



Walking In The Supernatural: Angels, Miracles and Signs & Wonders

*"In God's manifest presence all that remains is God's glory,
not man's anointed gifts, ministry, opinions or abilities.
Then you and I will have to do very little, yet great & mighty things will happen
On the other hand, when you and I do "our thing",
the results are few and there isn't much of God's glory in it."
Tommy Tenney*

The Reality of the Spiritual Realm

We need to understand the spiritual realm in order for even to move in the fundamentals of Christianity (such as prayer and healing). We need to understand that the spiritual realm is far more real and closer to us than we usually think or imagine. In fact the spiritual realm is far more real than the physical realm.

Our earthly self, our body, is (due to the fall) not destined to live forever, and so the earthly realm itself is not due to last forever, but is finite in its existence. However, the spiritual realm is eternal, and from the spiritual realm, the physical was created. Let us be more focused on the eternal things of God than on the temporary things that we are too often caught up with.

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea". (Revelation 21: 1)

In the modern society of many parts of the world, the spiritual realm is often forgotten, ignored and even denied. It is sad to say that the church usually fits this picture as well, and often those in the world understand the spiritual realm (although from their own perspective) better than the church does.

Through the past several hundred years, civilisation has grown away from a belief in God and in the supernatural, which could clearly be seen in society even up to the late nineteenth century. With the dawning of the industrial and later the technological age, mankind began to find out more and more with regards to the world around him. His reliance on God became less, and along with the breakdown of community came a reliance on science and technological advancements. Science was seen as the answer. However, it is interesting to note how modern society is now reverting to a belief in the supernatural - not in pockets, but in the mainstream - as it has been discovered that science does not have the answers that it was thought to have.

The Bible talks a lot about the (usually) unseen spiritual realm:

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (1 Cor. 4:18)

"But He, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" (Acts 7:55-56)

What does "spiritual realm" mean? The existence of a "spiritual realm" is revealed in the Bible, which informs us that the spiritual realm is an invisible realm and its spiritual inhabitants are usually invisible to our natural senses. "A spirit does not have flesh and bones." (Luke 24:39). Neither can we see our own human spiritual aspects, our personal spirits or our personal souls.

In our earthly lives we already live in the spiritual realm, even though unfortunately we are often unaware of it, and some day after life on earth we will be wholly spiritual, living in God's spiritual realm.



However, do we live in this reality or even in the knowledge of this reality? It is my belief that as we are made in the image of God and have God's Holy Spirit dwelling within us, that we need to become aware of the spiritual realities that surround us.

This earth and all that is within it will pass away, but heaven and the rest of the spiritual realm, including every spiritual being therein will last beyond all time. Time is a created concept of a passing reality; it does not affect the eternal reality of the spiritual realm. God exists outside as well as inside of the constraints of this physical realm, including time.

Understanding of, and experience of the spiritual realm often increases our faith and our expectancy for the things of God, such as miracles, healings, prophecy, and above all, experience of God Himself.

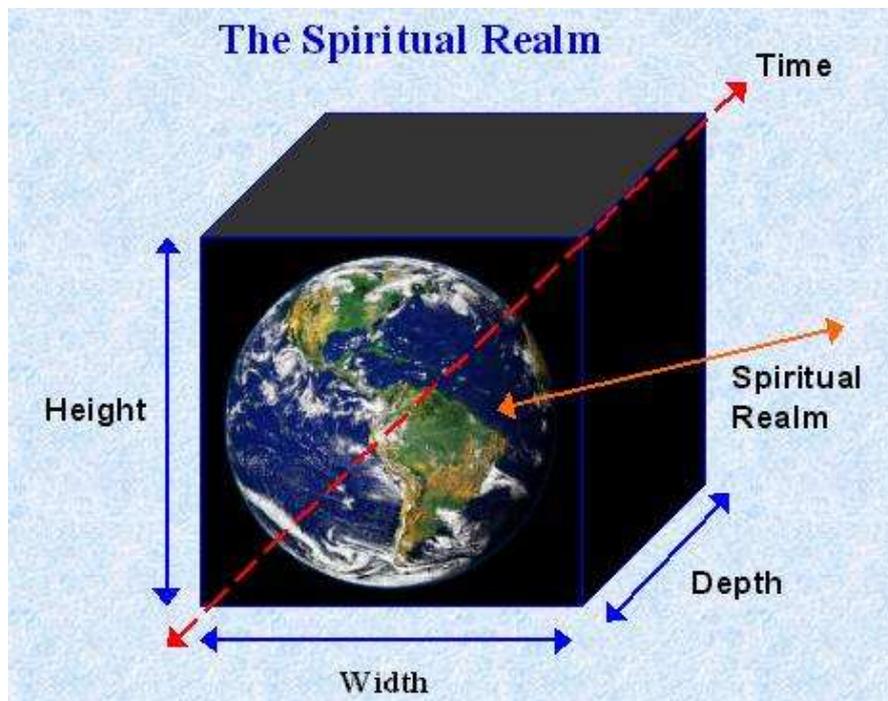
Our experience of the spiritual realm can come in many different ways, but surely the main one is by us spending time in intimate communion with God Himself. In these times, He shows us those things that are above and beyond the natural realm. We experience the presence of the One who made all things and dwells in the spiritual realm, we hear the voice of the One who called all things into being and we feel the love of the Creator of all things - both spiritual and natural.

