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