

ARE MIRACLES FOR TODAY?

Ray Brubaker

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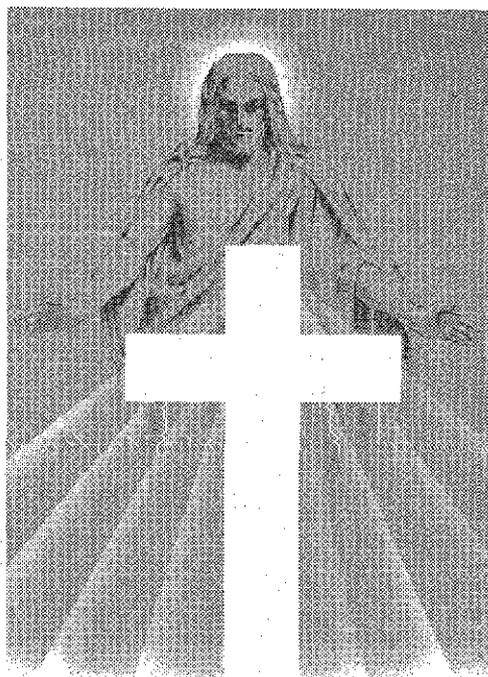
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DO YOU BELIEVE IN Miracles?



Multimillionaire Bernard Mallet, head of a U.S. brokerage firm in France, calls his rescue from kidnapers a "miracle."

Mallet was walking his dog in a wooded area when he was approached by three men who blinded him with tear gas, handcuffed his wrists and ankles, and rushed him to a secret hiding place.

Unknown to the kidnapers was the fact that they were being watched, so several detectives followed the gangsters to their hideout in an abandoned cafe. One by one the kidnapers were nabbed, and their victim was released.

Throwing his arms around the police, he cried, "Thank you. It's a miracle!"

Well, this is a picture of how the devil takes men captive, but it is the Lord Jesus Christ who came to set men free--free from Satan's power and free from the shackles of sin. "For whom the Son maketh free, shall be free indeed." It's a miracle.

Some ask, Are there such happenings as miracles today? Are there really miracles where seemingly impossible situations are reversed, where needed solutions come from supernatural sources--from God Himself?

Robert J. Hurd was among thirty men who jumped out of a C-130 transport plane while on maneuvers with the West Virginia Army National Guard.

When the jump manager shouted "Go!" he leaped into the cold, inky blackness as he had done many times. His parachute was attached to a 10-foot static line that is supposed to open automatically. But nothing happened. Looking up, he

could see his chute flapping like a bed sheet in the wind.

"God, make it open," he prayed, but to no avail. He hit the ground in 15 seconds after jumping from an altitude of 1,100 feet. Normally it would take 60 seconds.

On impact, he wondered, "Am I dead?" Then he realized he was still very much alive. Although the shock of hitting the earth was so great that it knocked loose seven fillings in his teeth, there were no broken bones--only a spinal injury. Fifteen days later he was released from the hospital--a miracle. Robert Hurd thanks God many times in his prayers for what he believes was truly an act of God's grace--a miracle.

In his book, *MIRACLES AND THEIR VALUE IN THE CHURCH TODAY*, A. L. Lindholm points out that Christ wrought miracles, the apostles saw miracles performed in the name of Jesus, and that we should see miracles today.

Listen to what he says: "When the Lord Jesus Christ began His public ministry, it was a ministry of miracles. The conception of Christ, His birth, His life, His wisdom and His teachings, His ministry, His death, His resurrection, His many infallible appearances, and His ascension into heaven were all astounding and undeniable miracles."

Then he points out that the disciples and apostles made a fabulous discovery that when they gave command in the name of Jesus, the same power that they witnessed when Christ was with them was at work then.

And Rev. Lindholm makes this observation: "If the true Church does not have a supernatural Christianity, where Christ confirms the Word with signs following, we have nothing left to offer the non-believer or the heathen but a cold, dead, lifeless religion that does not satisfy." He notes, "Jesus Christ's ministry began with miracles and the Church of the Living God was and still is propagated by miracles."

A. J. Gordon, noted theologian, and pastor of Tremont Temple in Boston, writes of the place of miracles in the early church and days following. He points out the fact that miracles were known to accompany every great revival of the past, declaring they "were signs of the sole kingship of the living and exalted Christ, and pledges of His coming again to subdue all things to Himself."

Do you believe that when Christ comes again He will transform this mortal body into the likeness of His own glorified body? If we believe that, then why can't we believe Him for the preservation of these bodies until He comes?

Malachi, writing of the coming day of the Lord, says: "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings..." (Mal. 4:2)

Why would anyone want to oppose miracles of healing if this is a sign that our Lord is soon to come?

In Psalm 78 we read of the sins of Israel which grieved God greatly and were an offense unto Him.

First, we read how they forgot the works of God. (v.7 & 11)
Then, God did marvelous things such as dividing the sea

and causing them to pass through on dry land. He clave the rocks in the wilderness and gave them water to drink. He rained down manna from heaven, and brought them the feathered fowl like as the sands of the sea.

Yet, we read: "For all this they sinned still, and believed not for His wondrous works." (v.32)

"Yes," we read, "they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel."

What a tragic description of Israel's lack of faith. After all the miracles they saw God perform, they questioned God's ability to supply their every need while traveling through the wilderness.

We might ask, Is this descriptive of some of us today? Do we limit God? Do we say there are things that are impossible with Him? Some openly declare that God doesn't work miracles today. Others believe that He does but act like He doesn't!

The God who worked miracles following Pentecost works miracles today. Miracles continued on until the time of Constantine when Christianity became an organized religion.

Thus, A.J.Gordon comments that when the Church forgot that "her citizenship is in heaven," and began to establish herself in luxury and splendor on earth, she should cease to exhibit the supernatural gifts of heaven."

He notes that the goal of the Christian's hope, instead of being the coming of Christ became death and the grave, and there were the alleged miracles of healing by contact with the bones of dead saints rather than through the prayer of faith offered to the living Christ.

Miracles were not totally forgotten, however. They attended the cradle of every spiritual reformation, as they did the birth of the Church itself. The Waldenses, Moravians, Huguenots, Covenanters, Friends, Baptists and Methodists all have records of miracles.

