

The two greatest miracles in the world today.

Yesterday millions of Christians in Russia remembered the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. A great miracle happened when about 2000 years ago Mary, a virgin, who had never had physical contact with a man, became pregnant and delivered a baby boy named Jesus. The Bible says in Luke 1:25 that the Holy Spirit came upon her and that the Power of the Most High overshadowed Mary and that the baby to be born would be called the Son of God. This is no doubt the greatest event in the human history. God became man.

I like to answer 2 questions about this great event...

Why did Jesus come?

What did Jesus come to do?

Why did Jesus come?

1. Jesus came because He was sent by God (John 17:3)
2. Jesus was sent to do the will of God (John 6:38) "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of Him Who sent me".
3. Jesus was sent to speak the words of God (John 3:34) "For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God".
4. Jesus was sent to do the works of God (John 14:10) "It is the Father living in me Who is doing His work"
5. Jesus was sent that the world might live through Him (1 John 4:9) "He sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through Him" We are all doomed to die because of sin. "The wages of sin is death" In Hebrews 9:26 God's Word says that Jesus "appeared to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself". Praise the Name of the Lord!

What did Jesus come to do? He answers this question in:

1. Luke 19:10 "The Son came to seek and save the lost"
2. John 12:46 "I have come into the world as a light so that no one who believes in me would stay in darkness".
3. John 12:47 "I did not come to judge the world but to save it"
4. Luke 5:32 "I have come to call sinners to repentance"
5. John 10:10 "I have come that they might have life and have it to the full"

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This Jesus died on the cross at Calvary; He was buried and 3 days later rose again from the dead. He took our punishment upon Himself and he died for us. He died on our behalf. Today Jesus Christ is alive. The grave is empty.

Two years ago my wife and I went to Jerusalem and visited His gravesite, a tomb cut out in a rock. Praise God the tomb is empty. There are no bones. He is alive. Hallelujah!

Now this risen Jesus wants to live in you and me. The dynamic of Christmas is in the continuing divine action when you and I are born again the moment we accept Jesus Christ. John 1:12-13 “to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become the children of God, born not of natural descent, not of human decision or a husband, but born of God”.

The greatest miracle today takes place when a person is born again by the Holy Spirit and totally and completely changed by the power of God.

When we are born again

We become indwelt by the life of God 1 John 4:15

We become the sons of God Gal. 3:26

We become the children of God. John 1:12

We become partakers of His divine nature. 2 Peter 1:4

We are changed by the Power of God 2 Cor. 5:17

The Second Greatest Miracle today happens when a person denies self, dies to self and the Lord Jesus Christ can live His resurrected life in and through that person. This means that Jesus can function, that Jesus becomes his life so that the person can say with Paul in Phil. 1:21 for me to live is Christ. Gal 2:20 “I live, yet not I but Christ is living in me”.

I have discovered that the most difficult thing to do is to deny self. Self does not want to be denied.

Self wants to be praised, loved, honored, respected and get lots of attention. Denying self is totally against human nature.

Yet the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34 and Luke 9:23 to be a disciple of Jesus Christ you must deny, self, take up your cross and follow Jesus.

Yet when we obey God's Word the results are beyond belief and beyond any expectation. D.L. Moody once said, "that the world has yet to see what God can do through a man totally dedicated to Him" and then he added, "by the grace of God I want to be that man".

1. Deny self. What does it mean? It means setting aside all selfish ambitions and selfish desires. Not I but Christ! It means Jesus only.
2. Take up your cross. What does that mean? It means to accept what God gives. Your cross may be a burden or a difficulty. No grumbling, no complaining. There are burdens in your life and my life. It may be learning a difficult language. It may be separation from family. It may be persecution. I have heard that Russian is a difficult language to learn and that some give up. Don't give up. Remember the Mark 10:27 principle. What is this principle. Let's read Mark 10:27. Jesus said: "With men this is impossible but not with God, all things are possible with God.
3. Follow Jesus Christ. What does that mean? It means total identification with the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrew 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever". Follow Jesus means follow His teaching. Do what He did. What did He do?

(1) "I have come to Seek and Save the lost". Jesus said, "GO". Why go? Because seldom people come us and ask to be saved. In my 41 years of service in Indonesia only one person came to me. His name was Andy Yusuf, the General Secretary of the Islam Youth Movement.

(2) "I have come to bring light into darkness". Jesus said, "You are the light of the world". We bring the light of the Gospel.

(3) "I did not come to judge the world but to save the world". We need to stop judging, criticizing, gossiping and talking about other people but save the world. Introduce people to the only and only Savior.

(4) "I came to call sinners to repentance". I don't know about Russia but in many churches in other countries this message is not heard much. There is much talk about the Love of God and little talk about repentance. Yet the Lord said "if we don't repent we perish!"

(5) "I came to bring a life to the full". An abundant life. A fantastic life. An extra-ordinary life. So we introduce people to this exciting and fantastic life in Christ. In Indonesia we greet people by saying: "What's the news?" Usually people answer and reply "good news" or

Everything is normal. Nothing is normal in the life of a Christian who is filled with the Life of Jesus, who is filled with the Holy Spirit. Everything is fantastic, terrific, marvelous, and wonderful.

What is so fantastic? I can only mention a few.

1. Our sins are forgiven and God will remember them no more! Wow!
2. We have been saved from judgement and punishment of our sin.
 1. Our names are written in the Book of Life in heaven. Wow!
 2. God hears and answers our prayers. Wow!
 3. God supplies all our needs according to Phil. 4:19 Wow!
 4. God heals the sick. Wow!
 5. Jesus is preparing homes for us in heaven, where the streets and houses are made of pure gold. Wow!
 6. Jesus wants to live His life in and through us in the Power of the Holy Spirit. Wow!
 7. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of Lord. He is all-powerful. Wow!
 8. Jesus is coming back to earth and we will reign with him. Maranatha! Hallelujah!

I close with reading from Romans 12:1, “Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship”. Why is the Apostle Paul urging the believers to offer their bodies to God? This is God’s perfect will and pleases Him. It talks about a living sacrifice. Sacrifice means dying and this involves dying to self or denying self so that Jesus can live and function in and through us.