from that village where the Messiah would come. But to make it even more interesting, not only would this Messiah be born in Bethlehem, but he would also come out of Egypt. If you didn't know, this Bethlehem is not in Egypt. Hey, Bethlehem is in Israel. Egypt is in Egypt. Okay. So, so how could the Messiah be born in Bethlehem, but come out of Egypt?

0 (15m 40s):

Well, when you read what happened in the new Testament was that this king Herod was so upset that the Messiah was supposedly going to be born, that he ordered all the young boys to be killed, to be slaughtered. Joseph Jesus' father heard about this and took the family out to Egypt to hide as refugees until Herod had passed. And it was safe for them to come back into Israel. So therefore this little baby was born in Bethlehem and came out of Egypt. But then moving on from there, make it even more interesting that the Messiah would come from the region of Galilee. And if you didn't know, this Galilee is not in Egypt and Bethlehem is not in Galilee.

0 (16m 20s):

Galilee is the region and the very Northern most part of Israel. So this Messiah had to be born in this small town, come up out of Egypt and then come from Galilee. Well, that's what happened because Jesus, his family was actually from Galilee, Syria, where there's a town called Nazareth, where Jesus was raised. And he learned the trade of his father as a carpenter there in the region of Galilee here, we see these 11 prophecies fulfilled in one person. Now the ditch of the skeptic says that's just the bizarre chance. Okay? Just a bizarre coincidence that all these things happen to line up.

0 (17m 0s):

And I think you've fallen in a ditch. If you're going to say that, let's just be honest. Okay. You've fallen into the ditch of skepticism because how could all 11 of these have been fulfilled and then for Jesus to go on and live the life of his teachings and his miracles as reported and to live the life that he did and to die the way that he did, it makes no sense for that to be chance and coincidence. I think that takes more faith than to believe. See these prophecies for us should stir in us a ton of faith that God can work throughout human history in mysterious ways to guide prophets, to speak into right things. And then to make all of history come together, all these different strands so that it comes into one person, God acting in human history.

0 (17m 46s):

That's how God works. And why I'm teaching you this today in our series is not just to build your faith in the God of the Bible, but because that God is still alive and at work today. Thank you. You can say Amanda, that that God is still alive. And at work today, he is still working in human history, still bringing things together, still leading the way and maneuvering things. And that God wants to be at work in your life as well. And that's what I'm trying to challenge you guys to do because there is no coincidence with prayer and Providence. So that's why we need to learn how to pray.

0 (18m 28s):

This can and should impact us when we see how God works in history, because Jesus actually teaches us to pray for God to work in these mysterious miraculous ways. He does. I want to show you this in Mark chapter 11, verses 23 and 24. This is Jesus is teaching to us. He says, truly I tell you if anyone says to this mountain, go throw yourself into the sea and does not doubt in their heart, but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Yes. People in the first century did not believe that mountains threw themselves into the sea. Okay? They were not idiots. I kept to keep saying this, but some of you keep thinking that, okay, what Jesus is, teaching is something that's impossible.

0 (19m 11s):

And they knew it was impossible. And yet he tells us to pray for impossible things for God to work in miraculous ways. In fact, he says this in verse 24, therefore I tell you, Jesus says, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it. And it will be yours. This is teaching on prayer. Pray for the miraculous. Pray for God to work in mysterious ways in your life. We're taught to do that. And that's actually what the early Christians did. You know, in the book of Acts, there's all sorts of stories. But I want to just point

out one from acts chapter 12, because the early Christians like they're, they're living out what Jesus had taught.

0 (19m 55s):

It's not just Jesus doing these miracles, okay. Praying for them. But he tells us to do the same in again in acts there's this time where Peter who's, one of the leaders of the early church is preaching telling everybody about Jesus. How amazing is he did his miracles. All of these prophecies are filled. He rose from the dead should believe in him. And because of that, he got thrown in prison. The Jews were not too happy without it. The day, those rigid religious leaders. So it says in acts chapter 12, verse five, it says, so Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly, praying to God for him. I point this out because it wasn't Peter praying it. Wasn't Paul praying it. Wasn't these amazing apostles who did great things. It was the church. It was me and you.