The Rev. A. Bost in the history of the United Brethren expressed the clear sentiments of the Moravians when he said: "We are, indeed, well aware that, so far from its being possible to prove by scripture or by experience, that visions and dreams, the gifts of miracles, healings and other extraordinary gifts, have absolutely ceased in Christendom since the apostolic times, IT IS ON THE CONTRARY PROVED, BOTH BY FACTS AND BY SCRIPTURE, THAT THERE MAY ALWAYS BE THESE GIFTS WHERE THERE IS FAITH, AND THAT THEY WILL NEVER BE ENTIRELY DETACHED FROM IT."

He went on to say: "We need only take care to discern the true from the false, and to distinguish from miracles proceeding from the Holy Ghost, those lying miracles, or those which being so decidedly of the devil do not so decidedly indicate the presence of the Lord."

In other words, Satan, too, can work miracles and we must not fall for error by accepting signs and wonders which he is able to perform.

Well, do you believe in miracles?

The new Compact Bible Dictionary explains: "Miracles are always 'signs' which teach us a lesson."

The great Zinzendorf further explained that these signs were not for believers "but for those who believed not."

Miracles are for the purpose of encouraging faith, and he noted: "To believe against hope is the root of the gift of miracles."

Zinzendorf's writings indicate that it should be normal for believers. For instance, when a brother was cured of disease, even of the worst kind, by a single word or by some prayer, he viewed this as a very simple matter."

While Paul wrote: "The Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom"(I Cor. 1:22), he made it known that his message among the Corinthians was that they may know the power of God. Hear him as he relates: "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (I Cor. 2:4-5)

We quote from the PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL where a minister's wife has commented on miracles today. She writes:

"Paul wrote in I Corinthians concerning spiritual gifts of Christians as given by the Holy Spirit. This passage is often used to show the diversity of gifts or callings or professions in the Church. Unfortunately, (she notes) only the first part of verse 28 is usually quoted, while reference to the working of miracles and those to gifts of healing are discounted. Why?"

Perhaps, she adds, we should read I Cor. 12:28 which shows God has purposed miracles for today. For we read: "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles...then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

So miracles are placed next to the need of apostles, prophets and teachers as gifts God has given to His church.

The article by this pastor's wife concludes: "It surely suggests that miracles can and should be expected today--another age of miracles."

Robert J. Hurd shows helmet he wore the night he hit the ground at 80 miles per hour.

NATIONAL ENQUIRER



MIRACLE STORIES



Sante Facca of Windsor, Ontario, was working in his flower garden one evening when, looking up, he saw a coffin hurtling through the sky.

The coffin landed in a cornfield fifty yards away, gouging an 8-inch hole in the ground. When he got to it, the lower lid of the ornate white metal casket had opened. Calling police, he told them "Something fell from the sky looking like a coffin with maybe a dummy inside."

However, the coffin was real and contained the body of a 72-year-old woman being shipped from Wisconsin to Buffalo.

What happened was that the casket had slipped out of an American Airlines plane when a cargo hatch opened at 12,000 feet up in the air, causing a decompression explosion aboard the plane.

The pilot, Capt. Bryce E. McCormick, fortunately brought the plane in for an emergency landing. With a ruptured cargo hatch, no rudder to control the craft and no brakes to stop it, McCormick brought the DC10, with 56 passengers and a crew of eleven aboard, to a safe landing. The 23-million dollar jetliner finally stopped just as the plane rolled off the runway.

Truly an amazing incident.

The Moody Bible Institute radio program MIRACLES AND MELODIES once related the true story of a native suffering from a serious illness with a terribly high fever. The woman asked the Christian doctor, "Does God want His children to have what is good for them?" "Surely," the doctor replied, "God will not withhold any good thing from those who ask in faith."

With her hot fingers clamped upon the doctor's arm, she said, "Doctor, would not ice be good for me!"

Like a blow, the impact of the woman's thinking struck the doctor. As a missionary far from civilization, miles from any city, and a full month before the beginning of the rainy season, where could he ever get some ice? Although he knew the ice would help cool the burning fever, the question of getting ice from anywhere was one of those impossible miracles.

The doctor's attempts to change the subject, failed. All this woman could think of was "ice" and God's power to answer prayer, "For, isn't your God all powerful?" she asked the missionary.

Challenged with the simple faith of this dying woman, he hurried back to the mission compound and called together the score of workers. He related the woman's faith and reviewed the promises of God and then together they went to prayer.

"Call upon me and I will answer thee and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not," says Jer 33:3.

How long the group knelt in prayer, no one knew, but suddenly, a thunderous crash shook the flimsy house in which they were gathered bringing a drenching downpour upon the parched village and compound. Suddenly, listening, they heard the sound of hail upon the roof. Looking out, they could see large ice pellets, beating down in huge quantities on the compound.

As the storm lessened, the doctor filled a pail of the hail and hurried to the home of the dying woman.

Here was rain a whole month before the rainy season, and hail--an unheard of phenomena in that part of the country.

"See, doctor, God has sent me ice from heaven. Now I shall be well!" said the woman, rejoicing in the fact that our Lord is a God of miracles.

Another unusual missionary story again shows the great power of God to answer prayer.

Pacing up and down inside his cabin, John Clarke had almost worn a rut into the hard, sun-baked clay of the mission compound. In the heart of Africa, God had permitted a work to be established, with souls being saved, and a church built.

But hundreds of miles away from any doctor, John's wife lay dying in that jungle, with a tropical fever. There was one unusual request she kept repeating--it was a call for three ripe tomatoes. But who would ever have a tomato in the whole of the Belgian Congo, and to pray for tomatoes was like asking for the impossible.

Only the prayers of the entire mission compound seemed to keep Mrs. Mina Clark alive although she was so weak she could only whisper, "If I only had - three ripe tomatoes."

The God who created tomatoes and all that is good upon the earth had it all arranged that this faithful missionary should get her request - for three ripe tomatoes.

A tribeswoman suddenly appeared and wanted to see the missionary. No one had ever seen her before. In the crude basket which she carried, John Clark could not believe his eyes. For there were - three ripe tomatoes!

This native had come to the missionary for advice. Food was scarce in her village, but here was some queer fruit she had grown from seeds left her by a white man! Were these all right to eat? Sure, she could get some more!

Mrs. Mina Clark ate the tomatoes and lived....lived for a successful ministry because a miracle-working God caused the

planting, raising and ripening of three red tomatoes.

A final missionary story that we might relate took place off the coast of Malaya in the island of Sumatra.

I heard Hubert Mitchell relate this miracle story which has ever served as a reminder of God's gracious supply of all of the needs of His children.

