

Miracles - Part 2

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 8-31-16

Concerning the difficulty believing in miracles

Patience and understanding

- Us B.C. - the five senses
- Spiritually “_____” (Eph. 2)
- **See Appendix 1**

Matthew 28 - following the resurrection

- The final word about the disciples before Jesus speaks the Great Commission
- v. 17 - “When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful.”

“Chronological snobbery” (C.S. Lewis)

- No indication *anyone* was expecting Jesus to be raised from the dead
- **Examples:** Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:8, 11-13; John 20:25; John 21; Jesus chastised them for their unbelief (Luke 24:25; Mark 16:14)

Today’s highly secularized, scientific culture

- The issue is not the need for “proof,” but a need for _____
- The role of the HS - energize/quicken/enable by grace
- Our role: To be _____ (Acts 1:8; Romans 10:14, 17)

The Purpose of Biblical Miracles

#1 - to _____

- Exodus 7-8 - Moses vs. Pharaoh's “sorcerers” and “magicians”
 - 8:19 - “This is the finger of God”
- Luke 5:1-11 - revealing who Jesus is AND who Peter is
- John 10:37-38 - Jesus’ “signs” were proof that he is who he said he was (the Son of the Father)
- Matthew 12:38-40 - only sign they will get is the sign of Jonah
- Acts 2:22 - “...accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs...”
- Miracles validated the early message of the Apostles (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:4)

#2 - to _____

- Matthew 14:14 - He healed due to his _____
 - Deep, profound awareness that sickness/misery/pain are unnatural perversions of the created order
 - Arresting the slow decay of a fallen universe
- Mark 2 paralytic - Power over the physical and spiritual world
 - Revealing and restoring
 - Body and soul
- John 11:35 - "Jesus wept" - **Why?**
 - Not because Lazarus had died (v. 4 - "This sickness is not to end in death...")
 - Because of the _____ around him (v. 33)
 - Revelation and _____
 - _____ to restore things to what they were intended to be.
 - All of Jesus' life as _____ - _____
 - Recapitulation theory (Irenaeus - 125-202 AD)

Miracles ≠ the _____ of the natural order

Jesus' miracle = _____ of the natural order.

- Proofs of power and _____ of what he is going to do with it
- Resurrection = conquering death (I Cor. 15:55)
- Not just a challenge to our _____, but a promise to our _____

End Result: Do not simply lead to cognitive belief, but to _____

- Mark 2:12 - "...they were amazed and glorified God..."
- Other half of John 11:4 - "This sickness is not to end in death but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

Summary: Miracles are God's intervention in the world to reveal and restore for his glory.

Appendix I

Excerpt from Wesley, Sermon 19, "The Great Privilege of Those Born of God" (l. 6-10.)

6. So it is with him that is born of God. Before that great change is wrought, although he subsists by Him, in whom all that have life "live, and move, and have their being," yet he is not sensible of God; he does not feel, he has no inward consciousness of His presence. He does not perceive that divine breath of life, without which he cannot subsist a moment: Nor is he sensible of any of the things of God; they make no impression upon his soul. God is continually calling to him from on high, but he heareth not; his ears are shut, so that the "voice of the charmer" is lost to him, "charm he never so wisely," He seeth not the things of the Spirit of God; the eyes of his understanding being closed, and utter darkness covering his whole soul, surrounding him on every side. It is true he may have some faint dawns of life, some small beginnings of spiritual motion; but as yet he has no spiritual senses capable of discerning spiritual objects; consequently, he "discerneth not the things of the Spirit of God; he cannot know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

7. Hence he has scarce any knowledge of the invisible world, as he has scarce any intercourse with it. Not that it is afar off: No: He is in the midst of it; it encompasses him round about. The other world, as we usually term it, is not far from every one of us: It is above, and beneath, and on every side. Only the natural man discerneth it not; partly, because he has no spiritual senses, whereby alone we can discern the things of God; partly, because so thick a veil is interposed as he knows not how to penetrate.

8. But when he is born of God, born of the Spirit, how is the manner of his existence changed! His whole soul is now sensible of God, and he can say, by sure experience, "Thou art about my bed, and about my path;" I feel thee in all my ways: "Thou besettest me behind and before, and layest thy hand upon me." The Spirit or breath of God is immediately inspired, breathed into the new-born soul; and the same breath which comes from, returns to, God: As it is continually received by faith, so it is continually rendered back by love, by prayer, and praise, and thanksgiving; love and praise, and prayer being the breath of every soul which is truly born of God. And by this new kind of spiritual respiration, spiritual life is not only sustained, but increased day by day, together with spiritual strength, and motion, and sensation; all the senses of the soul being now awake, and capable of discerning spiritual good and evil.

9. "The eyes of his understanding" are now "open," and he "seeth Him that is invisible." He sees what is "the exceeding greatness of his power" and of his love toward them that believe. He sees that God is merciful to him a sinner, that he is reconciled through the Son of his love. He clearly perceives both the pardoning love of God, and all his "exceeding great and precious promises." "God, who commanded the light to shine out of the darkness, hath shined," and doth shine, "in his heart," to enlighten him with "the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." All the darkness is now passed away, and he abides in the light of God's countenance.

10. His ears are now opened, and the voice of God no longer calls in vain. He hears and obeys the heavenly calling: He knows the voice of his Shepherd. All his spiritual senses being now awakened, he has a clear intercourse with the invisible world; and hence he knows more and more of the things which before it could not "enter into his heart to conceive." He now knows what the peace of God is; what is joy in the Holy Ghost; what the love of God which is shed abroad in the heart of them that believe in him through Christ Jesus. Thus the veil being removed which before interrupted the light and voice, the knowledge and love of God, he who is born of the Spirit, dwelling in love, "dwelleth in God, and God in him."