One of the tactics of the devil and all demonic spirits is to try and persuade people that there is no such thing as the spiritual realm, and so get them to believe that there is also no such place as heaven or hell.

Conversely, the devil also wants to get people to believe in the spiritual realm, but not from a Christian perspective, and therefore "anything goes". Some will follow organised religions such as Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism, whereas others will follow New Age beliefs and the Occult.

One of the devil's tactics against the Church is to get Christians and especially Christian leaders to doubt the reality of the supernatural realm. This can clearly be seen within some Anglican churches in the United Kingdom, where even such fundamentals as the virgin birth, the resurrection and Jesus' miracles are publicly called into doubt and even denied.

This diagram shows the 4 dimensions of space and time (height, width, depth and time) and how the spiritual realm (represented by the colour -  - exists above and beyond the physical realm, encompassing it and yet also interacting with it.



Throughout history, God has at times broken through from the spiritual realm into the physical, such as with Moses and the burning bush or the incarnation of Jesus Himself.

The Matrix

The basic spiritual parallel of The Matrix is that computers have taken over the world and now keep the minds of mankind in a parallel world, in which they are completely unaware of the reality of the world in which they live. In their parallel world (the "Matrix") mankind is carrying on life as normal, whereas in the real world a resistance movement is fighting against the

computers to free mankind, who in reality are plugged into machines, giving the computers the power they need to run the world.

In one of the scenes from the movie, one of the leaders of the resistance, Morpheus offers Neo the choice of taking a "*Red Pill*". By doing so, Neo will find out the truth of the world in which he lives, or if Neo chooses to take a "*Blue Pill*", he will "*wake up and remember nothing*", in other words not become aware of the truth.

The spiritual parallel in terms of our Christian life is that too often we just continue in our own earthly life, seemingly unaware of the spiritual reality that lies behind it.

As the Matrix has been created by the machines to blind mankind to the reality of the world in which they live, so the devil wants to use this natural world to blind us to the spiritual realm that exists above and beyond the natural.

In another scene from *The Matrix*, Neo realises that he has the ability to control the Matrix ("*There is no spoon!*"). As with Neo, we need to realise that in God we have the ability to manipulate this natural realm, because in reality our spiritual man is above and beyond the natural. Natural laws bend and can be broken by the laws of the spiritual realm, which is above and beyond the natural.

Think of Jesus walking on the water, ascending into the sky, turning water into wine or healing the sick. Think of Moses parting the Red Sea or the fall of the walls of Jericho. Think of the disciples healing the sick. Natural laws bend and can be broken.

If we can get a hold of this principle in our own lives, we will begin to move in the creative power of God, we will see people healed and set free, and miracles and signs and wonders will take place in accordance with God's Word.

Unlike Neo, our ability to bend and manipulate, or even break the natural laws (such as with Jesus breaking the law of gravity when he walked on water - followed by Peter in *Matthew 14: 22-33*), must come from God. We know that those who understand the spiritual realm and are not Christians can also manipulate the natural laws that exist, such as with Pharaoh's magicians. However we also know that God is far stronger and far more capable than any man or demonic spirit (see the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal in *1 Kings 18*).

