

Raising The Dead

Matthew 10:7-8 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Matthew 11:4-6 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 "The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 "And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Definition:

A working of miracles, more than a gift of healing; the spirit of the departed must return to the body.

Observations:

This is a rare occurrence and requires a greater faith. Healing & salvation are applied on a regular basis. I don't know of an unbeliever being raised from the dead.

God did not promise everyone would be raised from the dead (Jesus did not raise up John the Baptist)

Two people in the bible did not die (Enoch & Elijah). Many believe these are the two witness in the book of Revelations that will die and be raised from the dead after 3 & ½ days.

Those raised from the dead (though not all) were young people

When decay is set in or there is a dismembering or disemboweling, a type of resurrection must take place in order for them to be raised up

I exercise my faith that believers don't experience premature death

When God intends for such a miracle to take place there is usually a strong witness on the part of one who prays that God will restore the person to life

After a long battle of faith, most will not attempt to raise someone from the dead, concluding it is God's will

Hindrances to raising the dead:

- ✓ Human emotion
 - Disappointment, pain from loss
- ✓ Spirit of religion – Those who claim these miracles are mocked, ridiculed, and persecuted
- ✓ Unbelief of age
 - When did you last hear this topic preached?
- ✓ Not considering it an option or trying
 - When did you last try it? Or hear of someone attempting it?

Modern Day Examples:

1. Smith Wigglesworth (Bold gift of faith)
 - Several attempts in one case: He threw the dead body against the wall eight times before the man was raised
 - Challenge: Many today don't seek the greater gifts that God can show us a greater way (1 Corinthians 12:31)
2. David Hogan (Fasting and prayer)
 - Not all are raised, but it opens the door for other salvations, miracles and healings
 - Challenge: Some won't have daily devotions much less fast or give themselves to extended times of prayer
3. Dena Smith (Exercise of faith) – Being available
 - Challenge: Overcoming the fear of man, and failure, and looking like a kook in public

Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Bible Examples:

1. The raising of the Widow's son by Elijah (1 Kings 17:9-24)
2. The raising of the Shunammite Woman's son by Elisha (2 Kings 4)
3. The dead man who touched Elisha's bones (2 Kings 13:21)
4. The raising of the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11-16)
5. The raising of Jairus' Daughter (Luke 8:41-56)
6. The raising of Lazarus (John 11)
7. Those raised after Christ died on the cross (Matthew 27:51-53)
8. The raising of Dorcus (Acts 9:36-43)
9. Eutychus raised from the dead (Acts 20:7-12)