



‘MAGIC, MIRACLES AND YOU:

A Temcat study

Popularity of Magic

Magic seems to be a word that draws the interest of people just by mentioning it. This is especially true of our children and young people. The word seems to instantly convey to them excitement, wonder, fun, and happiness; it is romantic, and highly desirable. But are we wise in indulging this attitude? Is this veritable deluge of Fantasy and ‘Magic’ these days really as harmless or innocent as most people like to believe?

Now we all know that many things with a perfectly natural explanation seem like magic to people who have never seen or heard of them before- i.e. a isolated tribal person being confronted with technology, but we are not referring to that here; in this discussion, we mean to deal with the concept that certain objects, words, potions, hand motions etc. can cause certain unexplainable, unnatural powerful happenings to take place automatically when the ‘magician’ practices his ‘arts’.



History of Magic

Where was the first ‘Magic’ talked about in our world? Why it was when the serpent talked and revealed to Eve, the mother of us all, the ‘magic powers’ to be found in a certain ‘magic fruit’ that was on the ‘magic tree’. Why even the name of that tree seemed to sparkle with interest and wonderful promise of secrets to be explored: "The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil".

Eve could not doubt the evidence of her senses- here right before her eyes she sees a talking snake; obviously magic of the highest and best kind. He assures her that the ‘Magic’ in him is to be found in that wonderful magical fruit. The very suggestion of some hidden mystical power that she knew nothing about was extremely tantalizing to our first mother, and is it any less so with us today?

I want to ask a blunt question right here; was there any special power in that fruit? Now some people who really know nothing of the ways of God still try to echo the serpent’s lie and say, yes, there was power in the fruit and it was good that Eve and later

her husband Adam ate it- otherwise the human race would never have developed in mind or understanding, and that the serpent was our friend to break us out of the grasp of a selfish, overbearing God.

But the truth of the matter is that Adam and Eve were created by God with the ability to learn and develop forever, there was no limit to the heights of attainment they could reach but first they had to be tested to prove whether they would remain true to God. The easiest test was given them, just stay away from one tree- they had hundreds, yea thousands, but God just said obey me and don't eat of this one tree. There was no 'magic' in this fruit. There was no special virtue in the tree. Who made the serpent speak? It was Satan who spoke through the attractive beast. There was no 'magic' in either the serpent or the fruit. What were we dealing with here? Merely a question of 'who is God in your life? Who are you going to believe and obey?

When Eve ate the fruit, she felt an excitement, she seemed to be reaching a higher plain of existence, and she became 'enlightened' as the Eastern Gurus and 'masters' would tell you. But what was it really? It was the combination of the hypnotic suggestion of Satan on her mind, and the effect he could produce by playing on her nervous system and mind once she had through her disobedience removed herself from the sheltering protection of God. God does not play games with the minds, emotions and nervous systems of His subjects; Satan does, big time! This is his stock in trade. Where God deals in reality, truth, practical things of everyday living; Satan deals with fantasy, the unreal, the intangible, and the nebulous. His whole repertoire is feelings, impulses, emotions, imagination; he tells you a lie and then gets you to believe it by playing with your feelings and senses in ways that you think are legitimate but are really only trickery.

What Eve felt was false feelings Satan placed on her and also the strange alluring influence of evil, the sort of excitement that comes with rebellion; vague and unexplainable but deadly if yielded to. There was no 'Magic' only a lie and hypnotic mind control from Satan.



Why do we want Magic?

I have to tell you that sadly, the desire for 'magic' didn't end with Eve and her sad disillusionment. No, indeed; every generation has had those seeking for 'hidden secrets' believing that some special signs, symbols, or words could set off automatic reactions causing powerful and wonderful results. Or that certain mixtures of substances drank or eaten would cause great power or other changes; or that nature had hidden resources of power in stones, trees, or fountains that would cause sudden and wonderful things for those with the special knowledge of how to use them.

There have always been people who found it useful to give to others the idea that they had knowledge of strange and mystical arts and thus excite the fear and admiration of the ordinary man; sort of the world's earliest 'con game'. But let's face it, if nothing ever happened to reinforce this false concept, surely it would have died out amongst

mankind, but it seems to have grown stronger with each generation and in spite of ours being a so-called 'scientific' era the concept of Magic is stronger today than perhaps ever before.

Is Magic 'Real'?

