

A pair of black-rimmed glasses is resting on an open book. The book has a red bookmark. The background is a blurred wooden surface.

Bracknell Bible Study Day

17th June 2023



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Studying the Gospel of Luke

Subject Study
MIRACLES





Starting a study is always the hardest thing to do

Read it, read it, read it again – the whole book – over and over again!

Identify some common themes

Luke – around 1½ hours? A game of football! (275wpm)

Where to begin -
READ



CONSIDER a subject to study

Read it and certain themes will emerge – write them down

Miracles

Discipleship

Guidance

Commissioning

Healing

Parables

Jews and
Gentiles

Sickness

Scribes and
Pharisees

Publicans
and sinners

Children

IDENTIFY one to dig into deeper

PRAY...and then READ again

MIRACLES



Note down every miracle that you come across as you read

MIRACLES in the Gospel of Luke

Christ honors our Submission even when our only motivation is obedience.

- Beth Moore

Write them all down...the book starts and ends with a miracle

- The conception and birth of John the Baptist 1:5
- The conception and birth of the Lord Jesus Christ 1:26
- The Spirit of God descending...like a dove 3:22
- Casting out a demon 4:31
- Healing Simon's wife's mother 4:38
- ...23 more miracles – I think! (Most of them in the first 9 chapters)...
- The resurrection 24:1
- The ascension 24:51

Jesus' home town Rejects Him.

Demon - copy/no fear of God - knows Jesus will destroy them - knows Jesus is the HOLY ONE OF GOD

AT GODS WORD + BY HIS WILL every thing can change. BY HIS POWER any thing can happen.

what we spend hours, nights, & days toiling for happen in an

45' #1 introcc adding 9:21 SCORGE

power of gods WORD

IF YOU CAN PRAY

PRAYER TO HEAL THEM

able they had no faith, they had no motivation to get...

Christ honors our Submission even when our only motivation is obedience.

-Beth Moore

MIRACLES in the Gospel of Luke

Then, how about comparing them with the other gospels: Which are unique? Which are missing? Why so many less in John? What do they tell you about Luke?

- Widow of Nain's son 7:11-17
- The infirm woman 13:11-13
- Man with dropsy 14:1-4
- The ten lepers 17:11-19
- The ear of the High Priest's servant 22:50-51

Jesus' home town Rejects Him.

Demon - copy/no fear of God - Knows Jesus will destroy them - Knows Jesus is the HOLY ONE OF GOD

AT GODS WORD + BY HIS WILL every thing can change. BY HIS POWER any thing can happen.

what we spend hours, nights, & days talking for

45' #1 introcc adding 9:21 8:30

IF YOU CAN PRAY FOR EVERYTHING

PRAYER TO HEAL THEM

John they had no faith, they had no motivation to go to Jesus

DEFINE: What is a miracle?

An unusual and mysterious event that is thought to have been caused by a god because it does not follow the usual laws of nature.

Cambridge Dictionary

A miracle is a wonderful and surprising event that is believed to be caused by God. *Collins Dictionary*

DEFINE: What is a miracle?

An event in the external world brought about by the immediate agency or the simple volition of God, operating without the use of means capable of being discerned by the senses, and designed to authenticate the divine commission of a religious teacher and the truth of his message. *Easton's Bible Dictionary*

DEFINE: What is a miracle?

Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

1. **dunamis (δύναμις, 1411)**, “power, inherent ability,” is used of works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means. It is translated “miracles” in the RV and KJV in **Acts 8:13** (where variant readings give the words in different order); 19:11; 1 Cor. 12:10, 28, 29; Gal. 3:5; KJV only, in Acts 2:22 (RV, “mighty works”); Heb. 2:4 (RV, “powers”). In Gal. 3:5, the word may be taken in its widest sense, to include “miracles” both physical and moral. See **might, A, No. 1, power, work.**
2. **semeion (σημεῖον, 4592)**, “a sign, mark, token” (akin to semaino, “to give a sign”; sema, “a sign”), is used of “miracles” and wonders as signs of divine authority; it is translated “miracles” in the RV and KJV of **Luke 23:8**; Acts 4:16, 22; most usually it is given its more appropriate meaning “sign,” “signs,” e.g., Matt. 12:38, 39, and in every occurrence in the Synoptists, except Luke 23:8; in the following passages in John's Gospel the RV substitutes “sign” or “signs” for the KJV “miracle or miracles”; 2:11, 23; 3:2; 4:54; 6:2, 14, 26; 7:31; 9:16; 10:41; 11:47; 12:18, 37; the KJV also has “signs” elsewhere in this Gospel; in Acts, RV, “signs,” KJV, “miracles,” in 6:8; 8:6; 15:12; elsewhere only in Rev. 13:14; 16:14; 19:20. See **sign, token, wonder.**

DEFINE: What is a miracle?

Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

1. *dunamis* (δύναμις, 1411)

Luke 4:36 Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out."

Acts 8:13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptised he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs (4592) which were done.

2. *semeion* (σημεῖον, 4592)

Luke 23:8 Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him.

QUESTION: Why miracles?

Think and pray this through – reading more widely

To establish something new (more of that to follow)

As evidence of deity – ‘unless God is with him’ *John 3:2, Acts 2:22*

To show the glory of God/the Lord Jesus *John 2:11*

That people might believe *John 2:11*

As manifest evidence of his power and authority to forgive sins *Mark 2:10*

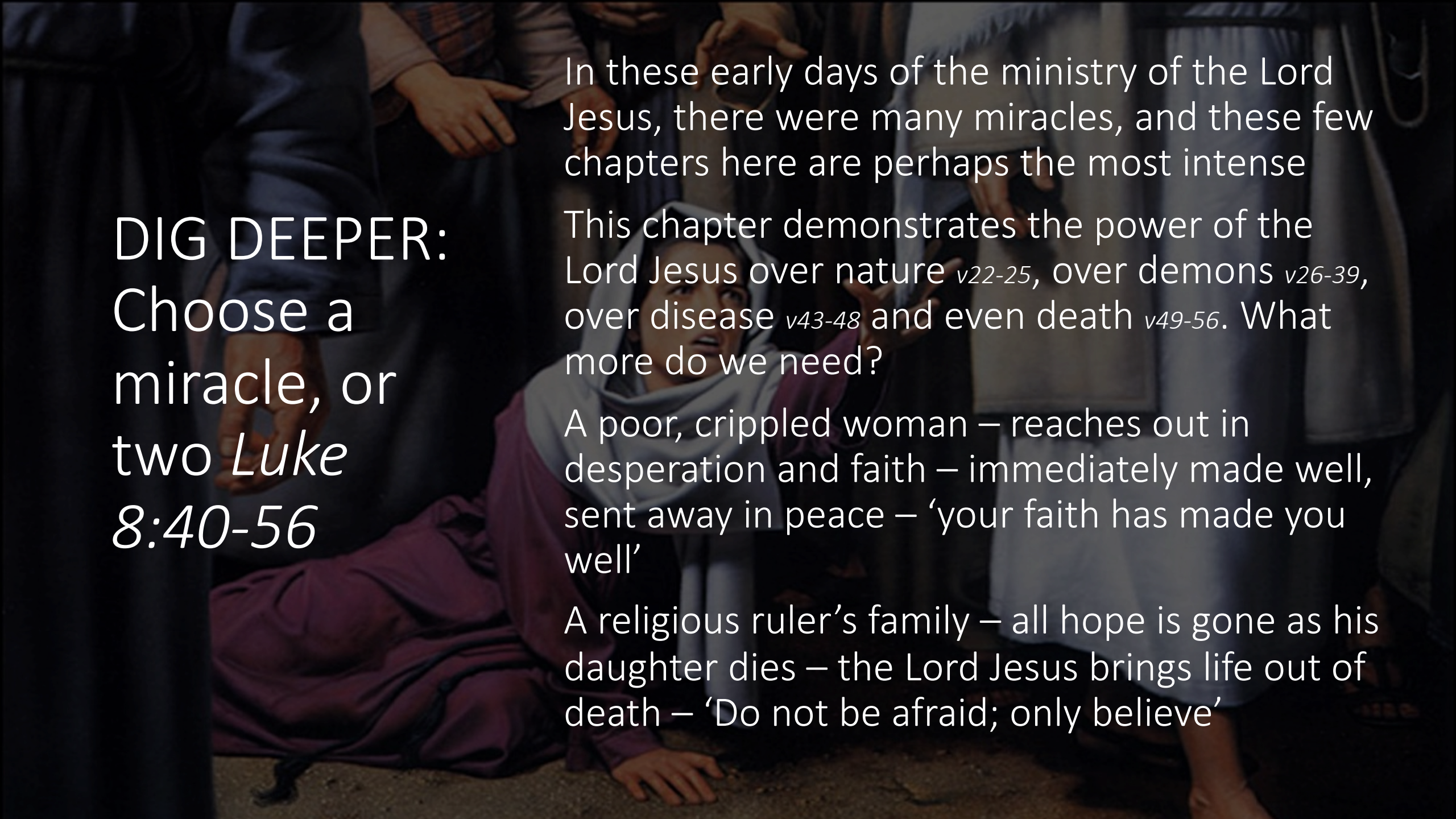
Note – it was never just to make something or someone better