Mitchell, a veteran missionary was working among the wild Kubu tribesmen of this tropical jungle. He had worked his way back into the jungle, the dense undergrowth resisting his every step. A question preyed upon his mind. Over and over again he asked himself: "How can I explain the reality of God's love to these illiterate, stone-age people? How can I make their darkened minds and hearts comprehend the great purpose of the sacrifice that was made on Calvary?"

Slowly they advanced to the middle of the clearing--then suddenly found themselves surrounded by an entire village who had moved out of hiding as one man. Flanked by warriors who needed but a single word for action, the Chieftain of the Tribe stood silently, watching with narrowed eyes the men who had dared to violate the privacy of his jungle home.

At that moment, Hubert Mitchell became aware of sounds of normalcy. Now there were barking dogs and crying children....and the missionary smiled. As the chieftain and the villagers watched, they seemed intrigued by that great, soul-warming smile that found its way across Hubert Mitchell's face.

The missionary was quick to sense their interest; and, instead of following out the usual practice of presenting them with beads, buttons and fishhooks, he lost no time in telling them about the love of God.

Hubert began by telling the story of Jesus Christ. He related from the Bible the account of Christ's sufferings and trials before His crucifixion. As the missionary told about the cross and the part that it played in the death of God's Son, the Chief frowned and looked as though he wanted to speak. The missionary paused and waited.

"What is cross?" the chief asked.

A look of surprise crossed Hubert's face. He wondered for a moment how he might describe a cross to these people who had never seen or heard of one.

Turning to his native workers, Hubert told them to cut down a small tree and strip it of its branches. Then he fastened two of the larger pieces in the shape of a cross and placed the object before the chief. The native leader looked at the cross with great interest....but wanted to know more.

"How was Christ fastened to cross?" That was the next question asked of the missionary, and to better illustrate what happened, Hubert Mitchell laid the cross on the ground and stretched himself upon it. Lying there with his arms outstretched, he told how the soldiers had driven nails into Christ's hands and feet.

But the chief had still another question he wanted answered. He asked, "What is nail?"

So! The people of the village had never seen a nail! Well, that would be easy to explain. "A nail is..."--but Hubert Mitchell stopped. How did one describe a nail? He looked around for something that might resemble the object. But there was nothing in the entire village that even looked like a nail. The villagers stood by and watched. The chief waited, the question in his eyes unanswered. Hubert searched his own gear. Couldn't he find a nail somewhere? Just a small nail? A pin? But there was nothing. He gave up his search, admitted to the chief that he could find no nail.

The chief had no further questions. Hubert was filled with frustration and deep concern. "For want of a nail, the shoe was lost." The line from the nursery rhyme nudged his consciousness. The battle had been lost in the nursery rhyme. But the stake was higher here. Would a whole native village be lost from the love of God for the want of a nail?

Quite dejected, Hubert began his evening meal of rice and fish. Usually for dessert he had fruit or a piece of native sugar cane. But, on this night, he idly picked up a can of Japanese oranges from his supplies and absent-mindedly began to open it. He poured the oranges into a dish and started to toss the can to the group of curious children nearby; but before the can left Hubert's hand he heard a rattling sound inside it. Curiously he looked inside. He looked more closely. His eyes opened wide in amazement. There in the bottom of the can was a nail! His mind was flooded with wonderment, almost disbelief--but the fact remained, there was a nail!

Taking the nail in his hand, Hubert Mitchell rushed to the Chief. The village quickly gathered. Then the missionary showed how the point of the nail was pounded into the hands and feet of the Saviour. The Chief held the nail in his own hand, pressed it into his own flesh. He could see how strong it was, how sharp.

Now the story of Christ was real to them; the cross and the nails were tangible things.

The Chief and the whole village that night accepted Christ as their Saviour. The Chief was so moved that he left his village and acted as guide on a two weeks' trek through the jungle in order that Hubert Mitchell might preach the Gospel to all the tribesmen of the area. And throughout the entire trip, clutched tightly in the Chief's hand, was the nail...a never-to-be-forgotten symbol of the suffering and death of the Saviour who had become his Lord and Master.

Friends, this is truly an amazing story of God's miracle-working power in saving, keeping and transforming lives.

We would be reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul. "This is the gospel...how that Christ died for our sins

according to the scriptures: and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Cor. 15:1-4 abridged.

And we would add...that He is coming again. This is the glorious message that we preach--"...unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time, without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28.

Indeed, if we have repented of sin to trust the Saviour and are found living for Christ, we can be ready when He comes.

For he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh!"



HUBERT MITCHELL,
*veteran missionary
to the Far East.*





Norm Evans

Miracle Testimonies

Voted MISS AMERICA, Dorothy K. Benham, a 20-year-old college junior from Minnesota, said she doesn't believe in pre-marital sex, abortions, drugs, smoking, drinking, and maybe not even the Equal Rights Amendment. "You can have a good time with people without doing any of that," she notes.

Dorothy goes on to relate her background, saying: "I have been raised in a very strict and old-fashioned home. I think I should represent young women of today and lead an honest, good life."

Well, it's thrilling to read testimonies like that. We believe that there are young people today who are discovering the value of virtue. Life isn't worth sacrificing to the new morality which is really immorality.

Also, it's tremendous to read of the many notable persons who have committed their all to Jesus Christ. Could this not be in fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel which reminds us that in the Last Days God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh--young and old alike.

It's great to read in the newspapers and hear on radio and television the testimonies of those newly converted.

For instance, here is the testimony of the rough-riding hatchet man of the Nixon team whose conversion is becoming well-known through his newly-published book, BORN AGAIN.

Chuck Colson says: "I just sit back in awe and amazement when I see how God has used this book. Particularly to reach non-believers. Sixty percent of the sales of the book have been in book stores."

He adds: "One of the most moving accounts relates to a Boston businessman. His wife is a Christian and for many years she tried to get him interested in Christ. He went to all kinds of speeches and talks, etc., but never understood Christianity. He bought the book, not looking for Christ, but wanting to "feel good all over again" by hating all the Nixon men. He bought it for political reasons. He began to read the book and he started to cry. He had never cried before but now he was sobbing uncon-

trollably. He went to sleep and woke up in the middle of the night praying for Christ to come into his life."

Other notable persons about whom we have read and heard tell of a conversion experience include Eldridge Cleaver who related on a coast to coast TV program his transformation. He boldly proclaimed: "I have become a Christian."

