

## THE MIRACLES OF CHRISTMAS

“THE CASE FOR MIRACLES

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**Recommended Reading:** The Case for Miracles, Lee Strobel

### Question #1 – How should we define a miracle?

“An event of an extraordinary kind brought about by a god and of religious significance.” Richard Swinburne

“A miracle is an event (1) brought about by the power of God that is (2) a temporary (3) exception (4) to the ordinary course of nature, (5) for the purpose of showing that God has acted in history.” Richard L. Purtill, late professor emeritus of philosophy at Western Washington University

“If I see something that is absolutely extraordinary, that has spiritual overtones, that is well documented, that is not explainable by natural means, and is validated by an independent source, or event or by reliable eye-witnesses, that’s when the miracle bell goes off in my mind.” Strobel

### Question #2 – Aren’t miracles impossible because they violate the laws of nature?

“A violation of the laws of nature.” David Hume (skeptic)

“If a God exists who is big enough to create the universe in all its complexity and vastness, why should a mere miracle be such a mental stretch?” Dr. Timothy Keller

“The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book.” John 20:30

### Questions #3 – How common are miracles today?

- 1/2 of US adults (51%) said they believe the miracles of the Bible happened as they are described.
- Asked whether miracles are possible today, 2 out of 3 Americans (67%) said yes, with only 15% saying no.

- Nearly 2 out of 5 US adults (38%) said they’re convinced that God has performed at least one miracle for them personally.
- This is an eye-popping 94,792,000 Americans who are convinced that God has performed at least one miracle for them personally.
- 55% of physicians have seen something in their practice that they can only write off as a miracle – can’t write off that kind of data – “I’ve seen it in my own practice”

### Question #4 – How can we know that a miracle is genuine?

Miracles tell us three things about God:

(1) They tell us that God is \_\_\_\_\_

(2) They show us that God is \_\_\_\_\_

(3) They show us that God is \_\_\_\_\_

### Question #5 – What about the people who pray for healing in this life and don’t get it?

“There’s no formula we can count on for when Jesus says yes and when He says no. That’s the catch with sovereignty: He gets to decide yes, no, it, when, and how. We can’t figure out what He’ll decide, and we can’t base our own confidence on His favor. We can, however, base our confidence on His faithfulness. Miracles are temporary, but the Word of Jesus, His teachings – they bring eternal life. Real life. Your faith in Him, your belief that He is real, even when the miracle isn’t yours, even when He doesn’t say yes to you – this is what brings eternal life.” Tricia Williford, And Life Comes Back: A Wife’s Story of Love, Loss, and Hope Reclaimed.

“If you scream for insight and call loudly for understanding, if you pursue it like you would money, and search it out as you would hidden treasure, then the LORD will be awesome to you, and you will come into possession of the knowledge of God.” Proverbs 2:3-5, Paraphrase