

## THE MIRACLE CALLED "YOU"

"I'll believe in God", the man said, "when I see a miracle. A real miracle!" Then one day he was looking in the mirror and suddenly blurted out – "I believe! I believe! My eyes! Ears! Teeth! Tongue! My brain! My heart! I can see a miracle. It's a miracle called 'me'"! Don't go away, my friend. You're also about to experience a miracle – "The miracle called you"!

## INTRODUCTION

I'm Frank Eiklor and I'm coming to you with More Than Talk. I want the invisible God to convince your invisible brain (at least invisible to your viewing it on a daily basis) that you are indeed a miracle. So come on – join me for More Than Talk. Let's discover the "miracle called you". Made in God's image – not from just monkey business"? What about the miracle of your body? And your brain? Come on! Think! Whole compartments that remain a mystery to the best experts. And the eye? Ei,yi,yi! Then there's the miracle of your value. No, not to the chemist who might value your cremation dust at \$10 or \$20. And the "miracle of invitation" I'm serious. This is more than talk. You have an invitation that would make invites to the White House – or Grammy awards – look pretty cheap in comparison. So let's go. This is More Than Talk!

## THE MIRACLE CALLED "YOU"

(Miracle of God's Image)

They are questions people often ask. "If God is real and powerful, why didn't He create us so that we couldn't do bad things?" Or, "Why does God let wars kill innocent people?" Or, "Why does God let little children suffer and die?"

But wait! It's because God is real, powerful and loving that man is capable of doing so many beautiful things and, sadly, so much evil. Incredible as it is, God made you and me like Him—in His image—with a free will to make choices. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...over all the earth. So God created man in His own image..." (Genesis 1:26, 27)

Now the human body is amazing enough! (We'll look at that later.) But it's what we can't see—including the invisible Creator Himself—that is more astonishing. Made in His image—so we can even conceive someone like God. Made in His image—so we can form opinions of Him. We can accept Him or reject Him. Love Him or despise Him. Choose His path of life or that of God's opponent, Satan.

Some say “God took a great risk in creating man in His image with a free will.” I disagree. That statement sounds like God wasn’t sure what would happen—what man might choose. But God, being omniscient, did know. And He knew that those who choose His purpose for their lives will end up ruling with Him forever with the Son of God, Jesus Christ. (That’s why robots or zombies would never do.)

God knew that sin would turn the world’s “wise men” into fools who would say “There is no purpose to life.” (But if there was no purpose, one could not know there is no purpose.) God knew that those who want no interference with their sin would teach young people in colleges and universities that “There is no God”. In so doing, our atheist friends would be trying to prove the impossible—a universal negative. (They couldn’t even prove me wrong if I said there was a little green man running through the universe. They would first have to search out every star and planet—at the same time. Or else I would say, “While you were going to that star, he went to another.”)

My young warrior friends, you have been made for eternity. That’s why you can even think such a thought—ETERNITY. “God has planted eternity in men’s heart and mind (a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun, but only God, can satisfy...)” (Ecclesiastes 3:11 Amplified Bible)

And talk about having a “purpose”! Because you bear His image, God’s purpose for you is as eternal as He is. First, you and I “are the called according to His purpose”. (Romans 8:28) Here it is again: “God, who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own PURPOSE and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.” (2 Timothy 1:9)

There you have it, young warrior. You were in the Father’s heart before He created the world. You were not made for the world. The world was made for you. His image! That’s you! To know Christ and love Him. To have God’s Holy Spirit use God’s Holy Word day by day to mold you into the likeness of His own Son, Jesus. To one day see Him face to face and reign with Him in something called “FOREVER”.

So never be intimidated by atheistic agnostics, evolutionists, or whatever name they claim. They are the blind leading the blind. Their “faith”, that denies the “God-connection”, is looking more stupid with every new discovery in space and on earth. Their gloomy “no purpose to life” makes rational people turn away. Their attempt to turn off their God-given conscience by insisting that “there are no absolutes” can be answered by a child who asks, “Are you absolutely sure?!”

The great thing is that those who insist on evidence “up close” can have it. That evidence is you. And me. Let’s ask Jesus to make Himself so real in our lives that our testimonies in actions and word will be evidence to thirsting hearts that God is real and awesome!