Quite a repentant attitude for the once notorious Cleaver--almost a reminder of the conversion of the Apostle Paul! The one-time revolutionary is reported to have begun reading his Bible in prison and may have later been led to the Lord by his sister, a committed Christian.

Truly God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

We could mention Caril Ann Fugate who was jailed 18 years for a role in the slayings committed by Charles Starkweather. Although she says she had no part in the murders, she was jailed as an accomplice.

Her startling change of life came about in prison where she taught Bible classes on Sundays and occasionally delivered sermons.

Testifying to the saving power of Jesus Christ is Jack Roland Murphey, better known as Murph the Surf.

Murph was known for his role in breaking into museums and plush hotels and taking off with big jewels. He was also found guilty of murdering two of his secretaries.

Today he passes out tracts, prays, and paints religious scenes.

Murph relates how when a youngster he was a dedicated Christian, but like so many kids, he got away from it. He has learned the hard way that the wages of sin result from a life of disobedience, and his desire now is to live for Christ.

Most publicized have been the murders committed by the Manson family.

Among those participants who were sentenced to life imprisonment are Susan Atkins and Tex Watson who tell of finding new life in Christ.

Tex Watson describes in his own words what happened: "After I came down off drugs, and came out of the power that Satan had on me, I just thought that was the end of the road, that there was no more life, that I might as well go ahead and die and give it up."

But then Watson relates how he started reading the Bible and later attended the prison chapel. He learned that Susan had turned her life over to the Lord, exclaiming: "The Lord must really have something."

"Then I found out that Christ died for me, too," said Tex. "He died for murderers. He died for sinners, and I praise God that through prayer and through His Word, and through my seeking that I found out Jesus died for my sins."

"I gave my life to Jesus...I know my past has been wild, but I know now that I have accepted Christ as my Saviour--that old things have passed away and that I am a new creature in Jesus Christ."

Well, God is still in the saving business. Some may suppose that prison conversions are not real, but we can pray that God will use these stirring and thrilling testimonies to reach many young people before they get into serious trouble and land in jail.

Tex Watson now serves on the chaplain's staff and is a deacon in the prison church.

Others we might mention who have lived a life of notoriety but have come to Christ include a nightclub performer who won the title of Miss Nude Universe. An atheist in college, arrested at least 25 times at her job for indecent exposure, she testified she felt the presence of demons at night. A friend gave her a copy of Hal Lindsey's book, SATAN IS ALIVE AND WELL ON PLANET EARTH. She read the book and decided what she was doing was sin and so surrendered her life to the Lord. Today she is a witness to the peace that has come into her heart. Together with her husband she is a radiant Christian and regular church-goer.

There are many others too numerous to mention who tell of finding new life in Christ. After all, did not Jesus say, "I am come that ye might have life and have it more abundantly."

Sometimes we find fault, and maybe rightly so, with those in Hollywood who profess faith in Christ but continue the vaudeville circuit, or perform in nightclubs one night while testifying in a city-wide rally or similar services. Well, God must be the judge. But there are some remarkable conversions that we read about.

When the Pharisees of our Lord's day condemned his association with sinners, the Lord replied: "Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and harlots go into the kingdom of God before you." (Matt. 21:31)

In the ministry of Jesus it was those who sensed a real need who turned to Him and found that need met. So today there are those who have tried every sin in the book, having experimented with drugs, and committed all kinds of crimes only to discover it resulted in a life of heartache and remorse. And then, turning to Christ, they found what they were searching for--the abundant life that He gives.

Skeeter Davis, noted country singer, when interviewed by a reporter, turned to him to boldly ask, "Are you a Christian?" If only we were this bold in our profession of faith in Christ!

What about Olympics champions and sports figures (again too numerous to mention) who testify of their faith in Jesus Christ?

We might mention Janet Lynn, five times the national ice skating champion, having represented the United States at the Winter Olympics, who tells how when she was in the eighth grade, she gave her life to Christ. She wasn't a big sinner like some we mentioned today, and so her experience may not have been as bold and dramatic as others. But she knew she needed and wanted forgiveness of sins, a new and abundant life here, and eternal life in the hereafter. And she received this when she gave her heart to the Lord.

In closing, let's hear from Norm Evans of the Miami Dolphins' football team who relates his testimony in this interview.

Norm Evans relates: "I became a Christian nine years ago. When I first came to Miami, I went to hear Bob Harrington. I realized God loved me as an individual. He loved me so much that He sent Jesus to die just for me. And He would have done that even if I had been the only human being on this earth. So that night I decided to make a commitment of my life to Christ. I said a simple prayer of invitation, 'Lord, forgive me for the things I've done wrong and come into my life and make me the kind of person you want me to be, and I want to know you personally.'"

"It's been really the most important experience in my life. It's more important than Super Bowl victories or all pro or any of those things. So much so, that I wouldn't trade that one experience of knowing God personally for anything."

Ladies and Gentlemen, today we presented the stories of changed lives, testimonies of those who have found new life in Jesus Christ, personalities whose names we have seen in the news at one time or another.

We believe God's Spirit is moving across the world. It's harvest time, and before God's judgment is seen falling, there is extended this opportunity to all to receive the Saviour.

Salvation is not something complicated. The ABC's might read as follows:

"A" - All have sinned. We read this in Romans 3:23, reminding us that all are sinners and not good enough for heaven unless we receive the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. It's wonderful to read stories of those who lead a good life, but if our own goodness saved us, then Jesus would not have needed to come to die for us. But since all have sinned, all are sinners and in need of saving.

"B" - "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Yes, it is by trusting Christ's death on the cross for our sins, making it personal that He died for me, that brings forgiveness of sins and peace within.

"C" - Confess Christ before others. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth, Jesus as Lord, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." By going forward in a service during the invitation, or being baptized in witness to your conversion from the old life of sin, or by telling others of your new-found love for the Lord, you are confessing Christ. And He promises that if you confess Him before men, He will confess you before the Father.

Remember these ABC's. And if you have never learned them, put your trust in the Saviour now, live for Him daily, and be ready when He comes again. For He hath said: "Be ye therefore also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

MIRACLES ABROAD



The CAPE TIMES (Sept 8, 1972) published the amazing story of Miss Yvonne Vladislavich, a 20-year-old student who was miraculously spared death when trailed by sharks following the capsizing of a cabin cruiser in a freak storm in Delagoa Bay.

