

Jesus will answer your prayers. Jesus will do miracles in your life. Jesus will do miracles in the lives of your loved ones:  
Not because He owes you anything, but because **He is merciful.**

How many of you can praise the undeserved mercy of God in your life? How many of you can praise the Lord daily for His mercies that are new every morning? Hallelujah!

\*Some of you are like this woman. You have children and loved ones who have chosen to reject Christ and who are truly suffering without Christ. Their unknown eternal destiny deeply saddens you. Now, we are going to pray for them. For those who want prayer for their unsaved children and loved ones, please stand up. And for those around, extend your hand. Let's lift up our wayward loved ones.

---

## **PART 3 - DECEMBER 10, 2023**

---

I think it's valuable to remember the works of Christ, the miracles of Jesus Christ so far in our study through Mark. Before we look at another miracle, let's meditate on the previous miracles:

### **The Works Of Christ, in Summary**

The Bible reveals that Christ had power over the:

**(1). Angelic realm** (As He delivered people from demonic oppression and possession - Here in chapter 7 with the healing of the demon-possessed girl of the Syro-Phoenician woman.)

**(2). Death** (As He raised up Jairus's 12 year old daughter from the dead in Mark 5.).

**(3). Natural Realm** (As He stopped the windstorm and calmed the sea with a word in Mark 4; as He multiplied food like the five loaves and two fish. - Mark 6).

**(4). Physical Issues** (As He healed people from leprosy, unstopped blood, blindness, throughout previous chapters of Mark.).

## **(5). The Hearts of Men** (As He declared to men that one's sins are forgiven in Mark 2.)

In regards to the miracles of Jesus Christ, a unique design of the miraculous works of Jesus was to **reveal that Jesus Christ is God** in the Flesh, the Prophesied Messiah.

In our study, we will finish chapter 7 by looking at another one of Christ's miracles. This is the healing of a deaf and mute man.

---

### **Verses 31-37: The Healing of the Deaf and Mute Man**

*(Mark 7:31 Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee.*

**Mark 7:32** *Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him.*

**Mark 7:33** *And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue.*

**Mark 7:34** *Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."*

**Mark 7:35** *Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.*

**Mark 7:36** *Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it.*

**Mark 7:37** *And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.")*

#### **Verse 31: The Location**

Jesus leaves Gentile territory. He comes back to Jewish territory, in a port town near the Sea of Galilee.

As you recall, Jesus spent much time ministering around the Sea of Galilee. It was his "base of operations" so-to-speak.

---

#### **Verse 32: The Unique Request**

*(Mark 7:32 Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him.)*

If you note, this account was not like the Leper in chapter 2. This deaf and mute man did not come to Jesus to request a healing.

Others came begging that Jesus heal this man. That begs a question,

**Did this man want to be healed?** The text does not give us that implication. I'd like to believe that he did. We'll never know. But that's not the emphasis. Mark is simply reporting the fact of the matter. And it was significant to the Holy Spirit to include this particular healing:

The obvious fact and the thing that must be highlighted is:  
Other people around this man wanted this healing for the man so much so that they begged.

### **Application:**

(1). I can see this as a picture of intercessory prayer. Where you and I beg our Lord Jesus to do a miracle in the life of another person. And there is no doubt, make no mistake, that through prayer we can bring people to Jesus and see Jesus answer our prayers for that individual.

(2). The Holy Spirit used Mark to highlight various types of healing in scripture to show us that God listens to the requests of the individual who wants to be healed and equally the requests of people for another person.

This reminded me and inspired me to keep praying for others. I think at times we can fall into the trap to think. "Well, I know God is listening to my prayers that are directed to me for personal benefit. But does He really listen to the requests that we make for others? He absolutely does:

ESV: (**James 5:16** *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*)

For the Christian, your prayers, for yourself and for others are **POWERFUL!** "GREAT POWER!" It's good to be reminded **how powerful prayer is.**

So we come back to this text. These people are begging Jesus to heal someone else: maybe for some, this was a family member; maybe for others, this was a friend; maybe for others, this was an acquaintance they've known

their whole lives; maybe for some, there were a few skeptics who said, “Who is this healer Jesus? Is there anyone sick? Will he heal?”

