**Miracles - Stories & Illustrations**

**During the Renaissance and later in the Industrial Revolution the idea of the miracle was almost completely blotted out in the increase in materialism and the consequent decline in spiritual perception and demonstration. *(Emmet Fox, in Diagrams for Living)***

**North Denver native and politician Dennis Gallagher recalls that the firefighters at the old Fire Station No. 7, at West 36th Avenue and Tejon Street, used their wagon to take Mother Frances Cabrini, the first U.S. citizen to be canonized by the Vatican, and her nuns on picnics. “My dad,” Gallagher says, “and other old-time smoke eaters told me that whenever they were out with the nuns, north Denver was miraculously protected from any kind of blaze. *(Thomas J. Noel, in Denver Landmarks & Historic Districts)***

**The miracles of the Church seem to me to rest not so much upon faces or voices or healing power coming suddenly near to us from afar off, but upon our perceptions being made finer, so that for a moment our eyes can see and our ears can hear what is there about us always. *(Willa Cather)***

**A Colorado Springs mother and her newborn have made a complete recovery following their apparent deaths. Tracy Hermanstorfer was getting ready to deliver her son, Coltyn, on Christmas Eve when she went into cardiac arrest and stopped breathing. After failing to revive her, doctors removed the baby by Caesarian section, but he was limp, with the barest murmur of a heartbeat. Then, as the medical team slowly revived Coltyn, his mother also began to come around, after having had no heartbeat for four minutes. The doctors had no explanation for the double miracle. “I had everything in the world taken from me,” said Tracy’s husband, Mike, and “in an hour and a half I had everything given to me.” *(The Week magazine, January 15, 2010)***

**Sixty-three days after the devastating earthquake in Pakistan, a survivor has been rescued from the rubble. Naqsha Bibi, a 45-year-old Kashmiri woman, was buried alive in the Kamsar refugee camp just north of Muzaffarabad on October 8; residents of the camp found her this week as they were digging in search of missing bodies. Bibi is receiving fluids and her condition is improving, although she weighs less than 60 pounds. “Medical science will hardly accept it,” said Dr. Abdul Hamid, one of the attending physicians, “but you know miracles do happen in this world.” *(The Week magazine, January 6, 2006)***

**Einstein once expressed the relationship between the mysterious and the miraculous, saying: “The beauty of it is that we have to content ourselves with the recognition of the miracle, beyond which there is no legitimate way out.” *(Dr. Larry Dossey, in The Healing Provess)***

**THE MIRACLE IS THIS: Under cloudless skies at the driest time of Botswana's year, when rain is both a fading memory and a distant promise, a flood comes to the Okavango Delta. Generated by rainfall 500 miles and two countries away in the highlands of Angola, the flood wave snakes down the Okavango River and spreads across the delta, swelling its lagoons and channels and spilling outward to inundate its floodplains. In a land withered by drought, this gift of water is like unction, and all nature responds to it. The miracle happens in slow motion, for this part of southern Africa is so flat that the floodwaters take three months to reach the delta and four more to traverse its 150-mile length. Yet by the time its force is spent, the flood has increased the Okawango's wetland area by two or three times, creating an oasis up to half the size of Lake Erie at the edge of the Kalahari Desert. *(Kennedy Warne, in National Geographic magazine)***

**There are only three types of people: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who say, “What happened?” *(Ann Landers, News America Syndicate)***

**When the children of Israel went to take Jericho, God told them to walk around the city for seven days. Now this plan probably was not so much to frighten the people of Jericho as it was to make sure there was no vestige of self-reliance left in the Israelites. Can’t you see them dragging back to camp after the fifth or sixth day of marching? They were probably physically shot, and the city walls looked bigger every day they marched around them. Even those who’d come up with an alternate plan of attack in case God’s shouting plan didn’t work must have thrown it out by now. They were most likely either too tired to try it, or too aware of the difficulties to think it would work. The choice came down to God working, or a disastrous defeat. And that was the necessary prerequisite for God to do a great miracle. *(Russ Johnston)***