## THE MIRACLE CALLED “YOU”

(Miracle of the Body)

It’s another great miracle we take for granted. That is, until we become very ill or contract a terrible disease. Then we realize the marvelous wonder called the human body.

The human body. Created by God, not pieced together by evolution. You would think every scientist and medical expert would just say, “Wow, what a God to create such an incredible miracle as a human being!” But the sins of pride and rebellion run from light and find comfort in darkness. And sin can transform a man recognized as intelligent into a fool.

When I look in the mirror, I see the miracle. I look past the wrinkles, graying hair and accumulating years. What’s inside my head? A brain with 100 billion nerve cells. Whole compartments that remain a mystery to the best experts. Memory. The ability to project past, present and future. Man’s greatest computers cannot rival the human brain. And it all fits neatly into the back of my skull.

What’s inside my two holes called eye sockets. Two eyes. So that if one fails, I still have another. Adjusting the focus of objects. Admitting different amounts of light. Correcting spherical and chromatic aberration. No wonder poor Charles Darwin admitted that to say that the eye could have been formed by natural selection would be “absurd in the highest degree.”

And what’s inside my chest cavity. Lots of miracle stuff. But the heart—oh the heart! The average heart beats 300 million times in a lifetime. It pumps 48 million gallons of blood in that lifetime and travels on a 60,000 mile journey every day! In fact, in the last 24 hours I breathed 24,000 times—in and out.

I admit I’m crying tears of awe and love as I write this. What a God! What a Creator! What a Father! Yes, tears. Another creative miracle to express those emotions from my brain of flesh that will one day die and my spirit that is deathless.

Now add to all the above your hands (go ahead, study them and behold the miracle of creation). Now ponder your whole skeletal structure—ribs, bones, joints—those marvelous feet. Ears that hear and define sound? Nostrils that breathe? A mouth with attractive lips rather than just a hole? A tongue that talks and tastes? Teeth—two sets—to chew food and show off a beautiful smile? And a final peek inside—two lungs no one can duplicate, two kidneys, pancreas, stomach, colon and a plumbing system that is beyond imagination! And we haven’t said anything about the miracle of conception!

No wonder the Psalmist said, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). No wonder Paul marvels at God’s highest purpose for creating our miracle bodies; “The body is intended for the Lord, and the Lord is intended for the body (to save, sanctify and raise it again).” (1 Corinthians 6:13 Amplified Bible).

So young soldier of Christ, take your stand for the Lord against teachers who offer other young people the big lie—that everything happened by “natural selection”. Tell them it happened by “supernatural election”, and that to believe otherwise is to believe in fairy tales.

## THE MIRACLE CALLED “YOU”

(Miracle Of Your Value)

We’re taught to listen up and get involved when we hear people say words that signal deep depression or possibly suicidal thoughts. Words like “I feel worthless”; “I’m good for nothing”; “I hate myself”; “The world would be better off without me”; and more. If we’re honest, we probably have had such thoughts ourselves at certain times in our lives.

Every human being longs to have value, but our world can never give it. To the chemist, our bodies are worth a few dollars in the elements that make up our bodies. Politicians value our votes. So-called entertainment stars value our loyalty to buy tickets and applaud. The corporate world values us as paying customers. And if we’re honest, even loved ones might value us to the degree we value them. Unconditional value based on unconditional love is rare among the most godly of people—and we can only receive such love from God.

That’s just the point—your value to God. You can’t get away from it. The greatest sinner still carries God’s image. No matter how fast or how far you run from God, you cannot outrun His unconditional love for you. You matter. You have incalculable value. You’re important. To the most important person of all. Your Creator. God!

How else to fathom John 3:16—God so loving a “whosoever”—that’s “you-soever”—that He would allow His spotless Son to die for you, take your worst sins on Himself and tell you that He wants you with Him—forever!?!

How else to explain Jesus’ words that even if you gained the whole world (and everything in it), that would not be enough value to exchange for your soul?! Because one soul—that’s you—has more value to God than the planet called Earth!

And how else to even begin to grasp your incredible worth to God as given in Hebrews 2:9-18. Jesus takes on Himself your sins and death (v9) and invites you to share His glory (v10). Then God says He wants you—you!—to call Him “Father” and Jesus your elder Brother (v11-13)! Incredible!

