**The Miracle Was Not in The Miracle**

**(Acts 14:8-15, 19-20 KJV)**

***Pastor Bill Wilson***

# Introduction

Pastor Bill Wilson is the founder of [Metro World Child](https://www.metroworldchild.org/about) (MWC). MWC is a global, faith-based humanitarian organization dedicated to serving children throughout New York City, various urban centres and rural communities around the world.

Pastor Bill was invited to the Wyckoff Heights Medical Centre and to pray with staff, doctors and patients there. Pastor Bill also shared about the struggles being faced by the people of Kenya, where there are threats of flood and locusts. MWC is running a campaign called ‘Kenya: Critical’, to feed 4,000 children with one hot meal a day. Because of these struggles, there have been feelings of uncertainty, uneasiness, inadequacy and frustration.

Pastor Bill acknowledged that he is only an ordinary man. It is not his formal education that helped him do what he does; but the power of the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus Christ.

As a little boy, Pastor Bill was abandoned in the streets by his mother, but God took what the enemy meant for evil and turned it around for good. God used an ordinary Christian man, who was on his way from work to the hospital to visit his son suffering from leukaemia, to pick him up and sponsored him to attend a Sunday school camp where the young Pastor Bill gave his life to Jesus. Amid his own struggles, this ordinary man chose to stop to help the young Pastor Bill then.

# It’s An Extraordinary Miracle

# *Acts 14:8*

There is a widely-accepted school of theological thinking called the Law of Multiple Definitions, where when a person, place or thing is described three times, the Holy Spirit is trying to communicate something to the reader.

The real miracle in Acts 14 is something that not a lot of people recognise, which is as great as the healing miracle itself. There is a big difference between those who are unable to walk after an accident or disease, and those who had never walked at all. Walking is a learned behaviour; a baby does not just jump up and walk. One has to go through a process of learning to walk.

# *Acts 14:9*

Paul saw the crippled man and perceived that the crippled man has faith to be healed.

When people look at you, what do they see? Do they see faith? Do they see a life lived by faith? Pastor Bill shared that he has been living by faith since he was left on that street corner that day.

There is a story in the bible where another crippled man had four friends who lowered him through the roof. Jesus saw the faith of the four friends. Surround yourself with friends who have faith, because you may not have faith for yourself.

*Acts 14:10*

Not only did the cripple man jumped, he also walked. This is an extraordinary miracle. Because even after he has been healed, he should not have been able to walk, as walking is a learned behaviour. He did something he could not do. What is it that you want the Lord to do in your life that you have not been able to do?

# Done Through Ordinary People

# *Acts 14:11-13*

The people watching thought that Paul and Barnabas must be gods because the miracle was so extraordinary. They were ready to bring oxen and garland to worship Paul and Barnabas.

*Acts 14:14-15*

Paul & Barnabas questioned why are they doing this, when Paul & Barnabas are just ordinary people?

God uses ordinary people. Pastor Bill emphasised that he is just an ordinary person; anyone could have picked him up that day from that street corner – a drug dealer, a gang member, a paedophile – but the one who picked him up was an ordinary Christian man.

The miracle was done by ordinary people through the power of the Holy Spirit on them – upon Pastor Bill, upon me, upon you. What kind of people is it going to take to turn the nation, the world to Jesus Christ? The extraordinary miracle was done through the movement of the Holy Spirit on ordinary people.

# Under An Extraordinary Attack

# *Acts 14:19*

When we are ready to step out through the power of the Holy Spirit and do things for the Lord that He has put in your heart to do, there is going to be someone who is not going to like you.

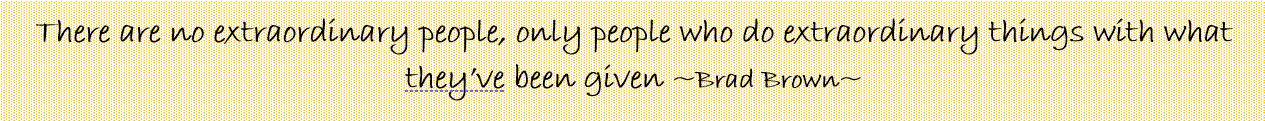
The religious men actually persuaded people to go and stone Paul. They did not come to discuss the miracle, but they came to kill Paul.

# *Acts 14:20*

Pastor Bill was shot in the face and left for dead near the Williamsburg Bridge in Brooklyn, New York. With blood coming out of his face, he crawled to the church van and drove a 20-minute journey by himself to the hospital. He prayed that if God spared his life, he would do more for God in his remaining years, than what he done in the first part of his life.

# Conclusion

God still uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Once you step out to do things for the Lord that you never thought you would, then you will come under extraordinary attack. But do not run from it; understand that greater is He Who is in us than he who is in the world. God uses ordinary people, just like you. When we lift Him up, all men will be drawn to Him.



Sermon summary contributed by May