---

### **Verse 33: Jesus Makes It Personal**

*(Mark 7:33 And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue.)*

I found this verse to be special. “Jesus took the man aside from the multitude.” Originally, the multitudes brought the man, begging Jesus to heal this man. And now, this man is taken aside to have a one-on-one encounter with the living God.

While this miracle was to reveal that Jesus was God in the Flesh, that He was the Messiah, understand that this miracle was also a personal miracle: For this man to know Christ as healer and God-Incarnate.

### **Application:**

How many of you were invited to church by a family member, friend, or co-worker. They were praying for your conversion. They asked others to pray for your conversion. Not knowing all that it took behind-the-scenes to bring you to your moment with Christ - There in that moment where your heart was receptive to the gospel, you found yourself hearing the gospel of life and believing in the gospel.

### **Do you remember the day Jesus manifested Himself personally to you?**

The day you repented of your sins; the day you believed. That day you encountered Jesus Christ, the Living God in the Flesh? Do you remember how **personal it was?**

---

### **Different Methods:**

Also, it must be stated here that Jesus’ methods to heal were not the same. There was not a pattern nor format.

- Also, as we'll see in the next verse, there was not a certain word or phrase he used in every healing. The words He chose to use in healings were different.

**Why would God use various methods and words to heal?** The Biblical answer is simple:

**Because healing is not in a particular method or a particular word.** Does God use various methods and various words? Yes! Healing is a work of God in the sovereignty of God by the power of God. Ultimately, it is God who has decided to heal. **And it is so wonderful when He heals!**

For the Christian, you learn from scripture that there is no magic method or magic word to guarantee healing. Again, God heals. And it's His decision to heal or not heal. With that said, remember that everything God does is perfect. Every decision He makes is perfect.

CSB: (*James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*)

**Everything He decides and gives is perfect.**

---

Before we look at verse 34, let me say one more thing.

While God decides, don't forget that He calls us to pray for healing believing that He can and that He will!

(*John 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*)

**John 14:14** *If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*)

Do not assume you know God's sovereign will. Do not underestimate God's power. Do not underestimate the power of prayer. Let us walk by faith; let us pray in faith; let's see what God will do!

---

## Verse 34: The Use of Aramaic<sup>3</sup>

Do you see that word, “Ephphatha”? That word is an Aramaic word. Have you ever asked, “What language did Jesus speak?” Maybe that never crossed your mind. Newsflash: He did not speak the Queen’s English while he was on earth.

Based on what we read in history concerning the geographical area and times of Christ, the majority of the Jews did not speak Hebrew in day-to-day life and conversation. Hebrew at this time was read in the synagogues, in the Temple, and used mostly in religious contexts. While the typical Jew in this time was familiar with Hebrew, the primary language spoken was Aramaic.<sup>4</sup>

- Side note: Hebrew will later receive a revival as the common language of the Jews after the siege in Jerusalem in AD70.

Aramaic was the lingua franca for centuries worldwide. But because of the Greek empire, “koine Greek” had become the lingua franca. Interestingly in Israel, especially in northern Israel (Galilee), the Jews were still holding onto the old lingua franca, Aramaic. Remember starting in the book of Acts, starting in chapter 10, the doors of faith opened to the Gentiles. The gospel was essentially in Israel, then Samaria, and now OPENED TO THE WORLD! When you consider the apostles, it is probably to presume that Greek was their third language, after Aramaic and Hebrew. History leads that Luke who wrote the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts (and who wrote with such polished quality), was a Greek himself, a native Greek speaker. And then the Apostle Paul: History presumes that the Apostle Paul also was either a native Aramaic speaker or Greek speaker. And in two locations in Acts 24 and 26, the Apostle Paul spoke fluent Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew. God considered it necessary, although not the first language of the apostles and writers of the NT, to write it in the “lingua franca” of the day.

