

What Are Biblical Miracles? Trey Sullins

A man was setting up his Christmas lights one cold winter evening. Suddenly a gust of icy wind blew while he was standing high on the ladder. In a moment the box of light clips blew off the ladder and fell to the ground. In an attempt to catch the box, the man threw his arm out quickly, but instead completely missed the box fell off the ladder himself! After landing on the ground and finding that he was completely unhurt, he exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

It's surprising sometimes the things which people will call miracles. When you look into the denominational world the number of "miracles" increases dramatically. Is a miracle really nothing more than a good thing that happens? Christians must understand what the Bible reveals about miracles so that we can know the truth about them and live accordingly.

Miracles were done for a purpose. Miracles were not just done for fun or entertainment, but they were to accomplish something. In Mark 16:20 we find exactly what that purpose was: to confirm the word. Imagine this, you are a Jew living in Jerusalem in the first century. You hear of someone claiming to be the Messiah, but you are skeptical as most others are. Then you see Him and His followers working all kinds of unnatural wonders and immediately you know this has to be the Messiah. Miracles were done to prove the words of Jesus and the disciples as true.

Not everyone could perform miracles and those with these gifts could only do certain things. Sometimes people get the idea that in the first century there were superheroes going around saving the world! That is certainly not the idea presented in the Bible. While these miracles were supernatural, God only did them according to His plan. Consider the example in Acts 8:13-18. Here a man named Simon saw that the laying on of the apostles' hands gave people miraculous abilities. He then asks to buy this ability, but Peter refuses and tells him to repent. It is important to note that miracles were only possible because God was working these signs and wonders through these people. Therefore, if God did not choose to do the miracle, then it would not happen.

Biblical miracles are undeniable. In the Bible we find that there were often times crowds of people following after Jesus and the apostles (Matthew 4:25, 13:2, 14:14). The miracles that were performed had hundreds and thousands of people as witnesses. In Acts 4:16 even the Sanhedrin recognized that the miracles done could not be denied. We also have evidence from outside the scriptures as well. Josephus was a first century Jewish man who wrote many things from history which confirm the Bible. He wrote "Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works - a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure." Even Josephus realized that this Man did things that humans simply cannot do.

Miracles have ceased from this earth. There are three big reasons for how we know that this is the truth. First, only the apostles could pass on the miraculous gifts (Acts 8:17-18). As soon as the apostles passed from this earth, then miraculous abilities would no longer be passed. Second, the purpose was completed. We looked at Mark 16:20 which reveals that the signs and wonders were done to confirm the word. After the word was confirmed numerous times, the purpose of miracles was finished. Lastly, miracles were prophesied to cease (1 Corinthians 13:8-13). Paul here is

referencing the fact that whenever that which is perfect, the written word, has come then that which is in part, miracles, will be done away with. Because we have the written word today, then we know that miracles have ceased.

Looking to the world for the answers about the miraculous can become very confusing. There are so many claims about what miracles are, who can do them, and if they are still around today. However, when you investigate the word of God, the answer is much simpler. Miracles were an extremely important part of God's plan and as such we must know what the Bible reveals about them. After studying the Word of God, hopefully we will think twice before we say, "it's a miracle!"