Whose interest is served by this concept? Why the very one who introduced it to start with- Satan. It is an easy thing for him through manipulation of mind and body and using of his powers and the powers of his demons to make it appear that 'Magic' really works. By the way, Satan and his demons don't have any real 'magic' either; they just use trickery, hypnotism and their own vast knowledge of natural laws to make it appear that automatic magical results come from potions, words, talismans or magic items.

What really is Magic supposed to be anyway? The dictionary says; "the feigned art of influencing the course of nature or future events by occult means; sorcery; charm." Even here it is said to be 'feigned', that is, it is untrue, but still we humans keep seeking, and hoping and buying the devil's lies, feeling sure that somewhere, sometime, we will stumble on the real thing and it will be ours to rule the universe with. What did Satan tell Eve? "Ye shall be as Gods"

The desire for magic is just the rebellious desire to usurp the place of God that originated in Lucifer. We all have desires to 'get our own way' no matter how we do it. That is natural to the carnal nature.



Magicians' Mystique

Magicians have held the respect and fear of people down through history from the earliest times. Whether it is people really believing they have the powers claimed, or just watching for entertainment, and trying to figure out 'how they do it', the magician creates an almost instinctive awe in humans old or young.

In some primitive societies, those who practiced witchcraft or magic held the people in an icy grasp of fear and manipulation. With the growing popularity of New Age occult practices, people exalt these 'witch men' and Shaman, but if you ask those older folk among the native peoples, who recall the stories told to them by their grandparents, they will warn you that it was no fun to have to live in terror of offending these witch-men or the evil spirits they served. Struggling tribes, people who had a hard enough time just to survive, especially at certain times of the year, would be forced to burn food offerings to these vengeful spirits or to avoid the very places where food could be easily obtained because of 'Taboos'. It is never 'fun' to be held captive by wicked spirits and those who serve them.

Let's take a look at a common 'trick' we associate with magicians, pulling a live rabbit out of an empty hat. If this were really true, what would it tell you? Why it would say that the magician has the power to create something out of nothing, and not only

something, but a living something! He has the power to create life. Anyone who tries to make it appear that he has these powers, whether 'just for fun' or for real, is setting himself up as either a god himself or having some way of controlling God to get what he wants from Him. Such an idea is alien to True Christianity and so has no part with those who claim to belong to Jesus. Man cannot create something out of nothing, and he certainly can't create life. Satan can't either. He is a created being himself and as such is limited and dependent on God to even exist.



Magic and Luck'

One of the branches of 'magic' is so much present with us that it is hard to get it out of our habits and language and this is the concept of 'luck'. We say 'you're lucky!' or 'he had some bad luck'. From our earliest years we pick up the idea that certain things are 'lucky', such as four-leaf clovers and rabbits feet. We hear of lucky pennies, keeping your fingers crossed and not breaking mirrors. Superstition dove-tails into luck so that you can't tell where one leaves off and the other begins; don't go under a ladder, step on a crack, spill the salt, black cats (Lucky in the east, unlucky in the west) and so on. It all has its roots in the idea of somehow being able in mystical ways to affect the running of the universe in good or harmful ways. It has roots in ancient Taboos from the witch men of old and also the capriciousness of the pagan devil gods.

The cross, not originally a symbol of Christianity, is actually the sign of the sun god, and so putting crosses on things, crossing the fingers etc. is used to gain power by somehow placating the sun god

It is important for us as true followers of the Living God of heaven, to leave behind us all of these 'luck' ideas. If something joyful happens to us we must praise God, not say, 'Oh, I guess I was lucky', that is insulting to God. Nothing happens in the Christian's life by accident; once we have been truly born again and are letting Him lead us and guide us, these ideas of blind chance, luck and fortune should no longer be held by us, nor should it be found in our conversation. We learn to speak of our blessings and God's providences in our lives; chance and luck has no part. It is only when you start watching out for these expressions that you really come to see just how interwoven with our habits 'luck' concepts are.

Most of the 'business' of fortune tellers, witches and other occult practitioners is in dealing with making 'lucky' talismans, numbers, potions, or in some way advising people to allow them to have 'luck'. Do these things ever work? Yes, Satan can, if it suits his purpose, give information that can cause people to win in games or betting, he can affect dice and all sorts of things, but remember, his ultimate purpose is ALWAYS to deceive, enslave, and eventually destroy. The cheese on the mousetrap may taste good to the mouse, but it isn't there for the mouse's well being.