With greatest probability, Jesus spoke in the Aramaic as he ministered in Israel. History tells us of this time period that if Christ spoke in Hebrew, the people would not really understand. And this verse reveals that Jesus spoke in Aramaic as He spoke. No other gospel writer points this story out and this particular insight, regarding this word “*ephphatha*,” an Aramaic word. Mark uniquely wants us to know this...

### The Question: Why did Mark do this?

Simple answer: Those initially reading his gospel were reading it in Greek. And so it was translated to them in Greek. And in this instance, a translation of Jesus’ word in Aramaic into Greek was valuable insight:

### Concerning Translation and Language:

(1). There are individuals who say, “You can’t really understand the Bible unless you know the original languages.” This is a favorite tool of the false

<sup>3</sup> Helpful [article](#) on language in the days of Christ.

<sup>4</sup> A good [reference](#) on Nehemiah 13:24, in reference to the differences of languages in that scenario.

teacher - in which they say, "Because I studied Greek and Hebrew; because I'm the expert on the original languages, you have to listen to me."

(2). There are individuals who use this to say, "That is what you think the Bible says. But I believe the Bible says another thing because "meaning" gets lost in translation over time."

(3). One day, you might lovingly question someone's interpretation of scripture or lovingly rebuke them for their interpretation, and they will say, "I know Greek and Hebrew, so you have no right to tell me what the Bible says because I know what the Bible says."

I remember one time I raised my hand in class and asked the professor: "Professor, you say that the gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased. Can you give me a Bible verse to prove your point?"

Do you want to know what the professor told me? He said, "Turn to this Bible passage." So I did." He said, "Do you know Greek? Have you studied Greek?"

I said, "No I have not just yet." He said, "Well, if you know the Greek word in this Bible verse, you'll understand the gifts of the Holy Spirit no longer exist."

I say this with a burdened heart, "I walked away realizing that people can misinterpret the Bible, they can believe whatever they want to believe, and one of the ways they do that is by using "I know Greek and you don't know Greek" as their smokescreen. And check this out: People will avoid any form of correction or rebuke by saying, "I know Greek and you don't. So don't tell me what I'm doing right or wrong."

## Common Questions Concerning Translation and Language:

**(1). Do you need to know Hebrew (Old Testament) or Greek (New Testament) to understand the Bible?** The answer is **NO**.

This text proves that words can be effectively translated. Jesus spoke Aramaic. So Mark translates Jesus' Aramaic words into Greek because his gospel (and all the New Testament books were written in Greek). And so, if faithful-to-text translators follow Mark's example, they can translate Jesus' words from Greek into English, into Arabic, into Spanish, and every other tongue.

(Graphic 1)

**MARK 7:34**  
*THE WORD, BE OPENED*

και ἀναβλέψας εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν ἐστέναξεν καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· εφφαθα, ὃ ἐστὶν διανοίχθητι.

34 Then, <sup>34</sup>looking up to heaven, <sup>34</sup>He sighed, and said to him, <sup>34</sup>"Ephphatha," that is <sup>34</sup>"Be opened."

34 et suspiciens in caelum ingemuit et ait illi ephphata quod est <sup>34</sup>aperire

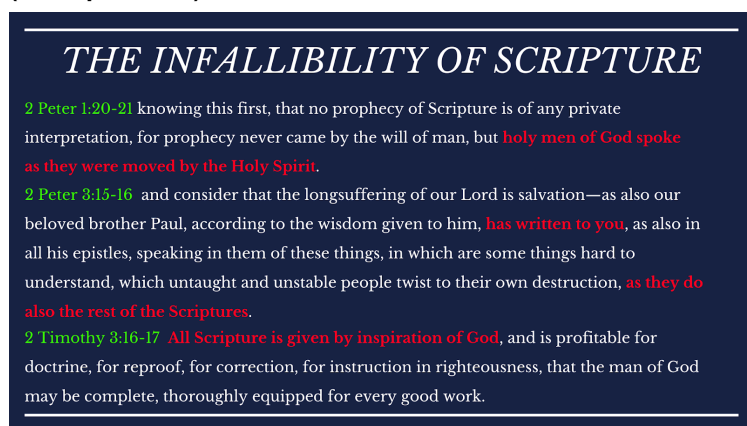
34 y levantando los ojos al cielo, gimió, y le dijo: Efata, es decir <sup>34</sup>«sé abierto».