Our Spiritual Man

God intended that it be the spirit's function to know the thoughts, will, and actions of a person and to serve that person in his communications with God.

Our spiritual man is constantly enjoying deep and wonderful communion with God, despite the fact that we are usually unaware of this. Our soul and our body become aware of this during times of worship, prayer and meditation, when the things of this physical realm begin to dim as we seek His face.

As we become more and more healed in our soul, so we begin to experience more and more of what I believe our spiritual man experiences continually, and this really is a great reason for us to allow God to change and refine us into His image.

Please remember that although we are made perfect in our spirit at the moment of salvation, we are still expected to work on our soul, our daily life and our testimony to the world.

The Primary Law of the Spiritual Realm

The primary law of the spiritual realm is that all things are possible with God – if we align ourselves with Him and His will, then all things that we ask can and will be done in His name.

John 14:13 says, "And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." Prayer is the key to miracles.

It does not matter if human thinking says that it cannot be done, as human thinking is bound to the natural realm. We need to tune ourselves into God's spirit and our own spirit and allow our spirit man to live through us, and in doing so we will grow in faith and expectation of God's power and ability.

Angels



The spiritual beings of the spiritual realm, including God in all of His aspects, the angels and Satan and his demons, are usually invisible to the senses of our fleshly bodies.

*"A spirit does not have flesh and bones."
(Luke 24:39).*

An eternal and very real spiritual realm continually surrounds us, which is more real due to its eternal nature than the physical realm that we so often focus upon. Although I do believe the truth of the saying, *"Don't be so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good"*, we could also say, *"Don't be so earthly minded that you are of no spiritual use."* As in all things, godly balance is what is required.

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." (2 Kings 6:16-17)

What Is An Angel?

Angels are a company or association, not a race descended from a common ancestor (*Luke 20:34-36*). We are called *"sons of men"*, but angels are never called *"sons of angels"*.

The word "angel" actually comes from the Greek word *"aggelos"*, which means *"messenger"*. The matching Hebrew word *"mal'ak"* has the same meaning.

Angels are mentioned at least 108 times in the Old Testament and 165 times in the New Testament. Hence, there is ample information available in Scripture to allow us to build a foundation for our knowledge of angelic beings.

The Scripture speaks about the creation of angels, therefore, it is clear that they have not existed from all eternity (*Nehemiah 9: 6; Psalm 148: 2,5*).

"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1: 16-17)

How Many Angels Are There?

While the Scriptures give no definite figures, we are told that the number of angels is very great (*Daniel 7:10; Matthew 26:53; Hebrews 12:22*).

It appears that all angels were created at one time. No new angels are being added to the number. Angels are not subject to death or any form of extinction; therefore they do not decrease in number.

It is my personal belief that there are at least as many spirit beings in existence as there will have been human beings in all their history on earth.

What Does An Angel Look Like?

Angels are essentially "*ministering spirits*," (*Hebrews 1:14*) and do not have physical bodies like humans.

The Bible does, however, make it clear that angels can only be in one place at a time. They must have some localized presence.

Angels can take on the appearance of men when the occasion demands. How else could some "*entertain angels unaware*" (*Hebrews 13:2*)? On the other hand, their appearance is sometimes in dazzling white and blazing glory (*Matthew 28:2-4*).

I have personally seen angels on many occasions, and so I can testify to the reality of their existence. Although on occasion I have seen angels with my physical eyes in the same way as I see people it has been my experience to see angels more in an "in-between" state – a glow or a shape that is outlined by a shimmering, that is neither fully here in the physical realm or out of sight in the spiritual realm. At these times however, distinct features are visible.

This is not what an angel looks like, despite some people's ideas on the subject!



During our travels in the ministry, many people have asked me to pray for them so that they too might be able to see angels. God has clearly directed me to pray that people would have their spiritual eyes opened to see what God would have them to see, and in that there is safety. Remember that God will allow us to see what He wants us to, and if we are too hungry to see things in the spiritual realm, simply because we are intrigued by it, we can open ourselves to deception.

When angels do appear in the physical realm, they generally appear in the form of men (*Genesis 18*).

