Doctrine of Miracles

Are Miracles for Today?

1. To raise the question of whether or not there are miracles today is to raise an emotional issue for several reasons.

- People want to believe in miracles.
- There are many events of physical healing, and acts of deliverance from dangerous situations, that defy human explanation.
- God is not to be limited.
- People are willing to give personal testimony to a miracle in their life.

2. To complicate the discussion, is whether or not Satan and his demons can perform bonified miracles. The Bible speaks of lying wonders.

- 2 Thessalonians 2:9 *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

3. In addition to Satan, Jesus warned of false messiahs, and false prophets, who would be able to perform signs and wonders, to deceive the elect, if possible.

- Matthew 24:24 *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

Special Note.
Modern day reports are given of faith healers who can extend legs, or perform operations using only their hands.

4. An appeal to Scripture reveals that authentic signs and wonders were part of the experience of the Old Testament and New Testament church.

- Moses performed miracles. Acts 7:36 *He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.*

- Jesus performed miracles. Acts 2:22 *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

- The apostles performed miracles.

*Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*
Acts 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.
2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

- Paul and Barnabas performed miracles. Acts 14:3 Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

- Paul performed miracles. Romans 15:19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

5. Jesus was not always pleased with people who wanted to see a miracle before they would believe in Him.

6. On one occasion, the Scribes and the Pharisees demanded to see a sign from Jesus that He was who He claimed to be.

- Matthew 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

7. On another occasion, some Pharisees came with the Sadducees tempting Jesus to show them a sign. The Sadducees were religiously Liberal in their theology. They denied the existence of angels. They denied the resurrection of the dead. They rejected much of the Old Testament Scripture. Yet, they wanted to see a miracle.

- Matthew 16:1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. 3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

8. While miracles are a wonderful marvel to behold, if a miracle is sought for the sake of sensationalism, the miracle becomes nothing more than a divine spectacle for a wicked people.

- 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

9. There are skeptics who say they will not believe in Jesus, or the gospel, unless they have witnessed signs and wonders.
• John 4:48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

10. With Scripture in mind, attention should be turned to defining what a Biblical miracle consists of since there are bonified miracles, and lying wonders performed by Satan, demons, false prophets, and false messiahs.

11. Question. “How is the church to recognize an authentic miracle from something which is false?”

12. Some Reformed theologians, such as R. C. Sproul, take the position that the church today does not need to concern itself with discerning an authentic miracle from a lying wonder, because miracles have ceased with the completion of the canon of Scripture.

• 1 Corinthians 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Special Note.
The Reformed argument is that the gift of miracles, like the gifts of prophecy, tongues, and knowledge, or special revelation, have all vanished. Perhaps a distinction can be made between the gift of miracles, and the existence of miracles today. It is possible that the apostolic gift of performing miracles ended with the completion of the canon of Scripture, and the death of the apostle John. That does not mean that miracles cannot still occur today.

13. For those who believe miracles have ceased, and for those who believe that miracles remain a spiritual gift of God to the church, it would be helpful to agree upon a definition.

14. Question. “What is a miracle?”

15. Some people say that any answer to prayer, any divine operation that continues in the world today is a miracle. This expansive definition allows people to speak about the miracle of life from the moment of conception. There is the miracle of rain. Miracles are everywhere.

16. Of course a skeptical scientist would not use the term miracle to define the natural birth process, or the fall of rain. He would talk in terms of the Laws of Nature.

17. While the birth of a baby is wonderful, and even beautiful, while the fall of rain is refreshing, there is nothing extraordinary about these events in the current universe. Both are very ordinary.

18. Some would argue that any supernatural work, such as the regeneration of the soul, is a miracle.

“My Father is omnipotent
And that you can’t deny;
A God of might and miracles;
’Tis written in the sky.
It took a miracle to put the stars in place;
It took a miracle to hang the world in space.
   But when He saved my soul,
Cleansed and made me whole,
   It took a miracle of love and grace!”

John W. Peterson

19. Some people believe that miracles are so ordinary they can be expected on a daily basis.

20. Others, who did not expect a miracle on a daily basis, have seen a miracle occur on a daily basis, for several days, until the miracle ceased.