He then whips the devil on your behalf and “completely sets free all those who through the haunting fear of death were held in bondage throughout the whole course of their lives (vv14, 15, Amplified Bible).

Finally, we’re told Christ did not help fallen super-beings called angels but reached out a helping hand to lost and frightened you and me (v17) with a promise to “run to the cry of (assist, relieve) those who are being tempted and tested (who are being exposed to suffering v18 Amplified). That’s you. And me. It’s also those all around us to whom we can tell this wonderful up-to-the-minute, unchanging news of their value to the Creator of the universe and Savior of the world.

## THE MIRACLE CALLED "YOU"

(Miracle of Invitation)

Little boys love to brag about their fathers. Four of them were busy bragging, when a father of one of the boys came near to listen. The first: "My dad knows the mayor!" The second: "My dad knows the governor!" The third: "My dad went to the White House and saw the president." The man, listening, wondered how the fourth lad, his son, could top all of that. He didn't have long to wait. "That's nothing", said his son, "my dad knows God!"

The father walked away with tears in his eyes and a silent prayer: "Lord, I pray that my son will always be able to say, 'My dad knows God!'"

We all enjoy invitations to important events or to meet important people. Some of us have met with mayors, governors, presidents and prime ministers. I have. But I see that one thing happens to them all, just like to us who are not great but small. They die, are buried and, after awhile, are mostly forgotten. Out of sight, out of mind.

But now (try to imagine the immensity, the awesomeness of it all) here comes the Creator of the universe. Here comes God who was and is and is to come. Here comes Jesus. The Alpha and Omega. The beginning and the end. The first and the last. And He comes to you with an invitation personally delivered by the Holy Spirit of God.

At the time it arrives, you are in crisis. Your conscience, with all those wrong thoughts, words and actions, is bothering you. In fact, you feel condemned—and you know you deserve to be. Your future death doesn't just come and go as a thought. No, the fear of death begins to stay with you—to torment you. And all the toys you thought would keep you happy, now leave you empty and dissatisfied. And, worst of all, you feel less than a drop in the vast ocean—utterly worthless and ultimately to be forgotten. You literally feel the darkness of what the Bible calls "having no hope, and without God in the world." (Ephesians 2:12) And no matter how many others are around you, you feel alone. Alone!

Then comes a knock. You answer the door, but no one is there. The gentle knock persists, and finally you awaken to the fact it's a knock at another door—the one called your heart. And there stands One who renders you awestruck. It's your Creator—Jesus Himself. No, He doesn't have the wrong address. And He needs no GPS. It's really you He has in mind. You're so shocked that you can't speak. Instead, Jesus speaks in a voice so gentle—so tender—so loving—that you can't stop your tears. "I love you," says Jesus, "and I bring you an invitation from the Father and Me. It comes in three parts.

"First, I know you are filled with guilt, shame and remorse. So let's take care of that sin problem. 'Come now, and let us reason together: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.' (Isaiah 1:18)

"Now that you admit you are lost without Me and are sorry for your sins, I have a second invitation for you that's even better. 'Behold, I stand at the door of your heart and life, and knock: if any man hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me'. (Revelation 3:20) That means it's you and Me—together from now on—24/7 and then forever.

“The third part of this personal invitation comes straight from My Father. He really loves you and says He wants you to think, talk and act different than the world. Now that you have invited Me to take control of your life, I can promise you My strength to think pure thoughts, speak clean and positive words, and develop new habits and actions. What My Father wants Me to tell you is to ‘come out from among them, and be separate...touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you and you shall be My sons and daughters!’

(2 Corinthians 6:17,18) No more old life for you. Everything is new!

“How is that.” Jesus concludes, “for a miracle invitation? I’m glad you have accepted it. Don’t forget to pass it on to others. My Father and I have much room in our Kingdom and we’re not willing that any miss out. I’m counting on you. And you can count on Me!”

#### WRAP UP

And so ends our visit today. We hope to inspire you with future times together. I hope you’ll find us “MORE THAN TALK” as we tackle life’s questions with answers that stand the test of time. Tell your friends about this new half hour drama and documentary. And stand by to meet all kinds of characters and events that can only help open your eyes and mine to what real life is all about. I’m Frank Eiklor. Until we meet again, may God show you how real He is – and just how much He loves you!