Yvonne, who was awarded a bronze medal once for life saving, declared: "If anyone tells you there is no God, send them to me." Then she goes on to relate how she was able to swim over 40 miles following the sinking of the Scorpio, a 23-foot boat that capsized during the storm that wrecked the cruiser in which she was riding.

Yvonne, an expert swimmer, was doing fine when she saw a pack of sharks. There were at least six altogether, and later she saw others, and they seemed to be coming closer. Out loud she began to pray, "God, now You must help me."

Then suddenly there appeared at her side two dolphins which swam one on either side of her. Weary, she felt herself slipping under the waves but the dolphins would nudge her, even try to hold her up. Sometimes she would reach out to touch them but they evaded her, not wanting to be touched. "I don't know, maybe they were playing a game. Maybe they just happened along at a crucial time and found a bit of sport in swimming along with me," commented Yvonne.

But then, explain how she swam directly to the only buoy left standing when all the others were carried out to sea by the storm. And then finding the buoy, she passed out for a few minutes but again gained consciousness to see a tanker coming in the distance. "I screamed and somebody on deck waved," she exclaimed, "but, ironically, my screams chased away the dolphins and I never saw them again."

Another marvelous example of God's preservation...for we serve a God of miracles...

Today we'd like to relate some of the unusual happenings taking place in various parts of the world which must be considered miracles.

For instance, on the Island of Timor in Indonesia, there were teams of converts to Christ who went from village to village holding services. In one village, the pagan priest said to these team workers: "You can preach to us about Jesus but

we are demon worshipers." He related: "If we want healing, the Devil gives it. If we want rain, the Devil gives that. Whatever we want, the Devil supplies." Then the heathen priest challenged the Christians to prove that their God was greater than Satan. The Christian young people told the heathen priest to assemble the people together and see what happens. (It would remind us of the confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal to see who was the Living God!)

After the people had gathered, the Christian team members just lifted up their hands and began to pray, "Lord, You said we were to preach the Gospel, and You said in Your name we could cast out devils. Now, in the name of Jesus, we bind and cast out all demonic power that has ruled these villages for many generations. Because of Christ's blood shed on the cross, we command the demons to leave."

After this simple prayer, they looked up and nothing seemed to have happened, except they saw this pagan priest trembling, and then he began to cry. "Brothers," he sobbed, "I want your Jesus right now!"

It was such a sudden transformation that the Christian team members couldn't understand it. "What happened?" they asked.

"Oh, Jesus is more powerful than the devils," he replied, relating just what did happen. "I'm a pagan priest. I have talked with the devils. I know many of them by name. But when you prayed in the name of Jesus, and bound all the demonic power and commanded them to flee, they went away. They kept saying, "We must go; Jesus will not permit us to stay!"

The team members proceeded to show him how to receive the Lord as Saviour, and the whole tribe followed in their conversion to Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in miracles? Of course, the greatest miracle is conversion.

Many have heard of Dr. Bob Finley, active in youth evangelism, and the ministry known as INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

A student from Afghanistan was studying at a midwestern university where Bob Finley led him to Christ. Returning to Afghanistan, a land closed to the missionary, he testified how Christ had saved him and how he was willing to die for the Saviour. Three months later he was killed and buried on a hillside in Afghanistan.

A younger brother was greatly impressed concerning his brother's becoming a Christian. Then one night he had a dream in which he saw his brother in a beautiful garden surrounded by luscious fruit and exotic flowers.

He heard his brother's voice, saying: "Come and taste the fruit." "But how do I cross over the river that is between us?" And back came the reply: "Go to Kabul and find an American... He will give you a Book that will tell you how to cross the river."

The younger brother followed the instructions given to him in his dream. He found the American who gave him a New

Testament in his own language, even though this was forbidden and he could have been forced to leave the country if this act was discovered.

The Afghan took the testament and read it day and night. One night when his little daughter lay dying from a deadly disease, he went outside his house to be alone.

Suddenly he was blinded by a flash of light...and there appeared amidst the brilliance a majestic form such as is described for us in the book of the Revelation. "His countenance was as the sun shining in its strength; His hair was white like wool, as white as snow; His eyes were as a flame of fire; His feet like unto fine brass as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters." But, his voice was familiar, for He spoke in the Pushto language. He related that He was the owner of the Garden where his brother now was, that He had been here on earth a long time ago as recorded in the Book he was reading; that He had died for the sins of men but that He rose again from the dead. "Believe in me and be faithful unto death," spoke the majestic One, "and I will give you a crown of life." Then the Man said He was going to heal the Afghan's daughter even as He healed the sick while on earth...and disappeared.

The young Afghan went back into the house, found his daughter sitting up and perfectly well, and hungry. A nice man had come, she said, and had taken her sickness away.

Bob Finley reports that this young man is now faithfully witnessing for Christ, even at the risk of his life.

Surely God works miracles today!

Another story comes from a recent publication of the NEW TRIBES MISSION. Missionaries from Colombia report how some of the jungle Indians were converted. The life of the Indian is very discouraging. There is much sickness, lack of food and clothing, and death is common especially among the children.

Ramone and his wife had both been led to Christ, but because of a lack of teaching, there was little growth in their lives.

Then one day Ramone's wife became gravely ill. As she lay on the floor, she began to speak in a half-unconscious spirit. "I'm going to die soon. I'm going to leave you in this world." Then she continued: "I'm not going to really die, but only sleep."

She called out to her husband, "Ramone, don't you see Jesus? He's right here by me. He's going to take me to that beautiful place."

She pleaded with her husband who had taken up with some bad habits, saying: "Don't do the things of this world, but live for Jesus. He is coming soon." Again she urged him, saying: "Go and tell my sisters to change their ways also and that Jesus is coming soon!

My friend, does this speak to your heart today as it does to mine? God won't be without His witness. This broadcast

goes forth as a reminder that Jesus is coming again. And His message is--"Be ye therefore ready!" By receiving Christ as your Saviour and Lord, repenting of sin to trust the forgiveness freely offered to all who believe, you can be saved and made ready for our Lord's coming.

