

MIRACLES

IN MY LIFE



Jim Kaness

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This living document, revised as information and inspiration become available, is my own work on my own initiative. The references and factual data have been checked and are believed to be correct but errors can occur. Please provide any comments, suggestions, and corrections to the author:

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INTRODUCTION

A miracle is an event that blows the mind and is hard to believe by those who hear of it, and leaves an indelible memory in the mind of those who experience it! The Miriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word "miracle" as:

1. "an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs *<the healing miracles described in the Gospels>*"
2. "an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment *<The bridge is a miracle of engineering.>*"

MIRACLE, COINCIDENCE, OR DUMB LUCK?

1. In college (1960) I was late for a meeting, too late to walk and get there on time. I asked God to help me get there on time and hurried out of the dorm. At the street in front of the dorm was a brand new, bright red Corvette, parked with the top down. The single occupant turned to me and asked, "Can I give you a lift?" Of course I said "yes" and hopped in. I got to the meeting on time. I had never seen that car or its driver before or since.

What are the odds that a car and driver would just be sitting there, waiting for no one else, and offering me the ride I needed at just the right time? How often have you just sat in your car waiting for a stranger who needed a ride?

We'll get into more of the miracles in my life in the next few pages.

"The Passion of the Christ", released in 2004, was a major commercial hit, earning a whopping \$612 million worldwide on a \$30 million production budget, making it the highest grossing religious film in history. The film also received three nominations at the 77th Academy Awards.

The 48-year-old actor [Jim Caviezel], who has since appeared in the TV show "Person of Interest," said it was no coincidence that when he played the role of Jesus, he was 33 years old, and his initials were J.C.

"Don't you tell me it was a coincidence! There are no coincidences. I keep hearing about 'accidents' and 'strokes of luck.' Secularization affects the entire world, including the USA. Only atheists believe in coincidence," Caviezel said.

"There are no coincidences for God. Even when God resurrects the dead, they will say it happened by accident."

[Excerpt from Leah Marieann Klett : May 4, 2017 : [Gospel Herald](#)]

BIBLE MIRACLES

The Bible is famous for its telling of miracles: God's divine intervention in the lives of many that we still read about and discuss thousands of years later. How many miracles are recorded in the Bible? What were they and how often did they occur? Were they frequent and common, or did they occur rarely and years apart? These questions are explored below.

You will note that different researchers have listed and counted different numbers of miracles in the Bible. I take no issue with any of them and simply present their findings for your own further study.

To calculate the average years between miracles, I am using 4,000 years for the duration of events recorded in the entire Old Testament and 100 years for the duration of events recorded in the entire New Testament. Please feel free to disagree with these numbers!

SOURCE WEBSITE	NUMBER OF MIRACLES	AVERAGE YEARS
http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/miracle.html (Whole Bible)	124	33.1
https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/parallel/paral12.cfm (Old Testament)	56	71.4
http://www.bible-history.com/old-testament/miracles.html (Old Testament)	53	75.5
http://www.biblestudy.org/bible-study-by-topic/old-testament-miracles.html (Old Testament)	93	43
http://access-jesus.com/list-miracles-recorded-bible.html (Old Testament)	67	59.7
http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/miracle.html (New Testament)	45	2.2

My own conclusion is that a miracle was a rare and uncommon event. The “average” numbers given above suggest you could live a lifetime and never have witnessed or experienced a single miracle! Or, perhaps the miracles recorded in the Bible are only the biggest ones that no one could ever forget, while the many lesser miracles in daily life went unrecorded by those unable to write them down: “Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” [John 21:25]

In my own lifetime I have experienced several miracles and this is my way of writing some of them down.

ANSWERS TO PRAYER

It is popular in some circles to doubt that God really does answer our prayers, and explain it away by saying that the answer received must have been just a coincidence - that what I consider to be God's answer to my prayer is somehow just plain dumb luck! Yes, it could be that, or it could be that God really did supernaturally inspire one or more persons to act in such a way that what I asked for actually happened. I do believe that God has answered some of my prayers in very memorable and surprising ways.

For the sake of illustration, let's keep the following example entirely in the human realm.

Suppose you and I are employed by the same company and work closely together. One day, just before lunch, I get called to a meeting and don't have time to buy my lunch. So I ask you, my good friend, to please get me a McDonald's #3 combo and give you the money to pay for it. I then go off to my meeting and when I finally return to my desk find a McDonald's #3 combo and change sitting on the desk. Miracle? Coincidence? Of course not! I asked for a favor and the favor was done.

The above illustration is not unique. People do favors for each other all the time. It seems only to be unique when we ask GOD for a favor and it is done!

Listed below are some of the favors, big and small, that I asked God for during my lifetime. The answers did not change the course of history, but they sure did strengthen my faith.

