

Miracles

Are miracles real? Miracles can be defined as events contrary to the nature of our three-dimensional universe. The question of miracles is much more crucial for Christianity than for the non-Christian religions. In other faiths, miracles can be disbelieved without affecting the message of the religion itself. In Christianity, that is not the case. *If Christ has not been raised*, Paul explains, *your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins* (1 Corinthians 15:17). Christ's resurrection requires a Christian's belief in miracles.

Do miracles produce faith? Why does God not perform more miracles? If He did wouldn't there be more believers? But the purpose of miracles is not to produce faith. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Bible says some believed. But it also says, *the chief priests took counsel that they might put Lazarus to death also; because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus* (John 12:10-11). Jesus Himself said, *If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets [The Bible], neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead* (Luke 16:31).

The reason God provided miracles was to authenticate that a particular message or messenger was indeed from Himself. The author of Hebrews wrote, *How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will* (Hebrews 2:3-4).

Why do we not find miracles in science and history? Science and history deal with that which is natural to our universe as we observe it today. Miracles are not natural; so by definition they are not part of the study of natural science or natural history. The occurrence of miracles does not depend on our observing them in nature, any more than the existence of dinosaurs depends on our observing them at the zoo today. If we have scientifically recorded facts and history as we observed the life of Jesus, would we observe today what the eyewitnesses of that day claimed to have seen? The question is not, do we see dinosaurs or miracles today? But rather, would you have seen them then?

Should we expect to see miracles today? The Bible does not claim that all people, whether they lived in Bible times or are alive today, should expect to observe contrary-to-nature events. The fact that something happened does not mean it ought to happen to everyone. God does not expect all of us to cross the Red Sea on dry land like the Israelites or walk on water like Peter did. For that matter, most of the people living in Bible times and places did not see any miracles.

Is life full of miracles? People commonly refer to wonders of nature as "miracles." But that only confuses the issue by using two different meanings for the word "miracle." Saying everything is a miracle destroys the concept of miracles as effectively as saying there are no such things. Certainly, there are wonders of nature that cause us to marvel at God's handiwork. But those are natural not *supernatural*. The Bible also describes some events that are beyond the nature we observe every day. Those are supernatural. When we say we believe in miracles and then refer to birth of a baby or the beauty of a flower, we are illustrating the supernatural with the natural –thus denying the existence of anything beyond the natural.

How did supernatural miracles happen? Miracles were the normal act of a supernatural being. What is unreasonable for a human being in a three-dimensional universe might be commonplace to an all-sovereign, creating God controlling all the dimensions beyond the three we live in.

For more information on "Miracles" see "Answering the Tough Ones" study book on Relational Concepts web page: <https://relationalconcepts.org/>