0 (20m 35s):

It was us. God's people, normal everyday people who are praying for Peter when he's in prison. And then it says in verse seven, suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared in a light shone in the cell. And he struck Peter on the side. That's a good way to wake up. Right? Angels are like, wake up Peter and woke them up. Get quick, quick, get up. He said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. He walked out of the gate, completely unharmed, Christians, pray and miracles happen. We're showing that this is how it's supposed to go in the book of acts. So we are taught by Jesus to pray for miracles were shown in the early church.

0 (21m 17s):

That that is how they did it. So we must also ask God to act in mysterious ways that only he can, because there are no coincidences with prayer and Providence. We should pray for things, even small things. Okay. I want to challenge you even to pray for small things, because some of you are like, I don't have a ton of faith, man. That's okay. Pray for small things. JP Moreland has a book called a simple guide to experiencing miracles. I have it linked on our miracles page on our website. It's a great book because this guy is a brilliant philosopher and he has these stories. And one of the stories is about a young girl named Ashley and Ashley was 10 years old and she had two parakeets, but one of them died.

0 (21m 59s):

Okay. So she went to her mom and said, mom, the parakeet died. Eh, can, can we get another one? And what is the mom say? No, you're not getting another parakeet. Okay. You got one still we're we're good with that. Right? As any good mom would say, right? But Ashley was like, well, mom, I'm going to pray that God gives us a parakeet. If you're not going to give you one and pray that God. And she's like, okay, fine. And then Ashley started praying. Well, the very next day, Ashley is outside playing with her friends. When they look up and on a branch, there lands a parakeet, the exact same color and size as the parakeet that had died the day before they canvas the whole neighborhood to find out, does somebody lose a pair of kids?

0 (22m 42s):

Nobody knew anything about it. So they took that parakeet home and God answered Ashley's prayer for a parakeet. See God works in those seemingly small ways. Right? A lot of people have asked me like, well, what defines a miracle? Like does it have to be someone who has this miraculous cure that can't be explained by science as some of the stories we heard last week, maybe. But I would just define it as God's invisible hand at work in the world. We talked about when, when his invisible hand is at work and when we pray and then we see that hand working, it's no coincidence, even for small things like a parakeet. So I want to just challenge you guys to start praying, even for small things in your life, things you're like, okay, this, this can't happen.

0 (23m 26s):

But then boom, it happens. Okay. So start praying for those small things. Because then when you're going to see is God's Providence come through his Providence, come through. So what is Providence? Providence is a fancy word for the way God's invisible hand works in the world. Okay. He's providing, he's acting, he's moving. You know, we sing that song to our kids. He's got the whole world in his hands. Okay. That's great. But then if God only just held the whole world in his hands and everything in it and didn't move his hand, what's the whole point of him holding everything. Right? We sing it because we know that God actually works his hands though. Invisible, that we see just the effects of them as the holy spirit. We see it as the wind knocking a branch, right?

0 (24m 7s):

That's how the holy spirit works. We see the effects of it. Not necessarily seeing it, but that's, God's Providence. He's working in these mysterious ways. And it is actually what is taught throughout the scriptures. Jesus himself taught about Providence. We see it in one place in Matthew chapter 10, Jesus said are not two sparrows sold for a penny, smallest bird sold for a penny yet. Not one of them will fall to the ground outside your father's, what care. And even the very hairs on your head, whether there's a lot or just a few, and even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

0 (24m 47s):

So Jesus told us the hairs on your head, the little bird, and you are worth way more than a bird because you were created in the image of God, knit together in your mother's womb, your specialty. And he cares about you. And because he cares, he acts with his invisible hands to take care of you in acts. The apostle Paul taught this in acts 17, 26, 26. He says from one man, God made all the people of the world. Now they live all over the earth. He did it decided exactly when they should live. And he decided exactly where they should live. All humans throughout human history. God is not just like randomly throwing people out.

0 (25m 27s):

Okay. He, he purposely plants us where we are an exact time and location that we are none of it's on

accident. None of it is coincidence. God is working through all of it. That's his Providence. And what's amazing is the scriptures teach us that even our own FreeWheel decisions that we make God has power to work through. This is what we see in Proverbs chapter 16, verse nine. It says we can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps. We make our plans. We think we've got it all figured out, man. At the beginning of 2020, I had some great plans for this church. You should see the documents I put together for this trip. I was so excited.

