

Miracles

Confusion Today

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See also *Miracles: From God or Man?* by Jimmy Jividen

Scriptures to Remember

- Mk. 16:20
- Jn. 16:13
- 1 Cor. 13:8-10

Defining the Terms

- Resolve confusion over modern-day claims of miracles by defining terms
 - Requires minds open to the truth instead of stubbornly holding onto emotional euphoria
- The normal happenings of nature—no matter how amazing—cannot be defined as miraculous in the scriptural sense
- Some things might be inconsistent with what one knows about the universe

Defining the Terms

- Some things that happen might be paranormal, but not miraculous
- Experiencing a hypnotic trance or the ecstatic utterances of automatic speech or any euphoric moment might not be totally understood by the one who experiences such phenomena

Defining the Terms

- Such events cannot be called miracles according to NT definitions and purposes of miracles
- All such modern-day phenomena are consistent with physical and psychological laws
- They might be mysterious, yes, but miraculous, no

Defining the Terms

- The unexpected and odd happenings that occur in the course of life, no matter how rare or uncommon, cannot be called miracles in the New Testament sense
- The event may be so rare that no one now living has seen anything like it

Defining the Terms

- It is not miraculous in the scriptural sense unless it is inconsistent with the laws of creation
- The birth of a two-headed calf or a narrow escape from a burning house might be odd and out of the ordinary, but they are not miraculous

Defining the Terms

- The unexplainable and unpredictable recovery from illness does not mean that a miracle has occurred
- Such happens among believers and non-believers, the good and the bad, the penitent and the impenitent
- Such an event might mystify doctors

Defining the Terms

- Such an event might happen simultaneously with prayer
- It might occur following a renewal of spiritual commitment
- Cancer might go into remission
- Ulcers or arthritis might disappear
- All of this does not define a miracle

Defining the Terms

- Remarkable cures might not be understood but that does not mean they are miraculous
- Our ignorance of how God works in healing the human body cannot be a reason to call a cure miraculous

Defining the Terms

- An event is a miracle in the scriptural sense only if it violates the laws of nature and science
- Miraculous healing in the NT was instantaneous, complete and in defiance of the laws of medical science

Emotional Excitement

- Miraculous claims which come in the context of emotional excitement and expectancy of a “healing campaign” do not fit the New Testament pattern
- They might seem real at the time
- Euphoria might accompany the event, and some might interpret it as being from God

The Human Body

- The symptoms of the illness might be temporarily relieved due to the adrenalin released in the body, but this must not be mistaken for a real miracle of the New Testament
- The human body is a marvelous creation which God has designed to meet emergencies

The Human Body

- With proper stimulation, the brain can shut out pain
- With proper stimulation the adrenal gland secretes fluids which cause the heart to quicken, the face to flush and the muscles to have greater strength

The Human Body

- In times of fear, excitement and ecstasy the body will perform feats which are believed to be beyond its normal capacity
- This phenomena can be observed in “healing services”

“Healing Services”

- A person believes himself to be healed in the excitement of the highly emotional healing ceremony
- He is able to do remarkable things
- Later, however, the illness is still found to be present
- This kind of healing is not a miracle, but it appears to be real at the time

God, the Healer

- We should give God the glory for all true, genuine healing:
 - “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the Lord who heals you” (Ex. 15:26)

The God of Purpose

- We should remember that God always has a purpose for what he does
- God had a purpose for miracles
- The purpose for miracles has ceased—
God's Word is confirmed