Special Note.
What happened to Corrie Ten Boom in the concentration of Ravensbruck, 56 miles north of Berlin, built in 1939 for women, offers a modern example of a daily miracle, until it ceased. Corrie had a bottle of vitamin pills that her sister Nollie gave her at the time she gave her the Bible and the sweater. It is amazing how many vitamin pills came out of that bottle. Every time Corrie looked there still were nine pills left. It reminded Corrie of the story in the Bible of the widow’s jar of oil. It was one of the things that kept her going through the terrible ordeals she and sister Betsie faced from day to day.

21. Of course the whole point of a Biblical miracle is that it was something extraordinary, and turned the hearts of individuals to God.

- When Moses performed a miracle, the heart of Pharaoh trembled.

- When Jesus performed a miracle, the world was astonished that someone could open the eyes of a blind man.

- When Peter healed the lame man at the Gate Beautiful, the people were amazed.

22. The point of a Biblical miracle is that it was not a commonplace, everyday occurrence. Miracles are not ordinary. They are extraordinary.

23. If a miracle is extraordinary, then it is rare. Throughout the Biblical history, miracles occurred at important moments in redemptive history, but not every single day. Nave’s Topical Bible lists the miracles of the Old Testament.
Miracles in the Time of Creation

- Creation of the world: Genesis 1
- The great flood: Genesis 7; 8
- The confusion of languages: Genesis 11:1-9

Miracles in the Time of Abraham

- The fire on Abraham's sacrifice: Genesis 15:17
- The conception of Isaac: Genesis 17:17; 18:12; 21:2
- The destruction of Sodom: Genesis 19
- Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt: Genesis 19:26
- The closing of the wombs: Genesis 20:17, 18
- The opening of Hagar's eyes: Genesis 21:19
- The conception of Jacob and Esau: Genesis 25:21
- The opening of Rachel's womb: Genesis 30:22

Miracles in the Time of Moses

- The flaming bush: Exodus 3:2
- The transformation of Moses' rod into a serpent: Exodus 4:3,4,30; 7:10,12
- Moses' leprosy: Exodus 4:6,7,30
- The plagues in Egypt: Numbers 16:46-50
- The pillar of cloud and fire: Exodus 13:21,22; 14:19,20
- Passage through the Red Sea: Exodus 14:22
- The destruction of Pharaoh and his army: Exodus 14:23-30
- Sweetening the waters of Marah: Exodus 15:25
- Manna: Exodus 16:4-31
- Quails: Exodus 16:13
- The defeat of Amalek: Exodus 17:9-13
- The transfiguration of the face of Moses: Exodus 34:29-35
- Water from the rock: Exodus 17:5,7
- Thundering and lightning on Mount Sinai: Exodus 19:16-20; 24:10, 15-17; Deuteronomy 4:33
- Miriam's leprosy: Numbers 12:10-15
- Judgment by fire: Numbers 11:1-3
- The destruction of Korah: Numbers 16:31-35; Deuteronomy 11:6, 7
- The plague: Numbers 16:46-50
- Aaron's rod buds: Numbers 17:1-9
- Water from the rock in Kadesh: Numbers 20:8-11
- The scourge of serpents: Numbers 21:6-9
- The destruction of Nadab and Abihu: Leviticus 10:1,2
- Balaam's donkey speaks: Numbers 22:23-30
- The preservation of Moses: Deuteronomy 34:
Miracles in the Time of Joshua

- The Jordan River divided Joshua 3:14-17; 4:16-18
- The fall of Jericho Joshua 6:20

Miracles in the Time of the Judges

- The Midianites destroyed Judges 7:16-22
- Hailstones on the confederated kings Joshua 10:11
- The sun and the moon stand still Joshua 10:12-14
- Dew on Gideon’s fleece Judges 6:37-40
- Samson’s strength Judges 14:6; 16:3,29,30
- Samson supplied with water Judges 15:19

Miracles in the Time of the Monarchy

- The falling of the god Dagon 1 Samuel 5:1-4
- Cows returning the Ark of the Covenant chose a path, without human guidance, proving God’s judgment upon the Philistines 1 Samuel 6:1-14
- The plague of hemorrhoids on the Philistines 1 Samuel 5:9-12; 6:1-18
- The destruction of the people of Beth-shemesh 1 Samuel 6:19,20
- Thunder 1 Samuel 12:16-18
- The death of Uzzah 2 Samuel 6:1-8
- The plague in Israel 1 Chronicles 21:14-26
- Fire on the sacrifices of Aaron Leviticus 9:24
- Of Gideon Judges 6:21
- Of Manoah Judges 13:19,20
- Of Solomon 2 Chronicles 7:1