0 (26m 7s):

I wrote them all down and guess what happened? All of those plans delete those ones, right? Because that's the reality. We make our plans, but we don't play in the future. God does. He establishes our steps. He can actively use our own freewill decisions. He knows what's going on all the time. And God even works through the terrible evil, sinful, awful things that happen in our world. So what we learn in the great promise of Romans 8 28, and we know that in all things, in all things in the pandemic, in sickness, in death, in Satan, trying to destroy things in our world, in all things, God works for the good of those who love him and have been called according to his purpose.

0 (26m 55s):

God's sovereign providential hand is always at work. There is no coincidence with prayer and Providence. God's invisible, hands are at work. So we need to ask God to act and then watch as he does watch as he does. One of my friends, Scott from seminary, went and planted a church in Nashua, New Hampshire called the well, and just a couple of weeks ago, he shared this story online and I reached out to him. I'm like, Scott, can I please share this story with my church? And he's like, please do math. Please do. So I want you guys to hear from Scott himself about God's Providence.

1 (27m 33s):

Just wanted to share a quick update on the whole process that we're going through right now with charity getting surgery. Some of you don't even know that she's been leading up for months to get a surgery, to completely reconstruct her core. Boy, she has been a warrior for the past nine years of being a mom, but really ever since the first pregnancy, she had a lot of complications with her core, her abs completely splitting and her guts and intestines just being, you know, really vulnerably exposed.

1 (28m 15s):

And so she she's needed to have this done for a long time, but she's been so, so courageous to have four kids and to get through this. And we didn't even know if this was ever going to happen for her, but she's willingly submitted to just having her body ruined to have four kids. So, but she is currently at St. Joseph's hospital and they are working on her. Now this was a surgery. She, she actually is getting her hernia repaired as well. This is a surgery that we, we weren't sure if we were going to be able to afford, but back in the spring really felt convicted that God wanted us to do this, to really care for her. And so that she could be a stronger parent and even grandmother one day.

1 (28m 58s):

So we felt like we needed to do it, even though we weren't sure how it was gonna all gonna happen. And here's really the update. This is why I want to talk this morning. God is unbelievable. Our savior is just so good. And the way that he has cared for us in this season to help charity get to this place where she's having the surgery today is just mind boggling. So we felt convicted to go do it and to have that. And, and then within a few weeks out of nowhere, you know, when, when it was going to be thousands of dollars up front, to be able to do this, a partner who had supported our adventure here in church planning early in the process that we hadn't even talked to for five plus years, no joke.

1 (29m 47s):

We got a letter in the mail and in the letter they said, man, we've been following you guys and loving what you're doing and all that God is, is doing to care for you and expand his kingdom, his mission to love the world through the well. And she said, as I was praying for you guys, God just put it on my heart today to do something for you. And in the card was a check for, I mean, thousands of dollars within \$5 of what we needed to put up front. And it broke us. I mean, just to know that someone we hadn't talked to in five plus years, God put it on their heart to care for my wife in a vulnerability that she had endured for years and years and years was it just blew our minds that God loves us that much.

1 (30m 31s):

And he does.

0 (30m 33s):

And they're pretty cool. Thank you, Scott and charity for letting us share your story and keep, continue to pray for charities recovery. But that's how God's Providence works. Like you pray, you follow him and then God will provide, he takes care of things like that. So that's why I want to challenge all of you guys start praying and even pray for specific things. K, how many prayers were like, God, we just want you to work and do some stuff and be there like, okay, great. But let's, let's make it from vague to specific like, God, we need this much money. We need you to act in this person's heart because I've tried to talk with them and nothing will convince them, change their heart. There's just some specific things that we can be praying for.

0 (31m 15s):

And I want to challenge you guys to start praying for some specific things and then watch as God comes through the same God who took these 11 prophecies that he wrote through all these different other authors of the old Testament that these 11 prophecies were fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. And a few weeks ago, we talked about the 17 prophecies that will forever were fulfilled in the suffering death and resurrection of Jesus. Plus there's over a dozen more in the middle of his life. I did some research this week. I'm like how many prophecies were even fulfilled with Jesus on the low end 55 and the low end 55. But then there's some that say there was a hundred or 300. I found one scholar who found, I think it was 574 scriptures in the old

Testament that were fulfilled in Jesus.