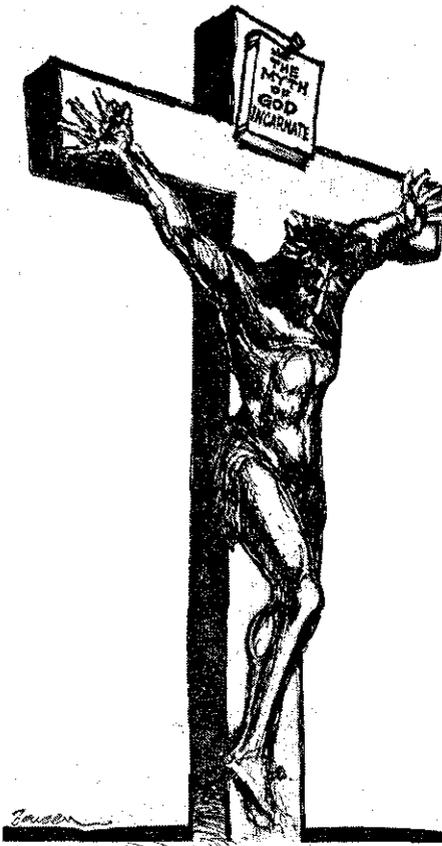
Believing that Jesus is coming soon, we would urge you to hasten in making your decision. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!" Commit yourself, your life, your all to Him!

For remember, He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"



PAT BOONE:

I know God is still working miracles today. I've experienced God's supernatural power in my own life...many times. He's still the same God He always was, doing the same mighty works He always did.



Cartoon attack on Myth
Questioning the ancient tradition.

Antichrist- A Miracle Worker!

Does God work miracles today?

A debate has been raging over whether Christ was a miracle worker. In a book published entitled **THE MYTH OF GOD INCARNATE**, seven British Protestant theologians argue that Jesus is not a supernatural miracle worker but only a great teacher.

Of course, that argument has been heard before and as this age progresses there will be more attempts to deny the divinity of our Lord. This is the spirit of the antichrist that is predicted to prevail at the end of the age.

Those who contend that Jesus was not divine maintain that He was promoted to divinity by early Christians who were still under pagan influences. They contend that Christian churches will be benefited more greatly if Jesus is admired as a great teacher because of those who cannot accept the supernatural aspects of His ministry.

This attack upon Christ's miracles has prompted another book, **THE TRUTH OF GOD INCARNATE**, written by five British scholars--four Anglicans and a Roman Catholic--defending the position that Jesus was indeed the Son of God, and that the

attacks upon our Lord were heresy and communistic.

Declared Canon Michael Green: "It is official Communist propaganda that the Jesus of the Gospels is a 2nd century mythical figure..." And, he declared further, "When responsible theologians use a technical word (as the word "myth") in such a way as the title and main selling point of their book, then they have ceased to be academic speculators and have turned into propagandists."

Canon Green went on to recount how the New Testament contains a great deal of evidence about the divinity of Jesus. "Wherever you look..." he noted, "you find the same conviction that, in Jesus, God has expressed Himself personally." He then pointed to Christ's empty tomb, His appearances after the crucifixion, the inauguration of the church and the changed lives of the disciples as testifying to the fact that 'death has been defeated by God in Christ.'"

Bishop Christopher Butler, the Roman Catholic, who contributed to the defense of the divinity of Christ, wrote: "Christianity took its birth from a fact, the fact of the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. This fact stands behind every page of the New Testament. Without that fact there would have been no New Testament, no Christianity."

The Apostle John, more than any Bible writer, relates the appearance of those in the Endtime who will deny God and our Lord Jesus Christ. This, notes John, is a sign whereby we can know that we are living in the Endtime.

Listen to what he writes: "Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."

Did you hear it?

The appearance of a vast number of those who deny the existence of God and of Christ is a sign whereby we can "know" that we are living in the Endtime, says John.

Then he writes: "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son." I John 2:18 & 22

There is no question but that Satan's attempt is a denial of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, and his campaign against the Almighty will seem successful when the world ruler we call the Antichrist arises and will declare himself to be "God."

It will be a strange turn of events, indeed, when those who claim there is no God will recognize this imposter as "God."

In 2 Thes. 2:2, the Apostle Paul reminds us that "the day of the Lord...shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." 2 Thess. 2-4.

Did you hear it?

How can any man accept the divinity of another man who exalts himself while blaspheming the God of heaven? And yet

the Scriptures indicate that when this imposter, the antichrist, appears, he will convince many. We read: "God shall send them a strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." In other words, God will permit them to be fooled because they want to be led by someone who says they can do as they please. This is what the world wants--f-r-e-e-d-o-m--freedom to do what you want and not be condemned for it.

However, the verdict of Scripture is severe for all who follow lawlessness and adhere to the antichrist. It is written "that they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thess. 2:12)

We repeat--the world ruler we call the ANTICHRIST will be a lawless person, yet he will succeed in deceiving men to recognize him as a god. In addition, it is he who will work miracles, performing strange signs and wonders. There are some who wrongfully suppose that any unusual and strange phenomena that borders on the supernatural is of God, but nothing can be further from the truth. Satan is a counterfeit "miracle" worker. And he will seek to gain a following by signs, wonders and miracles so that if it were possible, he would deceive the whole world. But only the "elect" will not be deceived for they know that no one can exalt himself while denying God and be the "messiah." No one can blaspheme the God of heaven and be "God" on earth. Even though he perform miracles which the world will accept as true credentials of his deity, he will be an imposter and deceiver because he is in reality of the devil's trinity.

Perhaps we should explain. As the divine trinity of God is represented as three manifestations--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, so the devil will be manifested as a trinity.

The devil is referred to as the dragon and Satan who will rule through his superman, the antichrist, also called in Scripture "the beast." He will have the support of an ecclesiastical body of religions headed up by one called the "false prophet."

Now there have always been different interpretations as to which one is the antichrist--the religious personage or the political ruler. The Scriptures seem to infer that they will both be powerful leaders and will convince many by their signs and wonders.

In Rev. 13:13, we read concerning the religious personage whom we call the false prophet: "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live."

As Jesus died and rose again, it is evident that the beast, or the antichrist will be assassinated, but will marvelously be restored so that from all appearances he is resurrected. But, in reality, we believe it will be Satan incarnate in this man.

As it was said of Judas, "And Satan entered into him," so it will be said of this man, the antichrist. Satan will enter his body and from all appearances the man will come back to life.

So we read: "His deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast." (or the antichrist)

Finally, following the battle of Armageddon, the doom of this devilish trinity is made known. In Rev. 19:20, we read: "And the beast (antichrist) was taken, and with him the false prophet (religious personage) that wrought miracles before him,.... These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

Satan, too, is bound and cast in with them. Rev. 20:10 says: "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

What a picture!