Miracles in the Time of Elijah

- Of Elijah 1 Kings 18:38
- Jeroboam’s hand withered 1 Kings 13:3-6
- The appearance of blood 2 Kings 3:20-22
- The panic of the Syrians 2 Kings 7:6,7
- Elijah is fed by ravens 1 Kings 17:6
- Is fed by an angel 1 Kings 19:1-8
- Increases the widow’s meal and oil 1 Kings 17:9-16; Luke 4:26
- Raises the widow’s son 1 Kings 17:17-24
- Rain in answer to Elijah’s prayer 1 Kings 18:41-45
- Brings fire down upon Ahaziah’s army 2 Kings 1:10-12
- Divides the Jordan River 2 Kings 2:8
- Is transported to the heavens 2 Kings 2:11
## Miracles in the Time of Elisha

- Elisha divides the Jordan River  [2 Kings 2:14]
- Sweetens the waters of Jericho  [2 Kings 2:19-22]
- Increases a widow's supply of oil  [2 Kings 4:1-7]
- Raises the Shunammite woman's child  [2 Kings 4:18-37]
- Renders the poisoned stew harmless  [2 Kings 4:38-41]
- Feeds one-hundred men  [2 Kings 4:42-44]
- Cures Naaman  [2 Kings 5:1-19]
- Strikes down Gehazi with leprosy  [2 Kings 5:26, 27]
- Causes the axe to float  [2 Kings 6:6]
- Reveals the counsel of the king of Syria  [2 Kings 6:12]
- Causes the eyes of his servant to be opened  [2 Kings 6:17]
- Strikes blind the army of the king of Syria  [2 Kings 6:18]
- The dead man was restored to life  [2 Kings 13:21]
- The destruction of Sennacherib's army  [2 Kings 19:35; Isaiah 37:36]
- Return of the shadow on the sun dial  [2 Kings 20:9-11]

## Miracles in the Time of Isaiah

- Hezekiah's cure  [Isaiah 38:21]

## Miracles in the Time of Daniel

- The deliverance of Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego  [Daniel 3:23-27]
- Of Daniel  [Daniel 6:22]

## Miracles in the Time of Jonah

- The sea was calmed when Jonah was thrown into it  [Jonah 1:15]
- Jonah in the belly of the great fish  [Jonah 1:17; 2:10]
- Jonah's gourd  [Jonah 4:6, 7]
24. The recorded miracles of the New Testament took place in the days of Christ and His apostles.

**Miracles in the Time of Jesus**

- Jesus cured the nobleman's son  
  John 4:46-47
- The great haul of fishes  
- Jesus cast out an unclean spirit  
  Mark 1:23-28
- Jesus cured Peter's mother-in-law of a fever  
  Mark 1:30-31
- Jesus healed a leper  
  Mark 1:40-45
- Jesus healed the centurion's servant  
  Matthew 8:5-13
- Jesus raised the widow's son from the dead  
  Luke 7:11-18
- Jesus stilled the storm  
  Matthew 8:23-27
- Jesus cured two demoniacs  
  Matthew 8:28-34
- Jesus cured the paralytic  
  Matthew 9:1-8
- Jesus raised the ruler's daughter from the dead  
  Matthew 9:18-26
- Jesus cured a woman of an issue of blood  
  Luke 8:43-48
- Jesus opened the eyes of two blind men  
  Matthew 9:27-31
- Jesus heals a man who could not speak  
  Matthew 9:32-33
- Jesus healed an invalid man at Bethesda  
  John 5:1-9
- Jesus restored a withered hand  
  Matthew 12:10-13
- Jesus cured a demon-possessed man  
  Matthew 12:22
- Jesus fed at least five thousand people  
  Matthew 14:15-21
- Jesus healed a woman of Canaan  
  Matthew 15:22-28
- Jesus cured a deaf and mute man  
  Mark 7:31-37
- Jesus fed at least four thousand people  
  Matthew 15:32-39
- Jesus opened the eyes of a blind man  
  Mark 8:22-26
- Jesus cured a boy who was plagued by a demon  
  Matthew 17:14-21
- Jesus opened the eyes of a man born blind  
  John 9:1-38
- Jesus cured an woman afflicted for eighteen years  
  Luke 13:10-17
- Jesus cured a man of dropsy  
  Luke 14:1-4
- Jesus cleansed ten lepers  
  Luke 17:11-19
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead  
  John 11:1-46
- Jesus opened the eyes of two blind men  
  Matthew 20:30-34
- Jesus caused the fig tree to wither  
  Matthew 21:18-22
- Jesus restored the ear of the high priest's servant  
  Luke 22:50-51
- Jesus rose from the dead  
  Luke 24:5-6
- The second great haul of fishes  
  John 21:1-14
Miracles in the Time of the Apostles