0 (32m 2s):

So whether you think it's 55 or 574 or somewhere in between, it's pretty incredible that God can work in mysterious ways like that. And if God is willing to do that, what is he willing to do for us? And the scriptures? Tell us that that actually proves the following. Look at this in Romans 8 32. This verse is so good, so good. It's so good. You guys should memorize this Romans 8 32. It says, but God did not keep back his own son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else. God is willing to do so much for us and giving his own son to be born among us in a manger, to live for us, to die on the cross and suffer all of those atrocities.

0 (32m 44s):

And if, if God's willing to do that for us, he's willing to do so much more in the name of Jesus. For those who believe in his name, some saying this, we need to ask God to act specifically and then watch as he comes through with his invisible hand Providence, because there is no coincidence with prayer and Providence. So whether you're asking for very small things or huge, enormous things, and in two weeks, our messages all going to be about praying for those impossible prayers that you're like, there's no way that this could happen. Okay, come back in two weeks. If you're like, we want to know more about that. But I think some of us have these small specific ways or medium specific ways. And we need to ask God to do that because he does work in those ways.

0 (33m 25s):

And I wanted to tell you one story about a woman named Nadina and Nadina went by Dina, as she was known. And Dina was, was born and raised in Iran. And because of that, she was raised as a Muslim. And she, she lived there in, she was Muslim so much that she hated Christians. Okay. She hated anyone that broke for, with Islam that she became part of something there in the nation of Islam or in the nation of Iran, that kind of translates to basically the female secret police. So she would, you know, rat out people that weren't following Sharia law in Iran so that they could be punished. And she specifically wanted to find people who had converted to Christianity because then they could be arrested.

0 (34m 11s):

They could be tortured and even killed. And she took joy in turning in Christians. Part of the reason was because she was depressed and angry and she felt that despair because she was a single woman and she was living with her mother who on top of having Ms was slowly dying of cancer. She was taking care of her mother and her mother just kept getting worse and worse and worse. And so Dina was just so angry being at home all the time, taking care of her mother, that she started calling in to a Christian TV show. And there's this Christian TV show. You guys can look it up.

0 (34m 51s):

It's a ministry called Iran. I live ministries led by Hormoz Shariat and I'm sure I'm pronouncing that right. And Hamas was actually an Iranian man raised Muslim, but he came to the U S to study at USC, get his doctorate there as to be a scientist. And that's when he met Jesus Christ became a follower of Jesus. He planted a church in California and then he felt led to start. This ministry ran alive ministries, and they would go through satellite to bring Christian TV live into Iran. And what's amazing is that Hamas is known as the Billy Graham of Iran because seven to 9 million people watch his TV show every day, 79 million. That's almost 10% of the entire nation of Iran.

0 (35m 34s):

Yeah. So he goes on live TV and allows people to call in and say whatever they want. So Dina would call in regularly to a show. And the first time she called in 2002, she said, you're going to hell because Jesus is not, God was the first thing, first words out of her mouth. Right. That's great. Okay. And she kept calling back over and over again. You just say angry things to Hormoz. And finally, she, as things got progressively worse with her mother, she called into the TV show and on live TV said, Hey, things are so bad. My mother's or her health is so poor right now. She can't get out of bed. She's bedridden for a long time.

0 (36m 15s):

And I'm going to kill my mother and commit suicide right now on live TV. And this was, wasn't an idle threat because Iran does have the highest suicide rate in the entire world. Things are bad there. And she said, I'm going to do it on live TV and Hamas, just trying to think real quickly said, okay, if you're going to commit suicide and you're going to kill yourself anyways, take the next seven days and give them to Jesus. Dina was like, yeah. Right, Jesus, isn't real. Okay. He's not God. And he said, well, just take me up on this challenge for seven days, ask Jesus every day to save you. Jesus saved me. And he said, if Jesus doesn't show up in the next seven days, call backup and you can commit suicide on, on TV.

0 (36m 60s):

So Dina almost as a joke says, I'll do it. I'll take your challenge. Well, seven days later, she calls back on the TV show and Hamas says that he was really nervous as he saw her name pop up on, on, on who was calling in because he had no idea what was about to happen. But when he picked up the phone, Dina said, your Jesus is real. She said, I started praying every day and thinking it was just a joke. She said, and nothing happened for the first four days. But on the fifth, fifth day, early in the morning, before I had gotten out of bed, I heard somebody walking in the hallway and I thought, for sure, there was an intruder because my mom hadn't moved in a long time, but it was her mother that opened the door and came in and she said, I'm feeling great.