1. In college (1960) I was late for a meeting, too late to walk and get there on time. I asked God to help me get there on time and hurried out of the dorm. At the street in front of the dorm was a brand new, bright red Corvette, parked with the top down. The single occupant turned to me and asked, "Can I give you a lift?" Of course I said "yes" and hopped in. I got to the meeting on time. I had never seen that car or its driver before or since.

2. In 1963 I was at Fort Ord, California completing my Army Basic Training, having enlisted in the Army National Guard. I would soon need a job and prayed to God for it. The next day my mother called to say she had received a phone call offering me a civil service job. I interviewed for the job and turned it down, explaining what it was I really wanted to work at. A few days later another phone call offered me the exact job I was looking for! It began a 31-year career with several promotions and a good retirement in 1994.

3. In 1974 my wife Anne and I were in bed one night with our bedroom door closed. Outside our room and down the hall and through his own closed door our middle son was in his bed having a coughing attack. The doctor had diagnosed him earlier that day with bronchitis and he was sure sounding like it. Anne and I prayed to God that He would heal him. After our "Amen" our son's coughing stopped and never continued! The next morning he said he felt fine, and acted it. There were two closed doors between us and our son, and he did not know we were praying for him or that we ever intended to pray for him.

4. Have you ever driven in Honolulu, Hawaii? If so, you know it is a maze of one-way streets intersected by canals and bridges. My wife and I had rented a car for the day to tour Oahu. It was late in the day, we were up on the mountain behind and overlooking Honolulu and we had to return the car to a certain gas station at Waikiki Beach before 8 PM. It was 1983 and there was no GPS and we had no map! I asked God to get us there on time. Believing He would, I began following my instincts as to what lane to be in and when and how to turn. In this fashion we crossed over most of the city heading toward the beach. At 5 minutes to 8 PM I noticed we were in the right-hand left turn lane which, when the light turned green, would put us directly in front of the gas station we needed to return the car to. We made it!

5. I retired from federal civil service in 1994. None of our three sons had shown an interest in college so there seemed to be no need to financially provide for that. So, you guessed it, in 1998 two of them decided they needed more education! I remember standing in our back yard and looking up to heaven: "God, if you want me to help put these kids through school then you will have to get me a job so I can earn some more money for that." The next day the phone rang and a Temp Agency I had not spoken to for over a year called to ask if I was interested in a job they had open. Of course I said "Yes". I stayed in that "temp" job for 13 months through a company downsizing and a written attempt by one of my coworkers to get me fired. After 13 months I resigned because my wife found me another job that paid 2 1/2 times as much! I stayed with the second company, as their employee, for four years and then quit- giving them 6 months notice- to spend more time with my wife and family. The kids' late schooling had long since been paid for.

6. In April 2016 the thought came into my head (from God?) to build a 10 by 12-foot storage shed behind our house as a project for our grandson (age 15) and me. Our grandson was hired to help and design was started. We wondered just whose stuff would be stored in the shed, but God knew. By mid-July 2016 the shed was finished. Just as the final paint was drying, our grandson and his father were given 24-hours notice they had to move out of where they had been living for over a year. The shed was ready *just in time* for all their belongings!



7. HOMELESS TO PENSIONED IN 6 MONTHS!

BACKGROUND: In 1990 our youngest son joined the US Navy for 2 years. In 1992, after only 21 months service, he received a General Discharge from the Navy, initiated by his Commanding Officer. In 2000 he appealed his discharge and the Navy Discharge Review

Board found he had been improperly discharged and granted him an Honorable Discharge. With the upgrade came a detailed 2-page letter of findings but that letter was lost after several years had passed.

STORY: In July 2016 our youngest son (age 45) found himself broke and homeless, unable to work because of several physical and emotional issues. Anne and I took him and his son into our home "temporarily". Anne and I wondered just how he would support himself and his son (he has sole custody of his son). And, of course, not knowing what to do next we prayed that God would intervene in his best interest (and ours too).

In August 2016 Anne read about a Veterans' Stand-down at the Armory here in Ventura and our son attended for the weekend. They gave him lots of clothing and lots of contacts for further Veterans Administration (VA) help. He applied for and was accepted into the West Los Angeles Veterans Hospital for diagnosis and treatment.

Midway through that diagnosis and treatment someone at the VA realized our son had not been in the Navy the minimum 24 months required for their services and the VA sent him home. He then did two things:

(1) Contacted our local 26th District Congresswoman Julia Brownley. At that time, none of us was aware that Congresswoman Brownley served on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, or that she was elected as Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, and also serves on the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Our son could not have chosen a better person to ask for help!

(2) Initiated a frantic search for that 2000 letter detailing why his discharge was upgraded. After two weeks of phone calls and emails a copy of that 16-year-old letter was located in the Navy's archives!