Estanexen kai legay alto ephatha a esten de-enointhaitee.

- ("Τί ἐστὶν τοῦτο;")("Ti estin touto?")

The accuracy of God's word is not exclusive to a language. God's word transcends languages. And God's word is available to every nation and tongue. Although a substantial amount of New Testament writers knew Greek as their 2nd or 3rd language, we know one thing with Mark as an example: Once Mark's pen hit the paper to write the words of the gospel, it became **inspired** scripture.

(Graphic 2)



## (2). Does translation change meaning?

Check this out. From this text, we know that **God designed His word to be translated**. If the idea that “translation from one language to another changes the meaning,” then ask this question: Why did Jesus speak Aramaic if He knew that the gospel writers were destined to translate His words into Greek? Think about this. Jesus' original words in Aramaic were never written down (only 5x in scriptures, with short phrases and sentences). They were only remembered in the minds and hearts of the apostles. If Jesus was concerned about words getting lost in translation, why did He not speak Greek; and why did He not write them Himself?

**This is what makes the Christian faith and the Holy Scriptures unique.** In Islam, the Quran teaches that Allah sent his divine revelation in the Arabic language. That the Arabic language is the language of God. And when you recite the Quran, you are called to speak it in the language of God, because



only the Arabic language, the language of God, reciting the words can provide healing and blessing. But if the Quran is translated into another language, it becomes a man-made version of a divine revelation.

That's what the Muslims think. That's even what the Mormons think!

But for God's Holy word, we learn from Mark that God designed His word to be translated. Remember I told you that each gospel writer offers unique insights that the Holy Spirit wants us to know?

Mark is the one gospel writer, except for one example in Matthew's gospel, to stress that Jesus primarily spoke in Aramaic. Mark 5:41, Mark 7:34, Mark 14:36, and Mark 15:34.

Let me repeat this:

God sent His Son to speak in the Aramaic language; and later led the New Testament writers to translate Jesus' words to reach as many people as possible. And to reach the multitudes, Greek was the lingua franca of the day. When people ask us or tell us, "the scriptures got lost in translation after many centuries," **God's word reveals to us that God's word is not held captive to a language, His word was designed to be translated.**

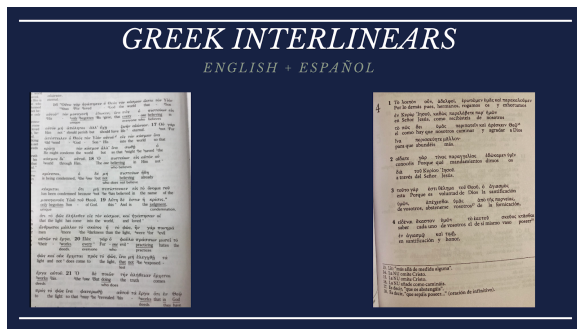
**(3). Can I have confidence that God has preserved the accuracy of our translation?**

**First thought:** There are some "translations" called paraphrases. What is a paraphrase? It's where an unqualified individual or group starts to rewrite the Bible saying, "I think the Bible is saying this." "I think the Bible is saying that." That's not a translation; that is called re-writing. Don't buy a paraphrase. We use the NKJV at church. There's also the KJV, ESV, the NASB, the LSB, etc.

