

The Miracle of Christmas

Miracles are more than a whimsical idea portrayed in movies like *The Miracle on 34th Street*. Miracles are what Christmas is all about!

I can remember the first miracle I experienced. Although to some this might not seem like a miracle, but every time God speaks to me I consider it a miracle. To think that the Almighty God would “lower” Himself to communicate with me is surely a miracle. On this particular occasion, I was about 13 years old and was asking God for some understanding in a situation. I was a brand new Christian. I had just given my life to the Lord less than 6 months earlier. I was laying in bed one evening and began to pray. I asked the Lord to help me understand why leaders in my church didn’t want a young man (20ish), a friend of mine, to be considered for leadership in the church. As I finished praying I opened my Bible and the words of Jeremiah 1:6-9 leaped out at me and spoke directly to what I just asked the Lord about. I couldn’t sleep for hours. I couldn’t believe that God would actually take the time to talk with me and answer my prayer.

I can also remember the first physical miracle I saw...Right out here in our church parking lot in the 1980’s. I saw a woman’s leg physically grow before my eyes. It helped strengthen my faith tremendously as a young follower of Jesus.

Have you been witness to a miracle? Have you been a recipient of one? Whether you have or not, I want to invite you to:

EXPECT A MIRACLE THIS CHRISTMAS

Luke records one such miracle.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "for God has decided to bless you! You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. And He will reign over Israel forever; His Kingdom will never end!" Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby born to you will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's already in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

Luke 1:26-37

Two things always strike me as I read these verses. First, I see that Christmas is a time to expect the miracle of birth. Not limited to physical birth, although surely not excluding that. But the birthing of new things authored by the Lord. The Christmas season is a time to expect God to birth new hope, joy, provision, healing and life in all areas of our lives.

Secondly, I see the Lord doing the greatest Christmas miracle of all through very natural means. God often uses ordinary means to do extraordinary things. For many in His day, Jesus' birth seemed so "normal" that they actually missed the birth of the Messiah. They missed the Christmas miracle. They missed the very work of God, for their life and all mankind's.

Christmas is the greatest time to be reminded not to miss God "birthing" miracles in our own lives. What may seem natural to you, is more likely the Lord doing the impossible.

EXPECT YOUR MIRACLE THIS CHRISTMAS

Keeping watch for new life,

Pastor Scott