- Peter heals a lame man  
  Jerusalem  
  Acts 3:1-11
- Ananias and Sapphira struck dead  
  Jerusalem  
  Acts 5:1-10
- Apostles perform many wonders  
  Jerusalem  
  Acts 5:12-16
- Peter and John communicate the Holy Spirit  
  Samaria  
  Acts 8:14-17
- Peter heals Eneas of a palsy  
  Lydda  
  Acts 9:33, 34
- Peter raises Tabitha, or Dorcas, to life  
  Joppa  
  Acts 9:36-41
- Peter delivered out of prison by an angel  
  Jerusalem  
  Acts 12:7-17
- God smites Herod, so that he dies  
  Jerusalem  
  Acts 12:21-23
- Elymas, the sorcerer, smitten with blindness  
  Paphos  
  Acts 13:6-11
- Paul converted Road to  
  Damascus  
  Acts 9:1-9
- Paul heals a cripple  
  Lystra  
  Acts 14:8-10
- Paul casts out a spirit of divination  
  Philippi  
  Acts 16:16-18
- Paul and Silas's freed from prison  
  Philippi  
  Acts 16:25, 26
- Paul communicates the Holy Spirit  
  Corinth  
  Acts 19:1-6
- Paul heals multitudes  
  Corinth  
  Acts 19:11, 12
- Paul restores Eutychus to life  
  Troas  
  Acts 20:9-12
- Paul shakes off a viper  
  Malta  
  Acts 28:3-6
- Paul heals the father of Publius and others  
  Malta  
  Acts 28:7-9

25. It is interesting to note that the Bible, in its original languages, does not have a word for miracle.

26. The word miracle does appear frequently in the English Bible as a translation of the Hebrew word, (muw’aqah moo-aw-kaw’), pressure, i.e. (figurative) distress.

- Exodus 7:9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

27. The word miracle appears in the English Bible as a translation of the Greek word, semeion (say-mi-on), an indication, a sign, mark, especially ceremonially or supernaturally.

- Luke 23:8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.

Special Note.
The English, miracle, was first used in the 12th century. It is derived from the Latin, miraculum, meaning, a wonder, marvel.

28. The idea of miracle, the concept of miracle, is an idea that is extrapolated from the Biblical record, from the words for signs, powers, and wonders.
• A miracle is a manifestation of divine power.
• A miracle is a sign from God.
• A miracle is a wonder which inspires awe, or astonishment.

29. John’s favorite word is semeion, which is the word for sign.

• John 2:11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

• John 4:54 This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

• John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

• John 10:41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.

• John 12:18 For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

30. The works of Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, and the apostles, were called signs because a sign points to something else.

31. The miracles of Jesus had significance. They met a need.

• The need for wine was met at the wedding of Cana of Galilee.
• The need for restored health was met by those whom Jesus healed.
• The need for life itself was met by those whom Jesus raised from the dead.

32. They were designed to point to His Father, which sent Him into the world to die for His people.

• Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

33. When Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, he noted the signs that Jesus was able to do, and knew Jesus had been sent from God.

• John 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

34. Later, Jesus would instruct people to believe on Him because of the works, the miracles, the signs, which He was able to do.
• John 10:37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. 38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

35. The author of Hebrews writes that the truth of the gospel is confirmed by signs and wonders that come from God.

• Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

36. Here is the problem. If an authentic miracle is what confirms the Word of God, and a non-agent of revelation can perform a miracle, how is it possible to distinguish between the true and the false? The false agent cancels out the true, if both can perform a miracle equally.

37. What is at stake is the authority of Moses, the authority of Christ, the authority of the apostles, and the integrity of the Word of God.

