

Super Natural

The Reality of Miracles

The miracle of medicine. The miracle of love. The miracle of life. We call lots of things miracles, but the truth is, we see very few things that most of us are willing to call genuine miracles. And most of the ones we hear about, we're quick to doubt or to explain away. The Bible seems to be so full of miracles, sometimes you have to wonder if we just don't have as much faith as people "way back then." During this week's Conversation, we'll explore the reality of miracles then and now and see if we can't find some "thin places" between the miraculous and the mundane.

Acts 4:23–33

1. There is no evidence that the _____ is in the past.
2. Jesus' miracles were _____. _____ miracles were mostly utilitarian.
3. Three miracles we ought not generally expect: _____, _____, and _____.
4. The path to miracles today is _____ and _____.
5. We should _____ and _____ as if God's still in the miracle business; but when it comes to miracles, we can't _____ God.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I will increase my prayer time
- I will pray more specifically
- I want to pray with a prayer partner

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Scripture: Acts 4:23–33

Introduction: The Bible has the account of so many miracles that some have concluded that the “age of miracles” has come to an end. However, if you sum up all the recorded miracles of the Bible you’ll discover there are less than 200. Sound like a lot? Consider that the Bible’s history covers around 4000 years, which means that if the miracles were evenly spaced, then there’s around one miracle every twenty years or so. That doesn’t sound so impressive, does it? However, the early church seems to have experienced a fairly high miracle rate, especially when it came to healing people and God’s direct intervention in getting the church established. Whatever has happened to miracles?

1. How would you define a miracle?
2. Tell about a time when you personally experienced or witnessed a miracle.
3. Read Acts 4:23–33. What miracle/s do you see in this passage? Why do you think God miraculously intervened in this instance?
4. Read James 5:13–20. What miracles do you see in this passage? What do you think are the purpose behind each of these miracles?
5. Dr. Bill identified three miracles he suggested we shouldn’t expect: Longevity, Suffering Relief, and Wealth. Why should we not expect miracles in these areas? Do you think there are some exceptions to the rule?
6. Have you ever heard the resignation, “All we can do now is pray.” Why do you think we tend to treat prayer as a last resort rather than a first response? What are some of the consequences of treating prayer as a last resort?
7. Why do you think more people don’t turn to the Prayer Partners for prayer in our worship services?

Who will you invite to worship with you this week?