DIG DEEPER: Choose a miracle, or two *Luke 8:40-56*

Read and understand the story - Imagine being in the story

- What is the context?
- What is happening?
- Who is involved?
- What is the problem?
- How does the Lord Jesus make it right?
- What difference does he make?
- What lessons can we use and learn in our day?



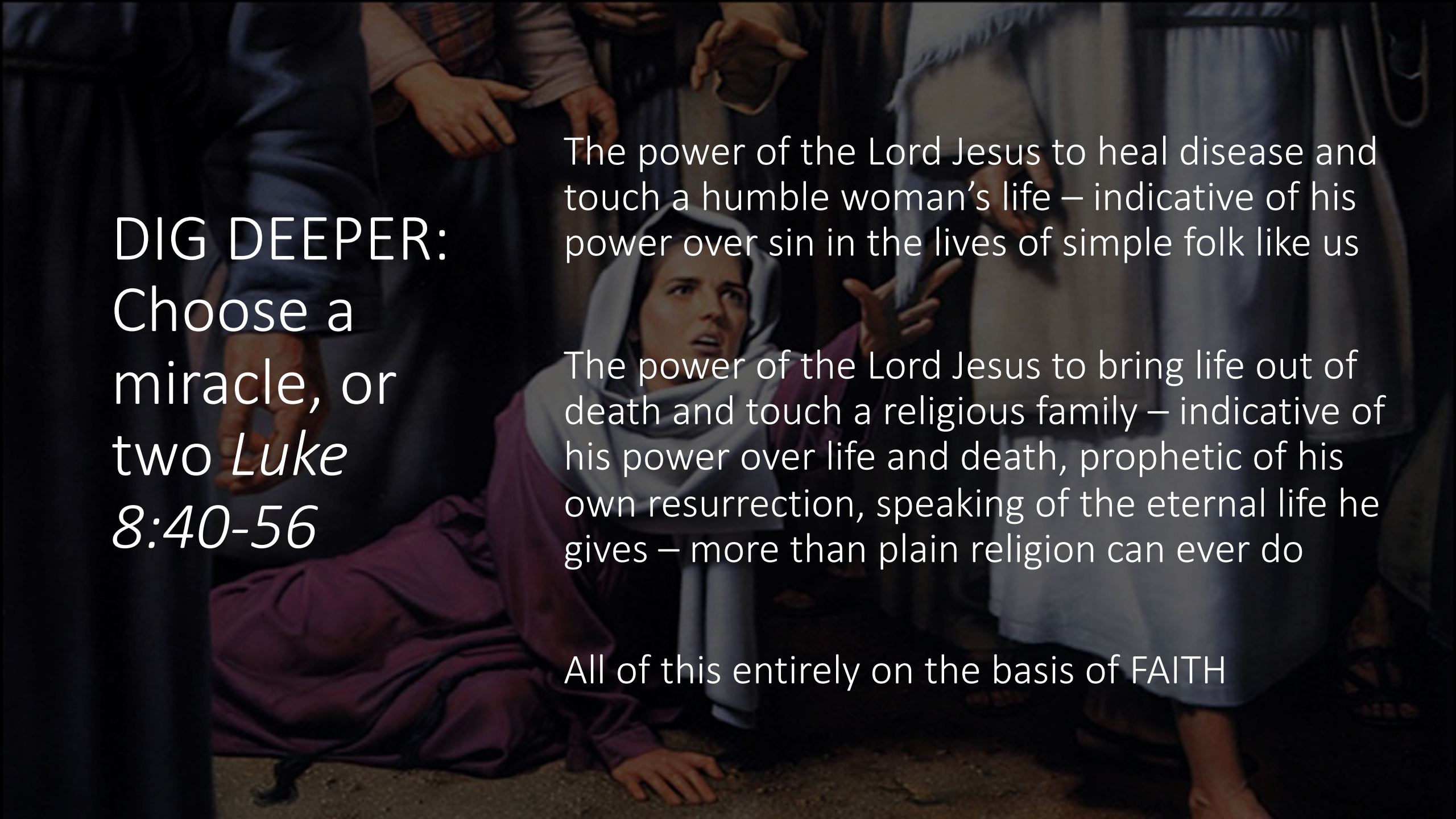
DIG DEEPER:
Choose a
miracle, or
two *Luke*
8:40-56