**Second thought:** For those of you who like this stuff, you can analyze the history of the preservation of scripture. One of the most recent discoveries is the Dead Sea Scrolls. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were first discovered about 75 years ago, the critics were just salivating. What was uncovered in the Dead Sea Scrolls were copies of scriptures that were dated centuries before Christ's

birth. The critics were so excited to be able to say, “See, your modern translations of Isaiah are astronomically different from the oldest copy of Isaiah we have!” When those copies of Isaiah were uncovered and put side by side with the other copies of Isaiah which have been used to translate the scriptures into the many languages, the critics were silenced.

(Graphic 3)



To give you another great example, there are these things called Greek interlinear Bibles: where you can follow along with English-Greek side by side or Spanish-Greek side by side. And you will be amazed...

**The Bible you are holding in your hands is accurate. The meaning of scripture was not lost in translation after thousands of years.**

That shouldn't be a surprise to us Christians, should it? The living God in His sovereign and loving will guarantees that His word will be accurately translated and will guarantee it gets into the hands of anyone who believes in Him. Is the preservation of scripture a miracle to the skeptic? Yes, but they won't admit it. But for you and I, it's a testimony that every time you read your English Bible, you can say, "THIS IS WHAT GOD HAS SAID."

**(4). Is it helpful to study the original languages? Why do you study the original languages?**

Again, it's not necessary. But it is helpful and sweet.

In a Greek class I took, a famous Greek expert said, God's people can know all of what God has said in the English language for, 1 John 2:27, the Holy Spirit is our teacher. Then he told the class, so then what does Hebrew and Greek serve for the Church? You can see insights into scripture that someone may

gloss over. These insights aren't doctrinal. These insights do not change the plain meaning of the text. But they are just the cherries on top.

Here's an example from a few weeks back.

(Graphic 4)

**BEYOND MEASURE**  
ΠΕΡΙΣΣΟΣ ΠΕΡΙΣΣΟΣ

Mark 6:51 Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves **beyond measure** (περισσός pēriśśós), and marveled.

John 10:10b-11a: I came that they may have life and have it **abundantly** (περισσός pēriśśós). I am the good shepherd.

(Graphic 5)

**EN GRAN MANERA**  
ΠΕΡΙΣΣΟΣ ΠΕΡΙΣΣΟΣ

Marcos 6:51 Y subió a ellos en la barca, y se calmó el viento; y ellos se asombraron **en gran manera** (περισσός pēriśśós), y se maravillaban.

Juan 10:10b-11a: Y para que la tengan en **abundancia** (περισσός pēriśśós). Yo soy el buen pastor.

If you were in my shoes a couple weeks back, you might have thought what I thought, “Wait, where did I see perissos? I know I’ve seen that word in another scripture?” And then you realize, oh yes!

As we come back to the text, I want you to know that I did not consider this a detour or rabbit trail from Mark. Mark 7:34 is a unique scripture that gives me the truth and confidence that God’s word was designed to be translated. God’s word and God’s love is for everyone, no matter the color of skin, no matter the race, no matter the language. Jesus Christ, the living Word, will manifest Himself to anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord to be saved!

---

### Verses 34b/35: The Miracle

(**Mark 7:34** Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”)

**Mark 7:35** Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.)

One word from Jesus, “ephphatha.” Do you see first that Jesus is praying? Jesus was looking to His Father. And as he said that one word, “this man was healed!” This man who could not hear and this man who had a severe impediment could now speak!

Looking back at verse 33 again, I want you to remember that Jesus took this man aside privately to heal him. Interestingly, in verse 35, it tells us that he started to speak plainly. **What did he say?** The Bible does not tell us what he said.

**What does that tell us?** It tells us two things:

**(1). In the context, this miracle was one-on-one.**

- And maybe when we get to heaven, if you meet this man, you can ask him, “The Bible says you spoke plainly to Jesus. What did you say? And what did he tell you?”
- At the end of the day, I’m pretty sure this man never thought his story would be written in scripture. But this story in context has great significance. And what do we learn?

**(2). This man’s story was not the whole point of the story.** The Holy Spirit in leading Mark did not find it necessary for us to know what the man said, but rather what the people said. What did the people say? Before we look at what the people said, let’s look at what Jesus said to the multitudes.

