Cornerstone Elim Church, Silverdale **Growing Strong – 18** **24.10.2026**

Miracles

'Miracle' is a word in common use today, but, it is often mis-used. Here are some examples of how it is used:- Adverts – 'Buy this miracle working wash powder for a whiter wash.' 'Get rid of tummy flab quickly by drinking this miracle coffee.' There are many times when we use the word 'miracle' if something has happened sooner that we expected. If we are expecting a hospital appointment and in answer to our prayers we receive an early appointment, we say that it is a 'miracle', but in fact, there may be a natural explanation for the early appointment. An extra consultant may have been added, there may have been a cancellation or for some reason we have been moved to a higher priority up the list. Most definitely an answer to our prayers, but not actually a miracle because it can be explained by a normal course of events.

What is a miracle? The dictionary definition is 'wonderful supernatural event'. Notice – **supernatural**. It is something that is an intervention in the normal course of events of nature. The 'working of miracles' or more correctly, 'workings of power', to which Paul refers in **1 Cor. 12:10**, is referring to one of the nine Gifts of the Spirit that are given supernaturally by God. Like the other supernatural Gifts of the Spirit, we are not able to receive this gift in our own strength; it is entirely up to God to choose when and how it is given. This gift goes hand in hand with the gift of a 'Word of Faith'. God gives a 'Word of Faith' about a specific situation and when the person receiving that Word takes the required action, then God works the miracle.

Moses and the Red Sea

Exodus 14: 15 – 31. There are actually a number of miracles that happened concerning the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. Notice that the Red Sea is not a little stream, it is a sea with deep water that did not have a shallow part enabling the Israelites to paddle through to the other side. They were being pursued by the Egyptians, with no way of escape when they came to the Red Sea.

Miracle 1. Exodus 14: 16. God gave Moses a 'Word of Faith' and said, ***' "Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it." '*** A miracle usually requires some sort of action on the part of the person whom God is using. Moses had to believe that 'Word of Faith' that he had been given and act on it before the sea was divided. Had he not taken God's instruction seriously, then the Red Sea would have remained uncrossable. God put the onus on Moses to obey His instruction and when that instruction had been followed God provided the miracle. There is no way that Moses could have done that naturally as it was totally against the laws of nature for that to happen.

Miracle 2. Exodus 14: 22. ***'…..the waters being a wall on their right hand and on their left.'*** In other words, the water piled up on each side of them. We can have a pile of soil, a pile of material or a pile of newspapers, but we can **NEVER** have a pile of water. Water is a liquid and is runny! The piling up of the water was not at all possible by any natural means so was a miracle.

Miracle 3. Exodus 14: 22. ***'The people of Israel went into the sea on dry ground.'*** Have you seen what the ground is like when water has stood on it for a while? It is all muddy and boggy. In this instance

God performed a further miracle by ensuring that the Israelites, in their sandalled feet, would be able to walk on the dry ground.

Miracle 4. God does the reverse of Miracle 3 and puts the ground back to being all muddy and boggy so that the chariots of the Egyptians kept getting stuck in the mud. The exact point at which the Israelites crossed is not known so was between one and eight miles wide. This means that it was quite likely that the tail end of the two million plus Israelites were still in the process of crossing the Red Sea at the same time as the Egyptians were already at the beginning of the path that had been made. How about that for a miracle; God was putting the muddy ground back again for the Egyptians at the same time as making the path dry for the Israelites!

Miracle 5. Exodus 14: 26. ***'Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians." '*** Again we see God giving Moses a 'Word of Faith', which Moses had to act upon in order for the miracle to happen.

Daniel in the lion's den

Daniel 6: 16- 24. People who were jealous of Daniel's position brought about the signing of an agreement by King Darius that no god or man be worshipped except King Darius himself. The result of Daniel going against this agreement was that he was thrown into a den of lions. By morning he was still alive and unhurt by the lions. Rather a nasty event followed when the king had those who had accused Daniel of wrongdoing, thrown to the lions, along with their wives and children and were immediately killed by the lions. What happened to the accusers and their families was a natural thing because that is what lions do. What happened to Daniel whilst he was in the lion's den was unnatural because God performed a supernatural miracle that protected him from being harmed.

Elisha and the axe-head

2 Kings 6: 1 – 7. Whilst cutting down trees, the axe-head one of the men was using, fell into the Jordan and sank. The man was very upset because it was an expensive item and he had borrowed it. Elisha asked him to show where the axe-head had fallen and then, taking a stick, threw it into the water and the iron axe-head floated to the surface. A miracle – iron does not float! We are not told that Elisha received a special 'Word of Faith' from God, but knew that what he was doing would produce a miracle.

We have a God of miracles who is extremely capable of doing things that do not have a natural way of happening. He is able to alter His creation whenever He wishes to do so. It is impossible for us to make a miracle take place, but God is able to use us to alter the course of nature and perform a miracle.

Other miracles we can read about

Joshua 6: 1 – 20 Walls of Jericho
1 Kings 17: 1 Elijah and the rain
Joshua 10: 12 – 14 Joshua and the sun
Daniel 3: 13 – 27 The fiery furnace