In these early days of the ministry of the Lord Jesus, there were many miracles, and these few chapters here are perhaps the most intense

This chapter demonstrates the power of the Lord Jesus over nature *v22-25*, over demons *v26-39*, over disease *v43-48* and even death *v49-56*. What more do we need?

A poor, crippled woman – reaches out in desperation and faith – immediately made well, sent away in peace – ‘your faith has made you well’

A religious ruler’s family – all hope is gone as his daughter dies – the Lord Jesus brings life out of death – ‘Do not be afraid; only believe’



DIG DEEPER:
Choose a
miracle, or
two *Luke*
8:40-56

The power of the Lord Jesus to heal disease and touch a humble woman's life – indicative of his power over sin in the lives of simple folk like us

The power of the Lord Jesus to bring life out of death and touch a religious family – indicative of his power over life and death, prophetic of his own resurrection, speaking of the eternal life he gives – more than plain religion can ever do

All of this entirely on the basis of FAITH

A top-down view of a person's hands reading an open book on a wooden surface. The person's left hand is at the top left, and their right hand is at the bottom left, holding a pen. The book is open to two pages of text. The text is overlaid in white on a semi-transparent dark background.

Were the miracles real and can they be recreated?

Do miracles still happen today?

What about churches that claim to perform miracles?

ASK BIGGER QUESTIONS

Were the miracles real and can they be recreated?

If the Bible records them for us, they absolutely must be real

Those who limit the miracles, want to limit the Lord Jesus

If we say the miracles were not real (fake, or false), then we discredit everything that the Lord Jesus is and all that he said – some people are very happy with that position because it means they don't have to believe

Anyone who has tried to recreate them is fake and false – they are like Simon in Acts 8 who was just after the 'magic' – 'Your money perish with you!'

Do miracles still happen today?

We believe God still does remarkable things – every day

We believe that people can be healed outside the realms of human expectation and ability

We believe that the miracle of spiritual life out of spiritual death can happen in the soul of any human being

BUT...

Do miracles still happen today?

