

Why must I believe in miracles?
Life's Tough Questions, Part Seven
Various Scriptures
July 19, 2009

I am convinced that this church is intended by God to be a little part of heaven on earth. If that statement is true, then it follows that this church must believe in miracles. I will even go a step further and say that if a church does not believe in miracles, I don't want to be a part of that church.

Today, Question #7 in our series "Life's Tough Questions" is, "Why must I believe in miracles?" I will address why the church collectively and individually must believe in miracles.

Now, I understand why many sincere Christians are rather leery of the subject of miracles. Many of us can relate experiences with charlatans in ministerial garb who prey upon the desperate seeking healing and deliverance; their "miracle faith healing" services generate excitement (and money), all while distorting the clear Biblical teaching about the central place of miracles in God's Church.

So, why must I believe in miracles?

1. My faith would have no substance without miracles (I Corinthians 15: 14).

A. Most, if not all, of us would agree the resurrection of Jesus is the most dynamic, essential miracle recorded in the Bible. Yet, increasingly professing Christians in America are abandoning belief in the authenticity of the resurrection.

1. The Barna Research Group conducted a nationwide telephone survey in August 2007 of 1000 randomly selected adults concerning the resurrection of Jesus. This is what they discovered:

- \$ 19% said they did not take the story literally;
- \$ 68% of the college graduates believe the narrative to be literally true;
- \$ 83% of mainline Protestants take it literally;
- \$ 95% of non-mainline Protestants take the story literally;
- \$ 82% of Catholics embrace the narrative as being true.

B. Paul says our faith without the underlying truth of the resurrection is useless; I would say it is without substance.

1. Without miracles you have no faith. Listen to what Paul says in verse 17 of this same chapter: "*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.*"

2. Miracles affirm the character of God (Joshua 4: 24)

A. In Barna's aforementioned survey of America's beliefs in miracles they also discovered this about what they believed about various Biblical accounts:

- \$ Daniel in the lions' den – 65% deemed it true;
- \$ Moses' parting of the Red Sea – 64% said, "True";
- \$ David's slaying Goliath – 63% believed it to be literally true;
- \$ Peter waling on the lake with Jesus – 60% believed it.

B. That tells me nearly 40% of professing Christians have no solid foundation for trusting the character and nature of God.

1. If I believe what God says about His nature in the Bible, that He is omnipotent, all powerful, then it is not a big jump for me to believe He can perform miracles.

C. There are basically three groups of people in the world: those who have a big God; those who have a small God; or those who have no God.

1. Make no mistake; the God of the Bible is a B-I-G God!

I believe in miracles because...

3. Miracles encourage me to pray (Hebrews 13: 8) – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

A. Without experiencing miracles in my life, I would have no need to pray.

1. Do you know that in a recent survey, 73% of doctors had witnessed a “miraculous treatment result” in their own practice. In other words, something happened to a patient they could not medically explain!?

B. Why do I pray? Because God might change the outcome; if I didn’t believe there was a chance God would change the outcome – I may as well let things run their course.

2. But these doctors had seen God work, and they do not need to be convinced.

3. Now, the rest of the story: The survey was done by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York!

Finally I must believe in miracles because...

4. Without miracles I could not be saved (2 Corinthians 5: 17).

A. To become a new creation requires a miracle.

1. In fact, it is the only miracle that lasts for eternity.

B. We are praying for a number of dear, precious people to be healed from cancer of one sort or another.

1. But I remind you, if God heals those folks, it does not mean they will go on living in their physical body forever.

2. Eventually, just as with all humans, their body will cease to function. And the miracle of healing of the disease will come to an end.

C. But for the person who has given their life to the Lord, when they die will enter eternal life.

1. Which miracle is more powerful? Is adding years to their earthly life the greatest miracle – or is it greater still earning eternal life as a result of Salvation?

2. Of course, gaining eternal life is the greatest miracle!

D. But if God did not perform miracles, how could I ever achieve eternal life?

Here is the heart of the matter: **To us, miracles are sudden, unexpected, even shocking; however, they are God simply being true to His character and nature.**

Miracles are God doing what God does in keeping with His Love, Mercy and Grace.

If you are here today and you would like your church family to pray with you concerning some issue or circumstance in your life, I invite you to come to the front of the church, share your need, and we as a church family will humbly ask God for a miracle.

If you wish, you may come to the altar and pray silently – or with someone else – and ask God to intervene miraculously in your life.

Let's pray!