Sometimes an angel appears to be a man with unusual features. Daniel saw an angel with arms and legs resembling polished metal and precious stones, and a face like lightning (*Daniel 10:5-6*). The angel that rolled back the stone from Christ's tomb was radiating dazzling light (*Matthew 28:3; Luke 24:4*).

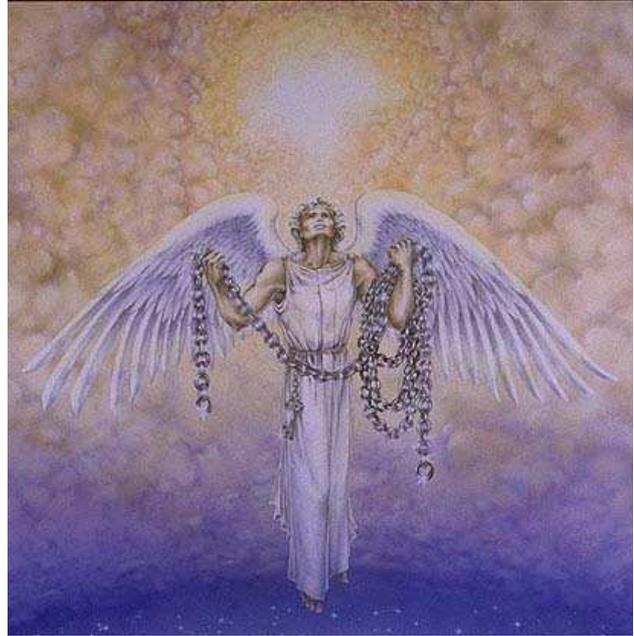
There are certain Biblical passages that speak of angels with wings and others that speak of angels without wings. It is therefore easy to conclude that angels do not need wings to travel, either in the spiritual or physical realms, but there are angels with wings.

They are stronger than man, but not omnipotent.

They are greater than man in knowledge, but not omniscient. They are not omnipresent (they exist in only one place at a time).

Angels are always referred to in the masculine, and have masculine features and names.

The Bible makes mention on several occasions of "the Angel of the Lord", which can also be translated "the special messenger of the LORD". Where the "Angel of the Lord" is mentioned, it is my belief that this is referring to the pre-incarnate Christ.



Angelic Protection

"Regarding accounts of angelic protection, Dr. Kenneth Gangel gives the following account which is similar to others I have heard about, especially with missionaries: A veteran missionary friend of mine (now retired) tells the story about a woman missionary alone on a compound in northern Africa during a riot by one of the local tribes. She hid in a closet and prayed as warriors advanced along the dusty road toward the houses where the white intruders lived. Amazingly, she never heard them. No one ever entered her building, and there was no evidence of any turmoil. My friend learned later that the warriors, who intended to kill everyone at the missionary compound and burn it to the ground, instead retreated when they found the compound guarded by tall warriors dressed in white and carrying large swords. Angels?"

Another and similar account was also reported by a medical missionary at his home church in Michigan: While serving at a small field hospital in Africa, I travelled every two weeks by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This required camping overnight half way. On one of these trips, I saw two men fighting in the city. One was seriously injured, so I treated him and witnessed to him of the Lord Jesus Christ. I then returned home without incident.

Upon arriving in the city several weeks later, I was approached by the man I had treated earlier. He told me he had known that I carried money and medicine. He said, "Some friends and I followed you into the jungle knowing you would camp overnight. We waited for you to go to sleep and planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. Just as we were about to move into your campsite, we saw that you were surrounded by 26 armed guards."

I laughed at this and said I was certainly all alone out in that jungle campsite. The young man pressed the point, "No, sir, I was not the only one to see the guards. My Jave friends also saw them and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone."

At this point in the church presentation in Michigan, one of the men in the church jumped up and interrupted the missionary, and asked, "Can you tell me the exact date when this happened?" The missionary thought for a while and recalled the date.

The man in the congregation told this side of the story: "On that night in Africa it was morning here. I was preparing to play golf. As I put my bag in the car, I felt the Lord leading me to pray for you. In fact, the urging was so strong that I called the men of this church together to pray for you. Will all of those men who met with me that day please stand?"

The men who had met that day to pray together stood—there were 26 of them! Again we ask, were these angels? While I cannot verify this story, I have no doubt whatsoever that it could be true."

Miracles

A recent Newsweek poll indicates that 84% of Americans say they believe God performs miracles; 48% claim to have experienced or witnessed one.

