

THE WALL OF NO

“And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.” Mark 4:39

Miracles can be seen in all things. Consider the construction of an office building. Someone had to invent bricks and mortar and glass and paint and steel and electricity and rubber and motors and plastic and tools and blueprints and plumbing and air conditioning and construction equipment and ... Is it not a miracle to have such an example of how everything God supplied in the Creation can be brought together?

But people will say no, that's just a building made by people.

So I say, when the Holy Spirit provides insight, it is surely a miraculous occurrence.

But people will say no, that is something intrinsic or genetic, and it cannot be proven.

So I ask, what about the birth of a baby? How can anyone witness such a thing and not say it was a miracle?

But people will say no, this is something science can readily explain.

So I say, science may be able to explain it, but that does not make it any less of a miracle. And do we actually know what makes the zygote connect to the uterine wall to cause conception?

But people will say no, birth is just an everyday natural occurrence that is traceable from start to finish.

So I ask, what about the times when someone's survival of a bad car crash is deemed unbelievable? Or when one person survives an airplane crash?

But people will say no, the odds are that someone will probably survive these accidents at some point.

So I say, we cannot refute the amount of testimonies that have been given from witnesses who saw angels helping the victims of horrible accidents.

But people will say no, that's just an overexcited, adrenaline-induced brain responding to a traumatic event.

So I say, look at miraculous healings such as a tumor disappearing overnight.

But people will say no, that was brought upon by the desire of the person, coupled with an unusually responsive immune system, or even a faulty medical diagnosis.

So I ask, what about hospital video footage that reveals bright lights appearing in the rooms of patients who experience a sudden recovery?

But people will say no, that's just a glitch in the system.

So I say, look at our history. George Washington had two horses shot from under him and four bullet holes in his coat in the Battle of Ft. Duquesne, yet was not wounded (French and Indian War).¹ And after the Battle of Long Island in 1776, Washington's troops were about to be trapped, but *two* weather changes covered their retreat, first a nor'easter then a dense fog in the sunlight.² I say after the Battle of Cowpens -- roughly the climactic battle near the end of the film *The Patriot* -- the British regrouped and pursued the Colonials to the Dan River. A storm made the river impassable without boats, so the British were left behind.³ I say In 1814, a violent storm halted the burning of Washington D.C., drove ships ashore, and helped chase away the British.⁴ A month later, Fort McHenry endured over 20 hours of bombardment that included 1500-1800 rounds. The fort held, with only four deaths, 24 wounded, and two buildings severely damaged.⁵

But people will say no, those are just more examples of the role of chance.

So I ask, what would it take to convince you miracles happen?

And people will answer by wanting to see another parting of the Red Sea. Show them this mega-miracle, and they will believe in miracles.

However, the need for mega-miracles exposes a curious quality of human nature. It would seem to establish faith, but instead establishes “What have you done for me lately?” Even if Moses Cleaveland would have parted Lake Erie, current residents of Cleveland, Ohio would still question God because the Browns have never been in the Super Bowl.

The problem with only accepting mega-miracles is that holding God to such a narrow constraint before trusting in His capabilities can only equate to an equally narrow faith. With such a narrow faith, regardless of the miracle, either an attempt will be made to justify the miracle in terms of nature, or the memory of it fades as time passes. With the ancient Hebrews, the Red Sea parted, columns of fire descended, bread came from the skies and water from rocks. Yet, when at the edge of the Promised Land, they forgot such evidence and somehow did not think it possible to overcome enemies with giant warriors (Num. 13-14). From 1776-1783, there was a mega-miracle when a bunch of farmers defeated the most powerful nation on Earth and founded the United States. Now look how far behind we are leaving God.

The belief in mega-miracles is an oddly temporary belief, and temporary faith is really no faith.

And thus we have built our Wall of No. Completely, thoroughly, brick by brick, holding us in like a prison, preventing us from experiencing the full scope of God’s glory. At the same time, I have heard the personal witnesses of missionaries, wherein healings and other miracles are an accepted part of life in Third World countries.

Essentially, it seems the Wall of No is a creation of the industrialized world. It seems that ‘civilized’ societies cease to see or experience miracles because they cannot believe anything exists outside of what they can create or envision. Those of us in the industrialized world are so busy praising our achievements, we find it difficult to comprehend the praise should go elsewhere. We are so busy saying “it can’t happen” that ... it can’t happen. In direct contrast, believers in Third World countries have pure faith. They do not have the self-centered obstacle to faith known as the Wall of No. If we could ever break down that wall, who knows what blessings or unbelievable occurrences would be revealed on the other side.

To see a miracle, open your eyes.