**These miraculous actions account for a large portion of the Scriptures. We read of seventeen healings, three raisings from the dead, six exorcisms, and six victories over the forces of nature. Mark’s Gospel devotes nearly one-third of its entire text to Jesus’ miracles. *(Ernest O. Hauser, in Reader’s Digest)***

**By the power of his thought Elijah penetrated the atoms and precipitated an abundance of rain. By the same law he increased the widow’s oil and meal. This was not a miracle -- that is, it was not a divine intervention supplanting natural law -- but the exploitation of a law not ordinarily understood. Jesus used the same dynamic power of thought to break the bonds of the atoms composing the few loaves and fishes of a little lad’s lunch -- and five thousand people were fed. *(Charles Fillmore, in The Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 10)***

**Now, the laws of nature do not change, for one of the attributes of God is unchanging principle. Sometimes it seems as if the miracle violates law, as with Jesus walking on the water. We call such things miracles because we cannot explain them by any of the known laws. There is a great deal of psychic phenomena that cannot be explained because we do not yet know the laws governing such things. But in the sense of breaking the laws of nature, there are no miracles. *(Emmet Fox, in Diagrams for Living)***

**The laws of nature are subject to the laws of God, who guides and controls the whole universe. God spares and preserves those who trust in him, and who work with his laws and not against them. *(George M. Lamsa, in Old Testament Light, p. 118)***

**Each year 50,000 sick people visit the shrine at Lourdes, France. And 3,000,000 healthy folks visit the place annually, also. Despite what you hear, only sixty-three miraculous cures have been certified by the Church since Marie Bernarde Soubirous (St. Bernadette) first saw visions of the Virgin in the grotto in 1858. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 21)***

**Twenty-four of the Master’s thirty-three recorded miracles were instances of restoration of the sick. *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 73)***

**Man: “April and Elizabeth have never been so happy together. They’re not bickering or fighting! Maybe they’ve matured past that, El. Maybe they’re becoming two loving sisters! Miracles can happen!” *(Lynn Johnson, in For Better or For Worse comic strip)***

**It is quite natural that vain people should like mirrors, for when a girl confesses that she is admiring her hair-do in a mirror, she is using two words that are based on the same Latin word miror which means “admire.” So confessedly, mirrors are made for self-admiration. Our word miracle belongs to the same Latin family, as a miracle is an object of admiration and wonder. *(Wilfred Funk, in Word Origins, p. 85)***

**The fall of 1847 found the Mormons ready to reap substantial crops, until a swarm of crickets threatened all. The crops were saved by the arrival of flights of seagulls, who ate the crickets and gave the Mormons their “symbol of deliverance.” The beautiful Seagull monument at Salt Lake City pays tribute to the bird that saved the first Mormon crops. *(The World Almanac of the USA, p. 304)***

**The PC: Miraculous but boring: Where’s the sense of wonder? asked David Fearon. The story of personal computers is one of “amazing semiconductor and materials science,” astonishing leaps in processing power, and clever engineering that makes e-mailing and Web surfing quick and easy. But if you try to engage someone in a conversation about computing power, you’ll soon notice they’re wearing a glazed expression. You won’t hear any admiration for “all this massive investment, all this science involving some of the world’s finest minds.” That’s because “computer technology is assimilated into everyday life with such speed and regularity, we don’t even notice that we should be amazed.” We think nothing of firing up a browser, searching the Web for “fun games,” and moments later playing “a game running in a Flash plug-in, running in a tab, running in a browser, running in a window, running on a multi-windowed operating system.” Yet just a few years ago, that now-routine scenario was inconceivable. That’s computing for you. “It’s a humdrum, everyday sort of miracle, but a miracle nonetheless.” *(The Week magazine, April 9, 2010)***