A miracle can be defined as the occurrence of any event apparently contradictory to and unexplainable by the laws of science, and usually attributed to God. The English word *miracle* is derived from the Latin word *miraculum* which literally means a *marvellous event*.

Mark 16: 15-18, 20 reads, "Jesus said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature ... And these signs shall FOLLOW them that believe ...'" "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs FOLLOWING."

God never intended for us to be impotent representatives of the Kingdom of God. He has NEVER changed His plan of salvation and never will.

"For I am the LORD; I change NOT ..." [Malachi 3:6]

"Jesus Christ, the SAME: yesterday, and today, and forever." [Hebrews 13:8]

Miracles can serve as a confirmation of a person's ministry or message.

No matter who is the vessel God uses to bring about a miracle or healing, it is God Who is to get the glory for it. When Paul healed the cripple at Lystra and the people all cried, "*The gods are come down to us...*" he rebuked them for

thinking it was by his own power that it had been done.

God performs miracles to meet the needs of His people, and in so doing miracles also help to increase our faith (*Acts 9:42*)

In the movie, *The Matrix*, Neo comes to understand that he can bend and even break the rules of the natural realm, as he is operating from a place that is above and beyond "the matrix". In a similar way, we need to realise that we can trust in God's ability to move in miraculous ways in the natural realm, as He is above and beyond this realm, in the realm of the spirit, with higher and more powerful laws that are not bound to the laws of nature and science.

When Jesus spoke to His disciples and gave them the Great Commission to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, He did so with an emphasis on the miraculous as well as words.

At that time, Jesus had already demonstrated a great many miracles, from His first miracle at Cana (*John 2: 1-11*), where He turned water into wine, through deliverance (*Mark 1:21-28, Luke 4:33-37*) to walking on water (*Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16-21*) through healing multitudes of people (*Matthew 9:27-31, Mark 8:22-26*) to miracles of feeding thousands of people supernaturally (*Matthew 15:29-39, Mark 8:1-10*) to even calming the storm (*Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25*)

Jesus Himself said that we would do even greater works than these! "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father".

The history of the church is filled with miracles, and not only healing miracles. There are many accounts of Christians having miraculous events take place in their lives and ministries, not only healing miracles, but unusual miracles such as levitation, the ability to move from one place to another supernaturally and so on.

Smith Wigglesworth and John G. Lake, to name only 2 people, are well known for the miracles that God worked through them. For instance, Smith Wigglesworth was famous for many healing miracles, but what is not so well known is that he also prayed on many occasions for water to be turned into petrol, so that he could travel and minister in times of petrol shortage, and God never failed Him!

If there was ever a man who walked in the revelation of "God in man," it was John G. Lake. A man of purpose, vision, strength and character, his one goal in life was to bring the fullness of God to every person. He often said that the secret of heaven's power was not in the doing, but in the being. He believed that Spirit-filled Christians should enjoy the same type of ministry Jesus did while living on earth, and that this reality could only be accomplished by seeing themselves as God saw them. John G. Lake lived his life and fulfilled his ministry in the earth with this type of spiritual understanding. If we would

just grasp the reality of our position through Jesus Christ, as Lake did, every nation would ring with the praises of God.

- *was responsible for raising over 1,000,000 converts, 625 churches and 1,250 preachers in five years of ministry.*
- *because of his resurrection revelation, had a deadly plague germ die in his hand, yet at the start of his ministry thought one could only be healed in Dr. Dowie's Healing Home.*
- *had such an incredible healing ministry, that according to statistics, the U.S. Government declared his city, Spokane, Washington, to be the healthiest city in America.*

God has often shown me the reality of His miraculous power by using me to pray for people for healing and even for a drought to be stopped and rain to come in South Africa, and He has come through in miraculous ways!

"A miracle is an occurrence at once above nature and above man. It shows the intervention of a power that is not limited by the laws either of matter or of mind, a power interrupting the fixed laws which govern their movements, a supernatural power."

