

GOD WORKS MIRACLES THROUGH HIS SAINTS —*Scriptural Testimony*—

The Holy Scriptures detail that God not only performs miracles for us through His Saints, but that He also instructs us to seek the prayers and intercessions of His Saints. If God did not want us to pray to the saints, then He would neither instruct us to do so, nor would He perform miracles through them. Behold the truth of these words as documented in the Old Testament.

God instructed Abimelech that he would be healed only after Abraham prayed for him: **“But now return the man his wife; for he is a prophet. And he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live.... And Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech” (Gen 20:7-17).**

God’s punishment came to an end after the Pharaoh asked Moses and Aaron to pray: **“And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time... Intreat the Lord that there be no more mighty thunderings and hail ... And Moses went forth from Pharaoh out of the city, and stretched out his hands to the Lord, and the thunders ceased and the hail” (Exodus 9:27-33).**

God informed Moses that He had decided destroy His people on account of their sins: **“And now let me alone, and I will be very angry with them and consume them.” (Exodus 22:10).** However, because **“Moses prayed before the Lord God and said... cease from thy wrathful anger, and be merciful to the sin of thy people, remembering Abraham and Isaac and Jacob thy servants,”** God decided not to harm the people: **“And the Lord was propitiated to preserve his people” (Exodus 22:11-14).** What is noteworthy in this passage is that the Prophet Moses calls upon the intercessions of his forefathers Abraham, Issac, and Jacob when praying to the Lord.

In another similar instance, God ended His punishment when the Jews asked Moses to pray for them: **“And the people murmured sinfully against the Lord; and the Lord heard them and was very angry.... And the people cried to Moses; and Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire was quenched” (Numbers 11:12).**

The people repeatedly asked the Prophet Samuel to pray for them: **“And the children of Israel said to Samuel, cease not to cry to the Lord thy God for us, and he shall save us... and Samuel cried to the Lord of Israel and the Lord heard him”** (1st Kings 7:8-9).

“And Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunders and rain in that day; and all the people feared greatly the Lord and Samuel. And all the people said to Samuel, pray for thy servants to the Lord thy God, and let us not die” (1st Kings 12:18-19).

King Jeroboam had his hand restored to health not by praying to God directly, but by asking a saint to pray for him: **“And king Jeroboam said to the man of God, Intreat the Lord thy God and let my hand be restored to me. And the man of God intreated the Lord, and he restored the king’s hand to him, and it became as before”** (3rd Kings 13:4-6).

In the book of Job, God specifically directs three people who had sinned to seek the intercessions of Job, and He stated that their sin would not be forgiven unless Job prayed for them. **“And it came to pass after the Lord had spoken all these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Thaemanite, Thou hast sinned, and thy two friends: for ye have not said anything true before me, as my servant Job has. Now then take seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and he shall offer a burnt offering for you. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will only accept him. If it were not for him, I would have destroyed you, for ye have not spoken the truth against my servant Job. So Eliphaz the Thaemanite, and Baldad the Sauchite, and Sophar the Minaean, went and did as the Lord commanded them: and he pardoned their sin for the sake of Job”** (Job 42:7-10).

Naiman the Syrian neither prayed to God nor was healed by the Lord directly. He was cleansed of his leprosy by seeking the prayers of the Prophet Elisha: **“And she said to her mistress, O that my lord were before the prophet of God in Samaria; then he would recover him from his leprosy ... So Naiman went down and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the word of Elisha: and his flesh returned to him as the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed”** (4th Kings 5:2-14).

The Prophet Elijah resurrected a child: **“And he breathed on the child thrice, and called on the Lord and said, O Lord my God, let, I pray thee, the**

soul of this child return to him. And it was so, and the child cried out” (3 Kings 17:21-23).

Elisha used the miracle-working garment of the prophet Elijah to part the waters of the Jordan River: **“Elisha took the mantle of Elijah which fell from him and he smote the water and it did not part. And then he said, where is the lord God of Elijah? And he smote the waters and they were divided hither and tither; and Elisha crossed over” (4th Kings 2:11-14).** This verse is noteworthy because the miracle took place only after Elisha called upon the prayers of Elijah.

The people asked the prophet Elisha, not God, to turn bitter waters into sweet, drinkable water: **“And the men of the city said to Elisha, Behold, the situation of the city is good, as our lord sees; but the waters are bad, and the ground is barren. And Elisha said, Bring me a new pitcher and put salt in it. And they took one and brought it to him. And he went forth unto the spring of the waters and cast salt therein, and said, Thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters; there shall not be any longer death thence or barren land. And the waters were healed until this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke” (4th Kings 2:19-22).**

The prophet Elisha miraculously multiplied olive oil for a widow in need who asked him for help: **“And one of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha saying, Thy servant my husband is dead ... and the creditor is come to take my two sons to be his servants ... And she said, Thy handmaid has nothing in the house except oil wherewith I anoint myself ... And he said to her, Go, borrow for thyself empty vessels from all thy neighbours; borrow not a few ... and thou shalt pour forth into these vessels, and take that which is filled ... and they brough the vessels near to her, and she poured in until the vessels were filled ... And she came and told the man of God; and Elisha said, Go and sell the oil, and thou shalt pay thy debts, and thou and thy sons shall live off the remaining oil” (4th Kings 4:1-7).**

Wishing to express his gratitude for the hospitality he received from a certain woman, the prophet Elisha helped this infertile woman conceive a son: **“And he called her, and she stood by the door. And Elisha said to her, At this time next year, as the season is, thou shalt be alive and embrace a son**

... And the woman conceived, and bore a son at the very time, as the season was, as Elisha said to her” (4th Kings 4:5-17).