Some say that when you are dead, you're dead. Others who believe that there is a place called "hell" believe that you are consumed to ashes and you have no more existence. But here we find the devil cast into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet are--not have been, or were. They are there amidst the flame, tormented day and night, forever and forever.

Now according to the Bible this is the fate of all antichrists--all who reject Christ.

Think of it! God does not condemn a man to eternal perdition and separation from God. Man condemns himself.

We're reminded, God isn't willing that any should perish. If we come to Him through Jesus Christ, we can be saved.

As we read: "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men

loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither come to the light, lest his deeds be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." (John 3:17-21)

Salvation is that simple. Receiving Christ we have eternal life and will not suffer condemnation. Our rejecting Christ leaves God with no other alternative than to sentence us to the same fate as the antichrist and Satan himself.

Is this what you want?

As a youngster, I burned my hand on a stove. That was all I needed to convince me that I did not want to spend eternity in hell "where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

How any thinking person in his right mind chooses to go on in his sin when God offers mercy, forgiveness, peace, and eternal life is beyond mortal comprehension. Yet, this is his

offer today. The hand of the Lord is outstretched to save anyone, anywhere. "He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out," is what He says.

You can choose to come, or you can choose to do nothing and be lost forever.

We repeat, Salvation is a matter of choice--of choosing Christ, of choosing eternal life, of choosing forgiveness of your sins, of choosing peace. You don't have to go on in your miserable state. You can be set free from your sin, and from the enslavement of Satan, if you will only pray this prayer, "Lord, I'm yours. Save me now. Forgive me of my sins. I believe You died for me that I need not be lost but that I can be saved. So I here and now receive You as my Saviour and Lord and will live for you always."

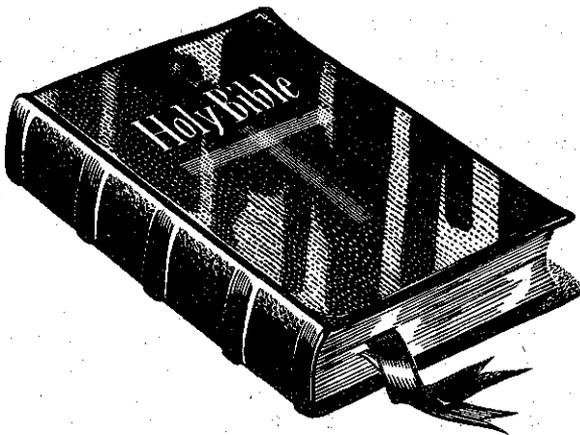
Pray that prayer and mean it and you will have eternal life. As we read in John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

The miracle of the new birth can be yours if you will fulfil the conditions of God's Word and receive Christ as your Saviour and Lord. To reject Him is to seal your fate and make you a prospect for eternal separation from God on the side of the antichrist.

So we would urge you today to heed this message. Think where you will spend eternity! Think what would happen were Christ to come today for His own and you would be left behind to be a part of antichrist's following.

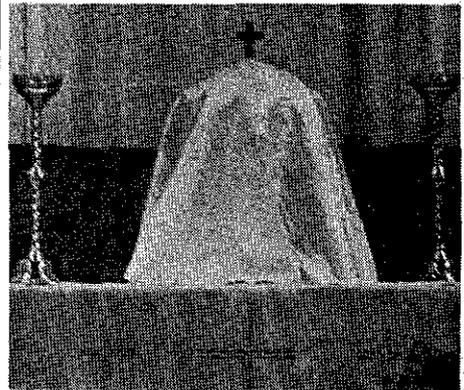
Rather, today is a day of salvation. Trust God's love so freely offered in His Son Jesus Christ, and come to know the power of the Holy Spirit to keep you until the day of rapture when our Lord will come for His own.

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!





Signs, Wonders and Miracles Today?



DAVID C. HAURY

CROWD LINING UP AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH TO VIEW 'MIRACLE' CLOTH

For past months thousands of people have been flocking to the humble coal town of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, to gaze at the mysterious appearance of the face of Christ which onlookers say appears on the communion cloth at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Even busloads of people from as far away as Texas and California have been known to flock to the church with the number of visitors now nearing a hundred thousand. On weekends there has been a line stretching outside the church. Five Episcopal priests have been on duty to anoint people in search of healing, and prayers are offered for those requesting it.

The appearance of Christ on the white brocade cloth covering the altar tabernacle has been shown on television, in magazines and newspapers throughout the country. So we thought it of interest to begin a discussion on SIGNS, WONDERS, AND MIRACLES.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY magazine, in view of the increased number of professed miracles, has suggested the creation of an agency to evaluate reports of miracles, especially those of healings.

Dr. Harold Lindsell, editor, writes in a note at the beginning of the issue, "I believe in miracles and in divine healing. But the 'economy of miracles' suggests they are infrequent; otherwise the word 'miracle' loses its meaning. The miracle business is getting out of hand. The time has come for evangelicals to adopt a cautious attitude toward extravagant claims and to reject accounts that are unsubstantiated. Common sense and belief in miracles," he noted, "should go hand in hand."

There are some who do not believe that God works miracles today--that they ceased with the church age coming into prominence at Pentecost, and were largely a confirmation of the work of Christ and the Apostles.

Thus one author writes: "We no longer need a miraculous display of His power, for He has given us all that we need for our salvation and for Christian living."

He defines a miracle as follows: "A miracle is a mighty act of God, done in the external world, visible to the senses, performed by a teacher of religion to confirm His spoken word."

---Rev. James Bland in THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST.

Others claim that miracles did not cease with Christ, the apostles, and the church fathers.

Dr. A.J.Gordon, one of our best-known theologians and founder of a seminary, has commented on the writings of Dr. Gerhard Uhlhorn who has concluded: "Witnesses who are above suspicion leave no room for doubt that the miraculous powers of the apostolic age continued to operate at least into the third century."

Did miracles stop then?

Well, Dr. Gordon says: "The apostolic age, it must be admitted, was a peculiarly favored one." Yet, he maintains, "Prove that miracles were wrought, for example, in the second century after Christ and no reason can be thereafter urged why they might not be wrought in the nineteenth century." Or, we might add, in the twentieth century!

Listen to what Dr. Gordon maintains about miracles. He writes: "...The Saviour seems to be careful to teach that there would be an augmenting rather than a diminishing of supernatural energy after his departure."