---

### **Verse 36: The Command**

**(Mark 7:36)** *Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it.)*

(1). This reminds us how disobedient we can really be. Jesus commands us to do one thing but we do the opposite. Thank the Lord for His mercy to have patience with sinners like you and I.

(2). Although a text like this might imply that Jesus was not able to control the situation, the Bible makes it clear that God was still absolutely in control.

Some of us can look at this text and say, “OH NO! They’re messing up Jesus’ plan because they disobeyed His words! Is it all going to work out in the end?”

God knew. Jesus knew that these people would disobey him. But that did not change the purpose for which He was sent, even though there might have been “obstacles” in the way.

CSB: (*John 17:4 I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*)  
No obstacle changed Jesus from His mission to save you and I: to fulfill every detail of His prophesied ministry; to go to the cross; to die; to resurrect on the third day. Everything that Jesus did in scripture was perfect; everything that Jesus did was everything that God planned to do. There was nothing left undone.

---

### **Verse 37: The Saying**

(*Mark 7:37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”*)

They were “extremely overwhelmed.”

What is worth highlighting is this: Imperfect, disobedient people were now seeing Jesus for who He truly was. And how did they describe Him? “He has done all things well.” This was a statement from an unlikely source, is it not? Disobedient people... But that does not change the reality that this is a beautiful truth.

It’s so natural for us to think of Genesis 1:31,

(*Genesis 1:31 Then **God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.** So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*)

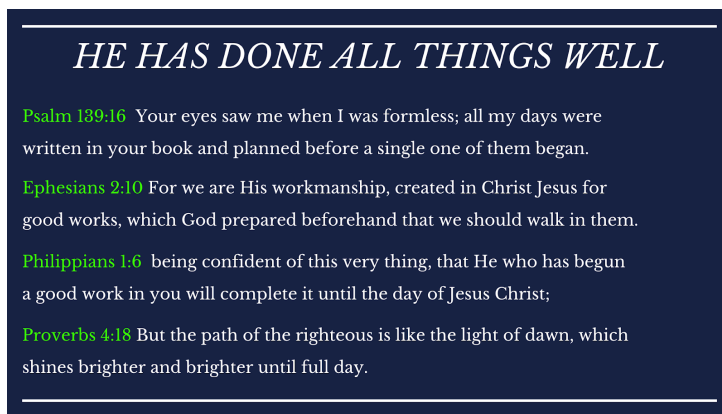
When you look at God's creation, God’s creation of mankind, God’s choice to give man free will, God’s gracious plan of salvation for the past 6,000 years or so; then, God’s word, God’s prophecies; then, Christ’s arrival, death, burial, and resurrection; then the Holy Spirit coming on Pentecost, the establishment of the church, the mystery of the Gentile inclusion, and His future return for His Church. When you think of all the centuries that have gone by and in every generation, God has been gathering His people to Himself - that anyone who calls upon the name of Jesus will be saved! And we can keep going on about

the great things that God has done! You just have to stand back and say, “He has done all things well.”

### **Personal Application:**

As a child of God, we have these promises.

(Graphic 6)



Sometimes, we look at these promises and think:

- I think my mistakes have ruined God’s plan for my life.
- I think the sins of others towards me have ruined God’s plan for my life.
- How is God still working out His plan in my life when trials, suffering, my unwise decisions, my sins, and other people’s sins are affecting me?

As children of God, sometimes we don’t see things the way God sees them. With all your mistakes, sins, sufferings, issues, detours, and all, God is still working His plan in your life.

Even your mistakes don’t change who God is. God remains the same. His love for you remains the same. God will accomplish His will for His glory for your life because You are His son or daughter.

I’m so thankful for moments where God reminds me of these things. It causes me to worship! As I reflect on all that Jesus Christ has done for me: by giving me new life, by blessing me in so many ways, by keeping me close to Him by His grace. Think of those moments: When you can spend that time in worship to the Lord and say, “Lord, you have done all things well.”