

# THE TRUTH ABOUT MIRACLES





# THE TRUTH ABOUT MIRACLES:

- 1) What is a miracle?
- 2) What are the characteristics of a miracle?
- 3) Do miracles occur today?
- 4) If miracles are still occurring today, what are the implications of that reality?
- 5) Why discuss this?



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A MIRACLE IS GENERALLY DEFINED,  
ACCORDING TO THE ETYMOLOGY OF THE  
WORD—IT COMES FROM THE GREEK  
*THAUMASION* AND THE LATIN  
*MIRACULUM*—AS THAT WHICH CAUSES  
WONDER AND ASTONISHMENT, BEING  
**EXTRAORDINARY** IN ITSELF AND  
AMAZING OR **INEXPLICABLE BY NORMAL**  
**STANDARDS.**

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— R.J. Zwi Werblowsky, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*



# WHAT IS A MIRACLE?

- A miracle involves extraordinary activity, the laws of the universe being momentarily set aside by the power of God.
- Numerous words describe this phenomenon:
  - ➔ Miracle — Gr. Dunamis — power
  - ➔ Wonder — Gr. Teras — marvel, astonishment
  - ➔ Sign — Gr. Sameion — a mark, a token
  - ➔ Acts 2.22 — Divine power, human appeal, message



# CHARACTERISTICS OF A MIRACLE:

## John 9

- Intentional — 3-4
- Purposeful — 3-5
- Unexplained by normal standards — 6-7
- Public and observable — 7-11
- Instantaneous — 11
- Demonstrate a connection with God — 16
- Verifiable — 17-24
- Clear and not legitimately controverted — 25 (cf. 22,34)



# CHARACTERISTICS OF A MIRACLE:

John 9

- Intentional — 3-4

**Water to Wine — John 2**

- Purposeful — 3-5

**Royal Official's Son — John 4**

- Unexplained by natural standards — 6-7

**Pool of Bethesda — John 5**

- Public and observable — 7-9

- Instantaneous — 11

**Feeding of 5,000 — John 6**

- Demonstrate a connection with God — 16

**Walking on Water — John 6**

- Verifiable — 17-24

**Raising Lazarus — John 11**

- Clearly and publicly controverted — 25 (cf. 22,34)



# DO MIRACLES OCCUR TODAY?

- Miracles, ultimately, were testimony from God of the surety of the message being delivered.
  - Hebrews 2.1-4
- Paul argued that once the revelation of God's word was completed, miracles would cease.
  - 1 Corinthians 13.8-13
  - "That which is perfect [complete]" = God's message
    - Note "that which", not "He who".



# IMPLICATIONS IF MIRACLES ARE STILL OCCURRING:

- Those claiming the ability ought to be able to clearly demonstrate their giftedness — 2 Corinthians 12.12
- There are 2,000 year old people roaming earth — Acts 8.14-21
  - ➔ How was the ability to work miracles passed on?
- We don't have God's completed revelation.
  - ➔ Miracles would cease at the completion of God's revelation — 1 Corinthians 13
  - ➔ What needs to be added to Scripture?
- Jesus was either deceived or lying — John 16.12-16



# WHY DISCUSS THIS?

- Because confusion abounds on this topic.
- Because some use this as a façade for prestige and power.
  - Robert Tilton, Peter Popoff, H.A. Lewis
- Because if miracles are still being done today, there is revelation from God beyond Scripture.
  - If miracles are being done today, Scripture is insufficient and not "perfect" (1 Corinthians 13).
- Because God's revelation is complete and sufficient.
  - Jude 3