38. The signs and wonders Moses performed confirmed he was a messenger from God.

• Exodus 4:1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee. 2 And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. 3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. 4 And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: 5 That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

39. When the Reformation was being contested, one of the arguments of Rome against the Reformers was that the Catholic Church had miracles, and the Reformers did not. Rome argued that their miracles proved the truth of the Catholic Church.

40. The response of the Reformers was that they did have miracles that proved their teaching, and they are recorded in the New Testament. The authority of the apostles is what has been proven by miracles.

41. The implication was that the miracles claimed by the Catholic Church were only lying wonders. They were phony miracles.

42. Anyone can claim to have performed a miracle. However, only the one who has been chosen to be a spokesperson for God has the authentic power to perform a miracle.
Here is the modern day concern. There are people all over the world claiming to have performed miracles. People go to great mass meetings hoping for a miracle working preacher to perform a miracle of healing on their body by slapping them on the forehead, or pulling their leg to make it longer, or by touching them while giving a command to be healed, or by telling the devil to leave their body.

Special Note.

Some Thoughts on Faith Healing
Stephen Barrett, M.D.

During the early 1970s, Minnesota surgeon William Nolen, M.D., attended a service conducted by Kathryn Kuhlman, the leading evangelical healer of that period. After noting the names of 25 people who had been "miraculously healed," he was able to perform follow-up interviews and examinations. Among other things, he discovered that one woman who had been announced as cured of "lung cancer" actually had Hodgkin's disease—which was unaffected by the experience. Another woman with cancer of the spine had discarded her brace and followed Ms. Kuhlman's enthusiastic command to run across the stage. The following day her backbone collapsed, and four months later she died. Overall, not one person with organic disease had been helped. Dr. Nolen reported his findings, which included observations of several other healers, in Healing: A Doctor in Search of a Miracle, a book that I heartily recommend.

C. Eugene Emery, Jr., a science writer for the Providence Journal, has looked closely at the work of Reverend Ralph DiOrio, a Roman Catholic priest whose healing services attract people by the thousands. In 1987 Emery attended one of DiOrio's services and recorded the names of nine people who had been blessed during the service and nine others who had been proclaimed cured. DiOrio's organization provided ten more cases that supposedly provided irrefutable proof of the priest's ability to cure. During a six-month investigation, Emery found no evidence that any of these 28 individuals had been helped.

The most comprehensive examination of contemporary "healers" is James Randi's, The Faith Healers. The book describes how many of the leading evangelistic healers have enriched themselves with the help of deception and fraud. Some of Randi's evidence came from former associates of the evangelists who got disgusted with what they had observed.

Randi's most noteworthy experience was the unmasking of Peter Popoff, an evangelist who would call out the names of people in the audience and describe their ailments. Popoff said he received this information from God, but it was actually obtained by confederates who mingled with the audience before each performance. Pertinent data would be given to Popoff's wife, who would broadcast it from backstage to a tiny receiver in Popoff's ear. After recording one of Mrs. Popoff's radio transmissions, Randi exposed the deception on the Johnny Carson Show. First he played a videotape showing Popoff interacting with someone in the audience. Then he replayed the tape with Mrs. Popoff's voice audible to illustrate how Popoff used the information.
Randi also exposed the techniques used by evangelist W.V. Grant, who calls out people in the audience by name and describes their ailments. Grant obtains this information from letters people send him and by mingling with the audience before his show. To help his memory, he uses crib sheets and gets hand signals from associates who also use crib sheets. After one performance, Randi was able to retrieve a complete set from the trash Grant left behind! Following another performance, Randi found that some members of the audience had given false information about themselves, their ailments, and their medical care. For example, after "Dr. Jesus" had "put a new heart" into a man supposedly awaiting open-heart surgery, Randi found that the details (including the doctor and hospital named by Grant) could not be corroborated.

Grant's subjects typically are "slain in the spirit" and fall backward into the arms of his assistants. In 1986 I observed from a few feet away what happened when he encountered an elderly woman who did not wish to fall backward when he touched her forehead. Grant pushed his fingers into her neck so hard that she could not remain standing. I also watched him "lengthen" the leg of a man who limped up to the stage, supposedly because one of his legs was shorter than the other. The audience may have been impressed with this feat, but I was not. Before the show began, I noted that the man was one of Grant's assistants and walked normally.