"The suspension or violation of the laws of nature involved in miracles is nothing more than is constantly taking place around us. One force counteracts another: vital force keeps the chemical laws of matter in abeyance; and muscular force can control the action of physical force. When a man raises a weight from the ground, the law of gravity is neither suspended nor violated, but counteracted by a stronger force. The same is true as to the walking of Christ on the water and the swimming of iron at the command of the prophet. The simple and grand truth that the universe is not under the exclusive control of physical forces, but that everywhere and always there is above, separate from and superior to all else, an infinite personal will, not superseding, but directing and controlling all physical causes, acting with or without them."

Signs and Wonders

It has been said that a sign points to Jesus and a wonder makes people stop and think about God. There is also no doubt that a sign from God, just like a miracle acts to increase our faith and our expectancy in God.

In the New Testament these four Greek words are principally used to designate miracles and signs & wonders:

Semeion, a "sign", i.e., an evidence of a divine commission; an attestation of a divine message (*Matt. 12:38,39; 16:1, 4; Mark 8:11; Luke 11:16; 23:8; John 2:11, 18, 23; Acts 6:8, etc.*); a token of the presence and working of God; the seal of a higher power.

Terata, "wonders;" wonder-causing events; portents; producing astonishment in the beholder (*Acts 2:19*).

Dunameis, "might works;" works of superhuman power (*Acts 2:22; Rom. 15:19; 2 Thess. 2:9*); of a new and higher power.

Erga, "works;" the works of Him who is "wonderful in working" (*John 5:20, 36*). Miracles are seals of a divine mission. The sacred writers appealed to them as proofs that they were messengers of God. Our Lord also appealed to miracles as a conclusive proof of his divine mission (*John 5:20, 36; 10:25,38*). Thus, being out of the common course of nature and beyond the power of man, they are fitted to convey the impression of the presence and power of God.

Scripture tells us that *"The Jews seek (require) a sign."* (*1 Corinthians 1:22*)

This truth can be enlarged to include the majority of people in the world – people are hungry for a demonstration of the supernatural and the reality of God, not just words.

But we are not to seek a sign (*Matthew 12:38-39; 16:4*). Scripture says that the signs are to follow us (*Mark 16:17*), not we the signs.

Deuteronomy 4:34 says, *"Or has a god tried to go to take for himself a nation from within another nation by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors, as the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?"*

Some of the signs and wonders in the Bible are –

The ten plagues of Egypt (*Ex. 7:20-12:30*)

The passage of the Red Sea (*Ex. 14:21-31*)

Water from the rock at Rephidim (*Ex. 17:5-7*)

Balaam's donkey speaks (*Numbers 22:21-35*)

The walls of Jericho fall down (*Joshua 6:6-20*)

The iron axe-head made to swim, river Jordan (*2 Kings 6:5-7*)

Jesus walks on the sea (*Matthew 14:25; Mark 6:48; John 6:15*)

The transfiguration (*Matthew 17:1-8*)

The pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud (*Exodus 13: 24*)

The important thing is not to take every claim of a sign and wonder (for instance some of those found on the internet) as truth. Some of these claims are misleading, whether intentional or not, but the truth is that God does give us signs and He does work wonders.

Having said that, the truth is that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, and He does not change – He still moves in signs and wonders at this time in the history of the church and the world, albeit in different ways.

At times, God desires to bless us with things for no other reason than to bless us, as with signs & wonders that have occurred in parts of the world:

1. *Eagle feathers* falling during worship meetings as a sign;
2. *Rain, wind and cloud* appearing during times of worship;
3. *Gold teeth* replacing damaged ones or replacing silver fillings;
4. *Gold dust* appearing on people during worship;
5. *Perfumed oil* appearing on people during worship.
6. *Fireballs* falling from the skies or from people's hands when they are ministering

When I asked God concerning the above, He said to me that He was enjoying blessing His children, but also that it is a sign of the approaching return of Jesus. According to Hebrew tradition, when the wedding was approaching, gifts would be sent to the Bride (*the Church*) from the Bridegroom (*Jesus*), via the messenger (*the Holy Spirit*). These gifts would include gold and perfume. God is the perfect, ever-loving, ever-caring, ever-present Father, who always has the best for us and if we let Him, He will guide us into all good things.

Conclusion

The most important thing to remember is that although there is always more in God, we need to remain focused on Him – on the person of God, on growing closer to Him in love and intimacy, and not on the manifestations of the spirit. These must flow out of our closeness with Him and our focusing on Him as He chooses to bless us.