

## The Wonder of Miracles

Evangelical theology is built on the Supernatural. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ and His miracle filled ministry life. His physical resurrection from the dead and His bodily ascension into heaven are just a few of numerous miracles that are essential to biblical Christianity. So much of the supernatural is a precondition of orthodox theology that without its historical Christianity it would collapse. To quote the apostle Paul, “If Christ has not been raised from the dead, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are found to be false witnesses about God.” Before a miracle can be identified, to say nothing of verified, it must be defined; there is no way to find a miracle unless we know what we are looking for. Theologians have defined miracles in two different ways.

Dr. Geisler states that Augustine (354-430) describes miracles as a portent [that] is not contrary to nature, but contrary to the knowledge of nature. Geisler further states that miracles can be defined as an occurrence that is beyond nature's power to produce and only the supernatural power of God can do. A miracle, or sign-event, is an occurrence that astounds and conveys to us the mystery of being. In describing a genuine miracle, it does not destroy the structure of reality any more than ecstasy destroys or contradicts the structure of the mind. A miracle must be received as a sign-event in an ecstatic experience. The marks of a revelatory experience are a mystery, ecstasy, miracle. In Jesus Christ, who is the final and unsurpassable revelation, a correlation of ecstasy and miracle takes place.<sup>1</sup>

Based on arguments of theology and philosophy of science, a miracle may be defined as:

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11[ CITATION Gei11 \l 1033 ] Geisler, Norman L., *Systematic Theology: In One Volume*, Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 2011  
2 (Erskine 1994) Erskine, Noel, Leo, King Among the Theologians, Cleveland, The Pilgrims Press, 1

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1. A real individual event, the occurrence of which must be (or what have been) at least principle, susceptible to empirical verification.
2. An event which must be extremely unusual or historically unprecedented from the perspective of empirical scientific knowledge.
3. Must evoke widespread wonder.
4. An event which must be extremely unusual or historically unprecedented from the perspective of empirical scientific knowledge.
5. Must evoke wide spread wonder.
6. Must be something that is freely given, not conjured up.
7. Must be something from God that transcends the bare facts of the case and communicates a spiritual message.
8. Must have been confirmed as a miracle by the community of believers to whom the message of the must be addressed, at least indirectly.

According to Dr. Sulmasy in the Southern Medical Journal undoubtedly represented a multi-section of the subject has been devoted to miracles. The ideas of miracles have been expressed by several religious organizations such as Christianity, Buddhism, Islamic, Jewish contributors on this subject. Dr. Sulmasy goes on to state that culturally competent clinician will need to be aware that the idea of miraculous healing is accepted far outside of the confines of the fundamentalist Christian community.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Sulsmasy states that there is no word that are more abuse in medicine than the word “miracle.” The word miracle has been used often times to describe a complicated surgery that was successful and cannot be explained, or when a surgery has been successfully completed that no one has ever attempted.<sup>3</sup>

Ironically, as God continues to do miracles every day, especially in hospital emergency rooms, operating rooms, and neonatal rooms all over, there are still skeptics; individuals who don't believe, such as Atheist and Agnostic. They are very quick in saying “It just cannot be a miracle because of the science that happened!” They are not fans of anything

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2[ CITATION Gei11 \l 1033 ]

3. [ CITATION Dan07 \l 1033 ]

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that would be dealing with Christianity. These two groups claim that miracles are impossible or inherently improbable, or improvable although they become circular in nature.<sup>4</sup>

Atheists claim that the physical universe exists, and there is no God anywhere. The universe (or cosmos) is all there is or ever will be, and self-sustaining. Some of the more famous atheists were Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Jean-Paul Sartre.<sup>5</sup> The Agnostic's view is that they are not willing to commit either to the existence or nonexistence of God or a god.

Yes, it is true that Atheists and Agnostics don't like miracles, however, ironically though they (Atheists and Agnostics), use miracles to justify their evolutionary worldview.

Miracles should normally be considered not violations of 'laws of nature' but additions to them. Mr. Doyle goes on to say that since scientific research is confined to 'natural law,' it could not by definition investigate events outside of it. Mr. Doyle goes on to say that there are many things in science that are accepted that we do not understand their mechanisms. Examples abound in the properties of subatomic particles. Even within science, just because we find ourselves in a position where we find not believing or not understanding; we must know that does not make it not true.

When I was six years old I was hit by a car, and I was told that I went 10 feet in the air and landed on my head. As a result of my landing on my head, I had head trauma and was in a coma for 21 weeks. After waking up from the coma I had to learn everything all over again, to walk, talk, use the facilities. After 21 weeks in a coma, that is a miracle. I went through school graduating from high school with a 3.5 grade point average. In my early college days after high school I had a 3.5 and now at the age of 64 I am maintaining a B/C average in college. It is a miracle that God kept me and continues to keep me.

In Los Angeles, California I worked on the Ambulance from 1975-1987 and I saw God do miracles time after time. Our Ambulance services handle calls in south central Los Angeles. I can recall an emergency call to go from one county hospital to another hospital. The call was a 3-month-old baby who was in respiratory failure and because there was a law that said those who

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4 [ CITATION Doy171 \l 1033 ]

55 [ CITATION Gei111 \l 1033 ]

6 [ CITATION Dic02 \l 1033 ]

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were on county assistance had to use the county hospital that was near their home. While in route to the hospital the baby went into cardiac arrest. I did cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and God worked a miracle in saving that three-month-old baby.

After God placed upon my heart to do my research project on miracles my wife reminded me that my life has been filled with God working miracles for me. I had hernia repair surgery and while I was in surgery as the doctor was operating he discovered that my hernia was bigger than what was seen on the x-ray. I believe in my heart that God placed on the surgeon's heart how to make the adjustments to complete my surgery. My wife and I had prayed before I went into surgery.

Jesus is the most important person in history. His life was filled with miracles and He gave a testimony as to who He really was, the only way that anyone could receive salvation. Salvation is a gift from God and is a miracle of an outward sign of an inward change. The Bible is clear in saying, "For, anyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."<sup>6</sup>

The gospels describe Jesus' ministry including the miraculous healing and other wonders like walking on water, commanding the storms to cease all at once. These miraculous acts that were done by Jesus are just one part of a larger testimony in Scriptures that indeed proves that Jesus is the promised Messiah and the Son of God.

The miracles of Jesus attest to the fact that He is Christ, God in the flesh (John 1:1,14) (Col 2:9) Jesus used the Divine name [ CITATION Rob86 \l 1033 ] of God for Himself (John 8:58) the same Divine name used by God when Moses asked God what is His name (Exodus 3:14) Matt Slick goes on to say that in the Mental Health facility there are individuals who claim to be God is not uncommon in the world today. Institutions are filled with people having delusions of grandeur, narcissistic, personality disorder. A lot of these people claim to be God themselves.

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6 [CITATION New78 \l 1033 ]  
67 [CITATION Mat16 \l 1033 ]

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