With Congresswoman Brownley's help, and with a copy of the Navy's findings in 2000, our son was readmitted to the VA and resumed treatment.

In October 2016 our son was (a) formally declared 100% service connected disabled, and (b) awarded a VA Disability Pension that he can live on, and (c) formally listed as a Retired Disabled Navy Veteran - all this some 24 years after he left the Navy!

Since January 2017 our youngest son and his son are together again in their own home.

8. REJOINING THE HUMAN RACE

BACKGROUND: Our middle son (age 59) has for decades been an excellent interior/exterior house painter with several mansions and commercial properties in his resume. But, over the years his lifestyle led to decreased employment and estrangement from his family. He has broken into our locked home many times, teaching us how it was done and forcing us to

take defensive measures against that. He has long "couch-surfed" and slept under the bushes out in the open.

STORY: In 2015 I earnestly pleaded with God to help us cope with our middle son and his lifestyle. In October 2015 he showed up on our doorstep sick as a dog, thin, hungry, and tired of it all. Anne and I took him in and made arrangements for his stay here (another long story).

In February 2016 he was diagnosed with Congestive Heart Failure, declared disabled, and put on a regimen of medications (8 pills daily). Anne and I put him under written contract to obey his doctors, which he followed "mostly" and his doctors reported progress with his heart function (up to 40% from 10%).

In May 2016 he was granted SSI by the Social Security Administration. His \$760 a month is helpful but not really enough to live on. I am his "Representative Payee" for that. In June 2016 his friend Laura (age 60) showed up and announced "she was here to take care of our son". We would soon learn what that meant! Laura had been living in her car and we let her stay with our son as his caregiver with no money changing hands.

In July 2016, while at a routine doctor visit, our son fainted twice and was admitted to the Emergency Room (ER). Laura stayed in the ER with him and on his second day there he suffered a serious ischemic stroke. No ER staff was around and Laura had to go find someone to report our son's stroke! The stroke left his whole left side paralyzed. After 30 days in hospital he was sent home with a walker and with Laura to care for him. Now we knew why he would need taking care of!

Currently, our son is receiving physical stroke therapy, can walk unaided, ride his electric bicycle, and has some use of his left arm and hand. He is figuring out what he can still do for himself and others. Meanwhile, we have enjoyed long conversations with him and are learning to trust him and not worry about what he will do next!

9. In January 2017 Anne and I delivered to our granddaughter the toybox our grandson (age 15) designed and built (in high school woodshop) and decorated for our newest great-granddaughter. This toybox, made of one-inch solid pine boards, weighs at least 40 pounds and stands waist high. When we got to the front stairs of our granddaughter's apartment house, a total stranger immediately showed up on a bicycle and offered to carry the Toybox up the stairs (about 5-feet up) and into her apartment. He simply picked up the box and carried it up the stairs and inside the apartment like it was nothing at all!



Mission accomplished, the stranger said goodbye and rode off. Was he an angel in disguise? He sure saved us seniors some heavy lifting!

BELIEVE GOD

We do not have to be perfect people for God to answer our prayers. The requirement is to *believe* God [Genesis 15:6, Matthew 17:20, Romans 4:3].

Believing God is not at all the same thing as 'positive thinking' or 'hoping for the best'. God is not just a 'concept' but a real and alive being (as real and alive as you and I) who loves us [John 3:16] and wants to communicate and have a relationship with us. He told Moses His name is "I Am" [Exodus 3:14] and He told the prophet Jeremiah, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" [Jeremiah 33:3].

Nothing is impossible with God [Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 19:26, Mark 10:27, Luke 1:37, and more]. We do not need to know or understand how God will accomplish something. We need only believe that He will do it [Mark 11:24].

God gives each of us free will. He does not make any of us do anything. He may inspire us or others, but the decisions we make and the actions we take are entirely our own choosing. And, yes, like parents with our kids, God does not always give us exactly what we ask for. Instead, God gives each of us what we need. You know the old saying, "Be careful what you pray for---you just might get it!"

GEORGE MÜLLER (1805 – 1898)

George Müller dared to believe God! His life and his many substantial accomplishments, depending solely on his faith in God and answers to prayer, are summarized at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_M%C3%BCller.

His autobiography is still in print and available from several sources including <https://www.amazon.com/Autobiography-George-Muller/dp/0883681595> George Müller writes on page 75, "If I, a poor man, simply by prayer and faith obtained, without asking any individual, the finances for establishing and carrying on an orphan house, this might strengthen the faith of the children of God. It would also be a testimony to the unconverted of the reality of the things of God." Those finances are estimated at US\$116 Million in today's dollars, and over Mr. Müller's lifetime his orphan houses cared for, fed, clothed, housed and educated over 10,000 orphans [Wikipedia article linked above].

The work he began continues to this day. See <http://www.georgemuller.org/george-muller-charitable-trust.html>