## MIRACLES

The word miracle tends to be used very loosely today. Those who abuse and misuse the word and the facts that the word represents, have lost the beauty of its meaning. The word miracle can be used in three distinct ways.

First, the word can be used to describe the common, but nevertheless impressive, events. We speak of the birth of a baby as being a miracle. In doing this, we call attention to the beauty and intricacy (complexity of arranged elements) of God's power to create.

Second, the word can be used to describe what some call, the working through secondary means to accomplish the desired end. For example, the star of Bethlehem. Some hold to the position that this happening had a natural, scientific cause. The extraordinary alignment of a group of stars, or a supernova may explain its brightness. How God brought this to pass, we may never know. But one thing is for sure, God did it. The light radiated its brilliance at the time of Christ's birth. It pointed the magi to Bethlehem. Therefore, the star is a miracle of timing and placement. It honors God as He weaves the tapestry of history in such a way that the events occurred in a miraculous way.

Third, the word can be used to describe God's acts against the laws of nature. Jesus turning the water into wine. The raising of Lazarus from the dead. Jesus and Peter walking on the water. Jesus speaking to the storm and the winds cease and the waters calm. There are no natural explanations for these events. These are miracles in the strictest sense.

Scripture: King James Version: Exodus 4:1-9; 14:1-22; I Kings 17:21-24; John 2:1-11; Hebrews 2:1-4.

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