With his prayer, the prophet Elisha resurrected this same boy: **“And Elisha went into the house, and behold, the dead child was laid upon his bed ... And Elisha shut the door upon themselves, the two, and prayed to the Lord ... and the child opened his eyes. And Elisha cried out to Giezi and said, Call this Somanite. So he called her, and she came in to him, and Elisha said, Take thy son. And the woman went in, and fell at his feet and did obeisance bowing to the ground; and she took her son and went out” (4th Kings 4:32-37).**

The Lord multiplied food at the command of this same prophet: **“And there came a man over from Baetharis, and brought to the man of God twenty barley loaves and cakes of figs, of the first fruits. And he said, ‘Give to the people, and let them eat.’ And his servant said, ‘what is this to give before one hundred men?’ And he said, ‘Give to the people, and let them eat; for thus saith the Lord, They shall eat and there will be leftovers.’ And they ate and there were leftovers, according to the word of the Lord” (4th Kings 4:42-44).**

The remains of the prophet Elisha, even after he passed away, resurrected a dead man: **“And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites came into the land at the beginning of the year. And it came to pass as they were burying a man, that behold, they saw a band of men, and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And as soon as he touched the bones of Elisha, he came back to life and stood up on his feet” (4th Kings 13:21).**

God Himself testifies that the prayer of a single holy man would be enough to avert His just punishment and save an entire sinful city from destruction: **“And I sought from among them a man behaving uprightly, and standing before me perfectly in the time of wrath, so that I should not utterly destroy her: but I found him not” (Ezekiel 22:30-31).**

Behold how the Holy Scriptures not only state that it is permissible to ask the Saints to pray for us, and that the Saints perform miracles, but that oftentimes God performs miracles only at the request of His saints.

Just as God worked miracles through His holy prophets in the Old Testament, Jesus Christ worked and continues to work miracles through His holy Apostles and His saints throughout the centuries up until today, and He will continue doing so until the end of this present age. Christ Himself assured us that they who would believe in His Divinity would perform the same miracles as He did: **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do” (Jn. 14:12).** And He continues to state: **“And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (Jn. 14:13).** Therefore, it is no surprise if holy men and women who believed in Christ, who loved Him, who kept His commandments, and who sacrificed their life for Him performed and perform miracles.

While Christ was still on the earth, He gave His Holy Apostles the power to perform miracles, to heal illnesses, and to cast out demons:

“And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease” (Mt. 10:1).

“Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons” (Mk. 3:14-15).

“And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits” (Mk. 6:7).

“And they [the Apostles] cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them” (Mk. 6:13).

“And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name they will cast out demons, they will speak new languages, they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mk. 16:17-18).

After Christ ascended into Heaven, as God He continued to work miracles through His holy Apostles and faithful Christians. Behold the testimony found in the book of Acts:

“And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles” (Acts 2:43).

The Apostle Peter healed a paralyzed man who asked him for help: **“And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, was carried to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms... Then Peter said ‘silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God” (Acts 3:3-8).**

“And through the hands of the Apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people” (Acts 5:12).

People would bring the sick to the Apostle Peter, whose mere shadow would perform miracles: **“Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks and those who were vexed with unclean spirits; and they were healed, every one” (Acts 5:15-16).** If God wanted us to go directly only to Him, He would not have performed these miracles through the Apostles.

The protodeacon and first-martyr Stephen performed many miracles: **“And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people” (Acts 6:8).**

St. Philip the Evangelist also performed many miracles: **“And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a**

loud voice came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed” (Acts 8:6-7).

“Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done” (Acts 8:13).

Christ did not restore the Apostle Paul’s vision directly Himself, but he sent Ananias to perform the miracle: **“And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once” (Acts 9:17-18).**

The Apostle Peter healed a man who had been crippled for eight years: **“Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, ‘Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.’ Then he arose immediately” (Acts 9:32-34).**

When Tabitha died, the Christians in Lydda asked the Apostle Peter, not God, to resurrect her. And the Apostle Peter performed the miracle: **“And since Lydda was near to Joppa and the disciples had heard that Peter was there they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he should not delay to come to them... And when he had come... and kneeled down and prayed, and she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up” (Acts 9:38-43).**

Concerning the Apostles Paul and Barnabas, it is written: **“Therefore, they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands” (Acts 14:3).**

The Apostle Paul also healed a crippled man: **“And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a**

loud voice, ‘Stand up straight on your feet!’ And he leaped and walked. Now when the people saw what Paul had done...” (Acts 14:8-11).

Furthermore, he cast out a demon with a single command: **“But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour” (Acts 16:18).**

The Apostle Paul healed Publius’ father and many other sick people who came to seek his help: **“In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, who's name was Publius ... And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. They also honored us in many ways” (Acts 28:7-10).** What is noteworthy is that these people had not even believed in Jesus Christ; nonetheless, they sought help from the Apostle Paul, and Christ worked miracles through His Apostle.

Not only the Apostle Paul himself, but even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched the Apostle’s body were capable of performing miracles: **“Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons from his body were brought unto the sick, and the diseases departed from them and the evil spirits went out of them.” (Acts 19:11-12).**

Finally, in the book of the Revelation, the following is said concerning the two saints of God who will appear at the time of the the Antichrist: **“And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy... They have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire” (Rev. 11:3-6).**

Behold how the Holy Scriptures clearly state that God works miracles through His prophets, Apostles, and saints. They who maintain that God only performs miracles directly Himself and not through His saints, therefore, lie and err not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.