Read your Bible, look at the evidence, read around this subject and you will discover:

We do not see that miraculous gifts are bestowed upon believers today as they were in the days of the apostles – they decrease in evidence through the New Testament

As we read the Bible, we see that miracles only occurred during relatively short periods of time, and normally at the beginning of a thing, even the miracles of the Lord Jesus were confined to a very short period of time

Throughout hundreds of years of Old Testament history, only a few miracles occurred and in a very short space of time – Enoch, Babel, Moses in Egypt, Elijah/Elisha, Jonah

They happened to establish something, or as a special means of revelation to demonstrate that God was speaking – now we have the completed Word of God

Miracles, it seems, will next be taken up again when the Lord Jesus returns

Do miracles still happen today?

Old Testament miracles established the supremacy of God as God over all the dead gods of idolatry. The miracles of Christ established his claims to deity and Messiahship. Apostolic miracles established the Church as a divine institution, and once firmly established was mainly left to ordinary providence. Fuller remarked, "Miracles are the swaddling clothes of the infant churches, not the garments of the full grown."

Lockyer: All the Miracles of the Bible, 1961

What about churches that claim to perform miracles?



Reflect on things you have seen and heard about this from others, or online, or in books

In the last 30 years, there has been a proliferation of 'charismatic' teaching and the practice of 'sign gifts' - speaking in tongues, prophesying, healing – a fresh revelation of the Spirit, they say, received through the baptism of the Spirit

These things are designed to appeal to the masses, to create theatre, to make rich (it seems)

This is why we need to know our Bibles, the truth of miracles, and the Spirit of God

The Spirit was given at Pentecost, we are indwelt by the Spirit when we are saved, we cannot get more of Him, but we can allow Him to increasingly fill our lives

What about churches that claim to perform miracles?