0 (37m 49s):

And her mother explained, she said, last night, I felt like I was going to die. I thought it was the end. And I just cried out for anyone to help me. And he came and healed. Me and Dean is like, who, who came? Was it one of the moms, one of the Muslim leaders that, that came and healed you? And she said, no, no, no. It

was Jesus. I saw his face in my room and I'm healed. They went to the hospital. Her Ms had been healed and her cancer was gone. The doctor said it was a miracle. And the Dean and her mother both accepted Jesus Christ. And when I read that story, it was last updated in 2020, her mother was still alive and completely healthy.

0 (38m 29s):

Dina gave her life to Christ and she later married and she and her husband started planting churches in knowing that she could get tortured and killed because of her faith. But they have planted now hundreds of churches. Now, I don't know if you knew this, but I ran now has, is some of the fastest growing churches in the entire world, even though they're completely underground. And this is at work because that's simple. Pre-write Jesus saved me. Jesus, do something show up and God showed up big time in her life. See the God who arranged all those prophecies for Jesus who works in human history is the same God that is at work today in your lives.

0 (39m 10s):

And we need to ask that God, to act in our lives, to pray for specific things, to ask him to move and to act and to do miracle small things like a parakeet or huge things like healing from cancer. But whatever it is, we need to ask God to work because there is no coincidence with prayer and Providence. So I'm not a Jew right now. I just want you to take a second. Okay. We need to start asking God to do some things. Jay James said, you have not because you asked not okay. So I want you to take a minute right now. Take out your phone, take out a piece of paper. And I want you to write down at least one specific prayer, one specific prayer. I don't care if it was that a small thing or a huge thing. Just write down that one specific fare.

0 (39m 50s):

So, so do it right now. Okay. I mean, it take, take a moment to do this.

0 (40m 34s):

The men, women and children who are watching, who are listening and who are here in person, Lord. Some of them are writing down some specific things and I pray that you'd lead them to do those things. Lord God, we're asking you to move. We believe that you were the same God who worked throughout history to, to help the prophets write down these incredible prophecies, to fulfill them in the birth in life of Jesus. And we pray that you would continue to work in our lives. And if you gave us your son, how could you not? Ben give us so much more. We claim that promise today and ask that you'd work. Now, if everybody could just close your eyes for a second, if you're able to close your eyes and there might be someone here who has already been experiencing those crazy things happen in your life.

0 (41m 19s):

And you know that Jesus has already shown up in your life. And you're like, I know something has changed if that's you and you're ready to make Jesus, your Lord and savior. I want to challenge you to do that today

so that he would work in mysterious ways in your life and that he would work all together for your good. So what we do here is we have this simple prayer that you can repeat to declare that Jesus is your Lord and savior and receive his gift of eternal life. And what I'm going to do is lead you in this prayer. So if you're already a follower of Jesus, could you say this out loud to give courage to somebody who needs to pray it for the first time? And let's say this prayer together, please repeat after me, dear God, I'm a sinner. I need a savior. Save me, forgive me in faith.

0 (42m 3s):

I declare Jesus is Lord, fill me with your spirit. Give me eternal life. Help me to follow you and believe for the rest of my life. Now with eyes still closed. If you said that prayer for the first time, if Jesus is your Lord and savior today, would you please slip your hand into the air? We just want to be able to see it. And like the young woman in the first service who made this decision, we just want to celebrate with you. So please slip your hand in the air. If you made that decision, if you're online, you can go to a rise, denver.com/follow. Yeah, you can put your hand in a year. Lord, God, we are just so grateful for those who make this decision to follow you.

0 (42m 43s):

And we pray that you'd bless them and you'd show up in small and big and enormous ways that cannot be explained by anything that we can't just say, oh, it's just a coincidence, Lord God. I pray that in all of our lives and in our church, we would continue to see the invisible hand of God work in miraculous ways. We believe God that you are the God of miracles. And we come right now to worship at Jesus's feet. Pray all this in his name. Amen. And would you please stand together as we sing this song? We introduce last week house of miracles, whether you're at home or here in this facility, we're going to seem to this, this Jesus who works miracles and remember, come back next week, be the miracle 8, 9 30 and 11, and bring all your.