Here is what our Lord has said: "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Again, we read, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to my Father."

So comments Gordon: "He made no provision for the arrest of the stream of divine manifestations which he had started, either in the next age or in a subsequent age."

Concludes Dr. Gordon: "...if we find in history that there is no abrupt termination of miracles with the expiration of the apostolic age, then we must begin to raise the question why there should be any termination at all, so long as the Church remains, and the ministry of the Spirit is perpetuated?"

Then, A.J.Gordon, pastor and educator that he was, goes on to document his assertions by quoting from the writings of the Church Fathers to assert that God works miracles--healing the sick, casting out devils, in their day even as today.

JUSTIN MARTYR writes of "numberless demoniacs throughout the world," and he adds, "Many of our Christian men, exorcising them in the name of Jesus Christ who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, have healed, and do heal, rendering helpless and driving the possessing devils out of the men, though

they could not be cured by all the other exorcists and those who used incantations and drugs."

We're hearing a great many stories of demon-possessed people, with Hollywood making films about exorcism. Would we not do well to know that the devil possesses strange powers, and that our Lord has the power to heal, cure, and cast out these demons of those possessed by them?

IRENÆUS speaks of those who "still heal the sick by laying their hands upon them, and they are made whole."

TERTULLIAN tells of those who have been "delivered from devils and healed of disease."

ORIGEN writes: "...we, too, have seen many persons freed from grievous calamities and from distractions of mind and madness, and countless other ills which could be cured neither by men or devils."

Don't you wonder how many are in mental institutions and hospitals who could be cured by the power of God? How many are bound by demons who could be rescued if only they would take the authority granted them in God's Word and say openly to the demons oppressing them, "I rebuke you in Jesus' name. You have no power over me. I am free. My body is henceforth the temple of the Holy Spirit. Through the name and power of Jesus Christ I am henceforth, here and now, delivered."

What great things would happen if we were to exercise our rightful authority as believers to rebuke Satan and his host in the name of Jesus and to receive victory over our oppressions.

We don't care to relate personal experiences on this program. We like to quote other sources and let our listeners evaluate the testimony of what we have to say, interpreting these in the light of the facts we give.

But I recall my early days in radio broadcasting in Chicago where after a day's work at the studio I would come home in a state of nervous exhaustion. I once read that doing a 15-minute news broadcast can take as much nervous energy as an 8-hour job. So it is nerve-wracking to some extent.

Retiring at night, there were times I would suddenly awaken and my body would begin shaking from what appeared to be nervous exhaustion. This would happen again and again until I learned that we had the right in the name of Jesus to rebuke our oppressions. So I remember having one of these times when my body began to shake as though I were going to have a nervous breakdown, and I simply stated out loud, "Satan, I rebuke you in the name of Jesus. You have no authority over me."

The shaking ceased immediately and to this day has never returned even though my schedule has grown more heavy through the years.

I might mention that the Lord showed me behaviour patterns in my life that helped to bring on this condition. And the cure, I believe, was in surrendering to the indwelling Holy Spirit in His fulness.

Now, A.J.Gordon, whom we quoted a moment ago, emphasized this encounter with the Holy Spirit. You see, everything Jesus did in His fight with Satan was in the power of the Holy Spirit. So we, too, need this power today.

Quoting Dr. Gordon: "It seems clear from the Scriptures that it is still the duty and privilege of believers to receive the Holy Spirit by a conscious definite act of appropriating faith, just as they received Jesus Christ."

It's that simple.

Some wonder why, in churches that have been known to be ritualistic, there is a sudden awareness of the Holy Spirit, and a belief in miracles. In some of these churches there are priests who lay hands on parishioners, saying, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." And, something happens--not in everyone, but in certain instances there is testimony of a miraculous change.

We realize there are always controversial aspects of the truth taught in the Scriptures, but we may be missing something simply because we are not being taught the Word of God as some of the great men of the past taught and believed it.

Not for one moment would we promote a spurious or questionable doctrine. But when Moody, Torrey, Spurgeon, F.B. Meyer, Andrew Murray, Jonathan Goforth and A.J.Gordon all say practically the same thing about the Holy Spirit, even though it is not taught in certain fundamental circles today, I am inclined to believe them. In fact, it is apostasy not to get back to the simple teachings of God's Word which espouses belief in miracles and in the outpouring of the Spirit promised for the last days.

If, for instance, God has promised the outpouring of the Spirit upon all flesh, why not expect to see in all denominations a revival of interest in the work of the Holy Spirit? This outpouring may not be in accordance with our own personal way of thinking, but if God is doing something different from the way we would do it, who are we to question His working?

In a recent issue of THE PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL, a minister's wife is quoted as saying: "I do believe that another age of miracles may have begun."

She writes: "I question that miracles have not occurred since the close of the New Testament and will not occur again."

She notes: "It is agreed that there have been three or four great epochs of miracles, one during the time of Moses, the second at the time of Elijah and Elisha, and the third during Jesus' earthly ministry and followed by that of His apostles."

Pointing out that "Miracles do seem to be used by God at times of lowest spirituality in the world" and that miracles are believed by some to be a sign of the "end days," she asks: "Could not God also be manifesting His power again with miracles?"

So, you see, miracles are for today.

As this pastor's wife concludes, "Many people have testified that they have experienced miracles of healing in their bodies

that cannot be explained except with reference to the power of God! Such healings have taken place immediately and there have been those who have even spoken of an experience of 'surging power' which seems to fill the whole body. Healings have been described by reputable physicians. Surely the many testimonies cannot all be discounted. If valid, they must confirm God's written Word that His promises are true." (May 4, 1977 issue - MIRACLES TODAY?

Isn't that tremendous?

Why not?

In a day when some would say that God is dead He wants to prove His power, prove that He is very much alive. The greatest way to combat growing atheistic materialism in the world is through the miracle-working power of God.

Yet, in future broadcasts we will show how miracles will abound in the endtime with even Satan working miracles. So our trust must be in the Lord and not in signs and wonders.

Is Christ your Saviour today? Has He worked the miracle of regeneration in your own life? Have you accepted His shed blood as cleansing for your sin? Have you been changed--born again?

If not, why not now pray--"Lord Jesus, perform the miracle of saving me. Cleanse and forgive me of all my sin. Then, come and take full possession of my body by your Holy Spirit, and keep me loving and serving you until the day of your coming. Amen."

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.