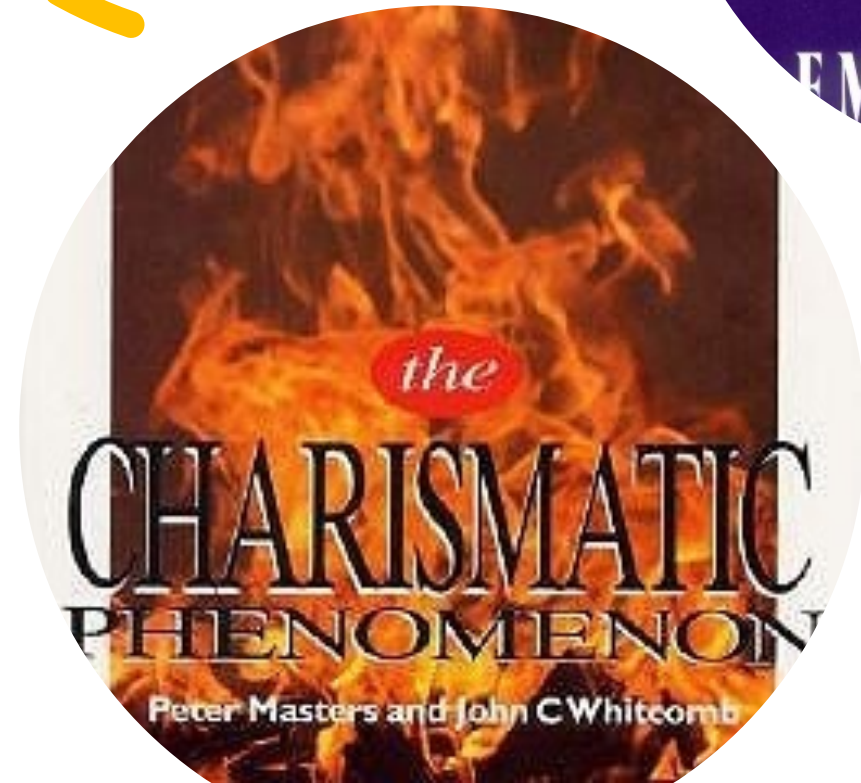
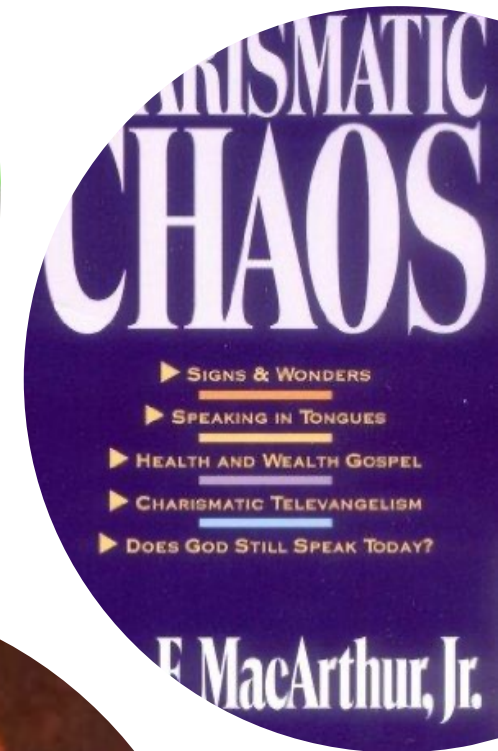
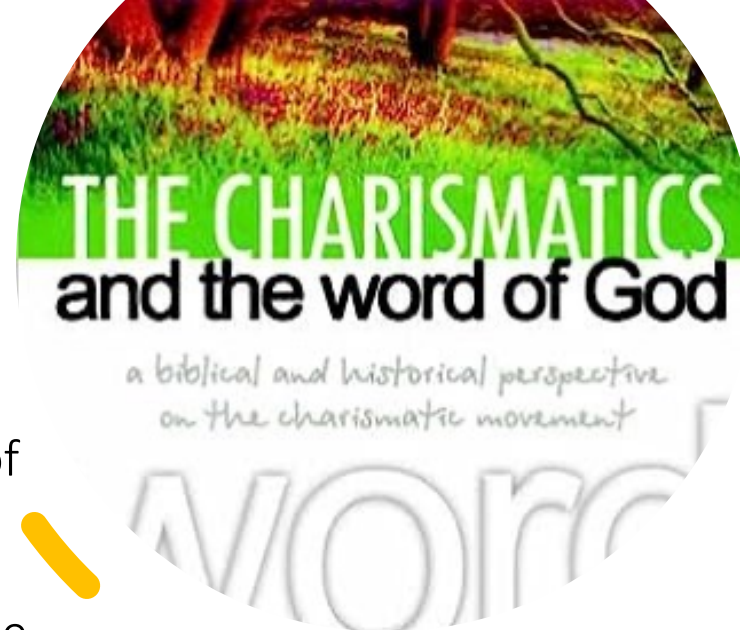
The above gifts were very much at the commencement of the Church, but they gradually diminished in significance through Acts and the epistles and are no longer needed now we have the scriptures – the modern version of these miracles is very different to the New Testament

We do not need drama, theatre or wealth-generation through miracles – and neither did the Lord Jesus.

Is this how it worked in Luke 8? On that occasion he said 'tell no one'

Test it all against scripture and these 'miracles' will fail

By all means, read more around this subject, but don't become obsessed with it – reading the scriptures is most important





RETURN to the book

- Our subject study has taken us off in different directions
- Don't forget to come back to chapter 8 and to the rest of the book
- What other evidences can we find of the things that we have discovered?
- How do the other miracles confirm or challenge our thinking?
- This is followed by the feeding of the 5,000; then the transfiguration; then it all slows down – what does that say to us?
- Most of the miracles beyond that point are only shared by Luke - why?