44. Despite the knowledge of fraud and abuse in performing alleged miracles, healing services continued to be called. The healing services are announced in advance. However, if Biblical miracles are being performed, then the conclusion has to be that their teachings are ratified and endorsed by God.

45. If, upon examination, the teachings of the faith healers is unbiblical, then the conclusion must be drawn that whatever miracles took place under their guidance are nothing but lying wonders. A false teacher cannot perform a true miracle. A true miracle cannot take place in the presence of false teaching, biblically.

46. Because of the abuse of alleged miracles in the Roman Catholic Church, and in the Protestant community, a very tight definition of a miracle is important.

47. A miracle can be defined in the narrow sense, and a miracle can be defined in a broad sense.

48. If a miracle, in the broad sense, refers to God’s ongoing supernatural activity in the life of His people in answer to prayers, the pouring out of His Spirit, the changing of souls, then that continues today.

49. What the people of God witness in answer to prayer is not a strict Biblical miracle, but an act of, what theologians call, providence.

50. God’s providence falls upon the just and the unjust alike.
Special Note.
On July 20, 1944, Adolf Hitler survived an attempt by Claus von Stauffenberg, a Staff Officer, to assassinate him. A bomb exploded close to the Fuhrer, but did not kill him. Looking at the photo, it might be said that it was a “miracle” that Hitler survived the blast.

Heinrich Bucholz was one of the stenographers present, recording the discussions at the conference:

“I remember it as a clap of thunder coupled with a bright yellow flash and clouds of thick smoke. Glass and wood splintered through the air. The large table on which all the situation maps had been spread out and around which the participants were standing — only we stenographers were sitting — collapsed. After a few seconds of silence I heard a voice, probably Field Marshal Keitel, shouting: “Where is the Fuhrer?” Then further shouts and screams of pain arose.

Special Note.
Hugh Hefner (b. April 9, 1926) is as vile and evil a human as has ever walked the earth. He has corrupted countless millions of men and women through his magazine, entertain clubs, and hedonistic philosophy. Mr. Hefner has also enjoyed a long life. God, in His providence, has been merciful to him. Reared a strict Methodist, Mr. Hefner long ago turned his back on God. When he was sick, no prayers were offered to God. When Hefner was healed, there was no thanksgiving to the Lord, and no mention of any miracle.

51. The ungodly receive many acts of God’s gracious providence. Though the wicked do not acknowledge God, He is still kind, so that they will be without excuse in the day of ultimate judgment.
52. In contrast, the righteous acknowledge divine Providence. It is true that many wonderful things happen because people pray. Prayers are answered because God has ordained that certain things will come to pass through prayer.

- *James 5:16* Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

53. While there is legitimate concern with modern day faith healers, care must be taken not to dismiss a miracle working God, in the broad sense. There is danger of blaspheming the Holy Spirit by attributing to Satan the work of God.

54. However, if a miracle, in the narrow sense is defined as God confirming His messengers by giving them power to perform signs and wonders, then there are no miracles, and no miracle workers today, because they are not needed since the Bible is a completed revelation.

55. In the narrow sense of the word, a miracle is an extraordinary work done by the immediate power of God in the external perceptible world, in an act against nature, that only God can do.

56. A biblical miracle meets an immediate need, but is designed to authenticate the message of the gospel by providing validity to the spokesman of God at that moment.

57. Peter healed a man at the Gate Beautiful. The need of the lame man for healing was met, while the authority of Peter was established, and the gospel was preached by which five thousand souls were saved.

- A need was met. *Acts 3:6* Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

- Apostolic authority was confirmed.

  *Matthew 10:1* And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

  *Acts 4:13* Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. 14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

- The gospel was preached. *Acts 3:19* Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; 20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:
• Souls were saved. *Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.*

58. Most people who claim modern day miracles stop short of claiming the kinds of miracles found in the Bible.

• The dead are not raised, through many people have been resuscitated in remarkable circumstances.
• No water has been turned into wine.
• No axe heads have been found floating.

59. Then, something must be said about satanic miracles. Simply, stated, Satan cannot perform a bonified miracle. Only God can do that. Satan can only perform lying wonders.

60. A lying sign, a false wonder is not a bonified miracle. They are a fake, on the same level as the tricks done by Houdini, or David Copperfield.

61. Satan cannot do what God can do. For this reason the miracle that Moses could not be done by the magicians.