**The reason promises have conditions is that when God does a miracle, the Scriptures indicate that He usually chooses to start with something. He created man from the dust of the ground, a woman from a rib, wine from water, a meal for 5,000 from five loaves and two fish, and demolished Jericho’s walls by an army simply marching around them. *(Russ Johnston, in God Can Make It Happen)***

**As a scientist, I expect statistical proof whenever possible to convince me of most things. But as I continue to mature, I’ve become more and more impressed by the frequency of statistically highly improbable events. In their very improbability, I begin to see the fingerprints of God. *(M. Scott Peck, in The Road Less Traveled & Beyond)***

**It’d be a miracle if you could find a road that’s never had a motor-vehicle accident on it, wouldn’t it? You can say that about SF185, the road that goes around Mackinac Island in Lake Huron. The island only has a fire wagon, ambulance and public utilities truck. Still a miracle? *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Since Pope Benedict XIV published his work On the Beatification and Canonization of God’s Servants in 1738, the rule applies that each saint must be shown to have performed at least two miracles after his or her death. All those who are now on the waiting list of twelve hundred “near-saints” have a very much harder time of it than their predecessors. Things that were readily accepted as miracles before are performed today by every competent medical practitioner. It is no longer as easy to become a saint as it used to be. *(Erich von Daniken, in Miracles of the Gods, p. 130)***

**One cannot use electric light and the radio and at the same time believe in the world of spirits and miracles of the New Testament. *(Rudolf Bultmann)***

**First, the Divine Seed is presented to us from the Mind of God. It comes to us as a Divine Seed. This seed lies dormant within us until we recognize it and give life to it. As this seed (desire) begins to feel life, it puts forth a yearning to grow and bear fruit. All seeds need three things in order to mature. They need water, fertilizer, and sunshine. Only you, as the “light of its life”, can give these three things. You can give it water through giving it praise. You can give it fertilizer through giving it love. And you give it sunshine through the attitude of joy. These three things add up to the power which brings the Divine Seed to its blossom. This, my friend, is allowing God (or Spirit) to work through you to become the example that God would have you be. It is only in becoming healthy, happy and wealthy that we continuously experience the miracles that God has so richly provided for us. *(Rev. Anne Kunath)***

**A man named Gustavo Gomes reportedly traveled through northern Brazil for nearly half a century in a ’48 Ford pickup caring for sick villagers. But since his death last summer, villagers claim they’ve been healed of every malady from toothaches to tuberculosis, just by sitting in the cab of the late “holy roller.” Villagers say Gomes’ spirit still lives in the truck, and their tales of dramatic deathbed healings have attracted people from hundreds of miles away. The Brazilian government is a bit more skeptical; it sent an investigator, who concluded, “It’s all in the power of suggestion.” So far, the Church has elected to stay out of the debate. *(Charisma, in Catholic Digest, 1997)***

**We are surrounded by miracles every day. “We see people looking for weeping statues,” Frankie Murray, a curate in County Longford, Ireland, pointed out to me. “They miss the every morning miracles -- like the sunrise and friendship.” *(Dan Wakefield, in Guideposts magazine)***

**St. Bernadette has said it many times – the water of the source is not miraculous. Only God, in whom we have faith and invoke in prayer, is the source of life and of savior. But water is the sign of this life. *(Most Reverend Jacques Perrier, Bishop of Tarbes-Lourdes)***

**A pastor goes to the building committee meeting, and the members say, “Pastor we have big troubles. The roof needs to be replaced, the foundation is cracked, and our people don’t have any money. What are we going to do?” “Well”, the pastor replies, “We can handle these problems the regular way, or the miraculous way.” “OK,” said the members, “what’s the regular way?” “Well, we get on our knees and pray to God. God sends an army of angels and they fix the roof, the foundation, and give our people generous hearts.” “That’s the regular way? Then what’s the miraculous way?” “That we come up with a plan to solve these problems ourselves. *(S.C.U.C.A. newsletter)***

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