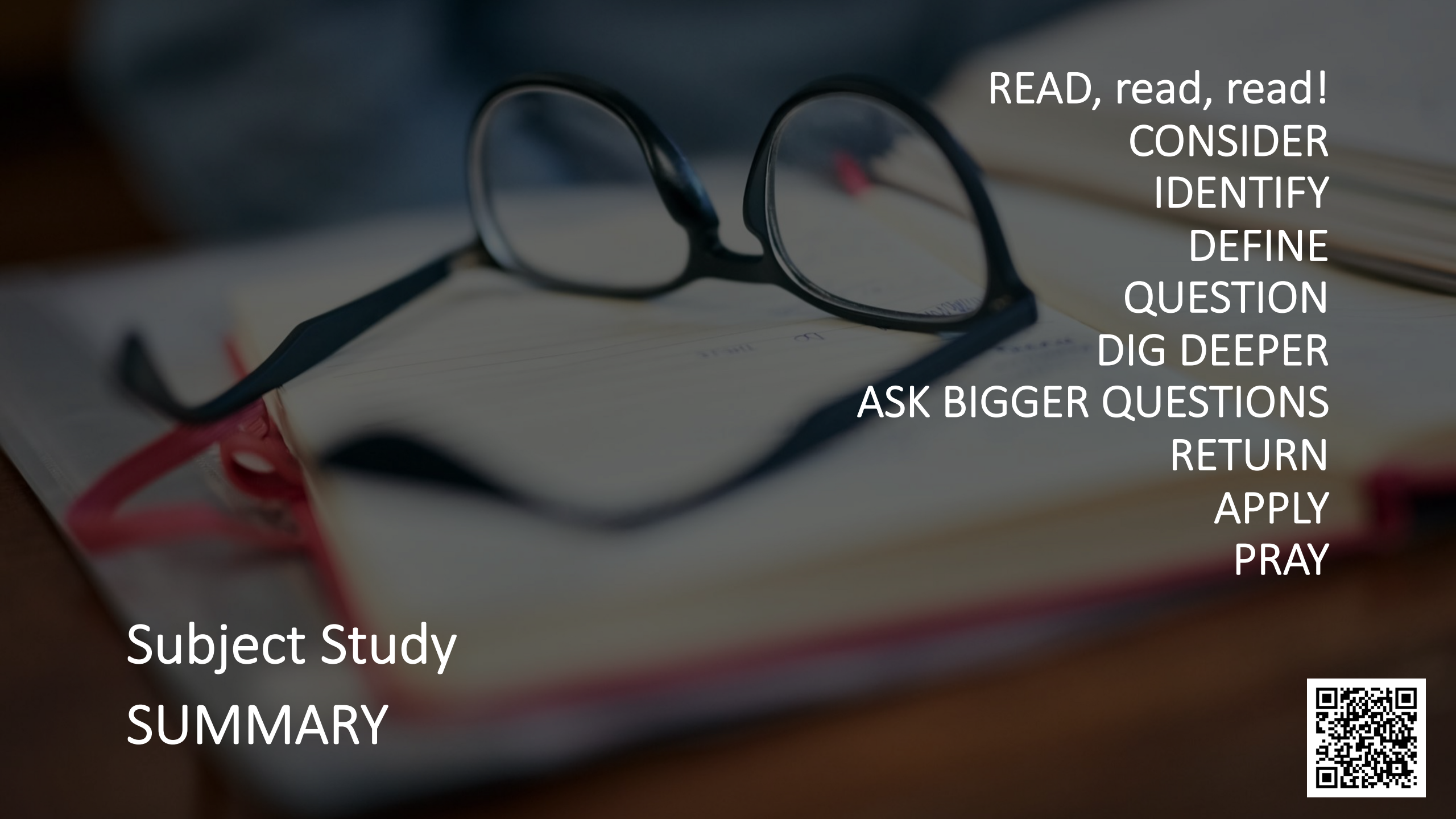


APPLY and PRAY

Above all, do not forget to APPLY what you have learned to your own situation
Consider how you might be able to use it to APPLY it to others as well

And PRAY it over – thanking God for his remarkable power and authority, evidenced in creation, evidenced in his wonderful Son, being convicted of the absolute certainty of the things we believe






READ, read, read!
CONSIDER
IDENTIFY
DEFINE
QUESTION
DIG DEEPER
ASK BIGGER QUESTIONS
RETURN
APPLY
PRAY

Subject Study SUMMARY





Bibliography – *a few of the books I've used*

Archbishop Trench – Notes on the Miracles

Budgen, V. – The Charismatics and the Word of God

Crawford, N. - Luke: What the Bible Teaches

Gooding, D. – According to Luke

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