What is the Secret Power behind Magic?

So what is the power behind magic? Well some of it is just an illusion, but remember to create an illusion that something is real when it is not, is a deception, a lie and so no illusionist can truly serve God in verity.

But there are 'supernatural' things that happen, that can't be denied. So what makes them happen?

Well the answer is 'who' makes them happen. First I want to assure you that it isn't God, as He will never use trickery or deceit and He works in harmony with the laws of nature He established. (More about that later) The way it is done is through Satan and the fallen angels. It is easy for him to create these 'psychic phenomenon'; he can make something fly through the air by simply carrying it- you can't see him and it looks like it flies by 'magic'. He can appear in any shape or form and can impersonate the dead or even imaginary beings; the 'gods' and 'goddesses' of paganism are Satan and his angels doing their performances to deceive. He can make you think you see things that you really don't through hypnotism and can even cause a group to all 'see' something when there is nothing there but the hypnotic power of these fallen angels. There is no mystery behind magic. Only a very cruel and determined set of invisible (when they want to be) beings that are hell-bent on hurting and destroying everything they can, so as to hurt Jesus, the real Creator, whom they hate.

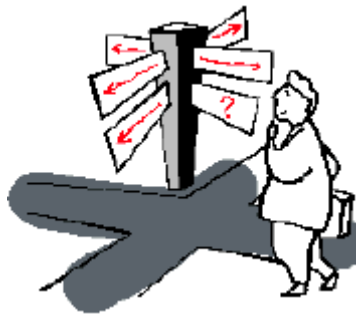
They work in various ways depending on the people they are seeking to deceive. With isolated, primitive people they just come out more openly with their evil games, and to some of these it is just business as usual to have to placate evil demon spirits and live in fear of taboos, curses and even see demons working and appearing on a daily basis. We may laugh at the superstitious minds of people who avoid certain 'Taboos' but if one is not under the protection of God and the heavenly angels, Satan and his demons can harm or even kill those who disobey or offend the witch-men.

Now in our society where we have gotten to think we are so smart, they mostly like to lead us to think that it is some knowledge or power we ourselves are learning to use, or something generated by our brain. They deceive us into thinking that we have a special talent to perform the occult action, whatever it is, and so they boost us up with pride and enslave us just as badly as the most primitive savage. Most practitioners of the occult and psychic realm got their start when someone they went to see in that field told them, "You have special powers and you owe it to society to develop them." What a flattering concept! And only too often successful.

In martial arts and yoga the idea is implanted that there is no limit to how much one can develop his abilities and people going into these start off by natural skills, improving them by practice and hard work, but at some point the occult becomes mixed

in and all these 'advanced masters' will emphasize that physical practice is not as important for development as is meditation. What does this tell you? That the advanced skills in these fields are more occult than natural and the powers are in the demon spirits, not the person.

One of the things to realize is that the more Satan does for a person, the more he enslaves him and holds him in terror. You can never get on the 'good side' of Satan; he doesn't have one! People have served him faithfully and obediently only to be rewarded by being miserably destroyed as soon as the spirits were tired of them. I read of one man who dedicated his life to setting up a training institute under direction from spirits and as he was climbing one day a boulder fell up the mountain and crushed him. There's no loyalty in the fallen angels. But God is always dependable, always faithful and of great compassion and tender mercy. From the womb to old age he cherishes those who follow Him.



What is the Purpose of 'Magic'?

Well we just basically exposed that the purpose of all 'magic' is to deceive. To either lead men to trust in Satan and his fallen angels to help them, (familiar spirits) or to lead men to think that somehow man holds the secret to the powerful resources of the universe through 'magic' formulas, etc. or that he has within him some power that he just needs to develop and he will be able to do whatever he wants. All such desires on the part of man just cements him in more and more with the unreasonable rebellion of Lucifer, who wanted to exalt himself above God. There's a hefty dose of selfishness and laziness connected with it too that helps it along.

What about the 'wonderful properties' of the Human Mind?

Most of those who are claiming 'magic' powers, whether in martial arts, New Age, Eastern Mystics, alternative medicine modalities, 'faith healing' and on and on, claim that the power is inherit in the human mind to tap into the universe and to cause what ever it wants to become reality. There are a hundred ways they have of explaining it. They get all poetic about the fact that science says that we don't use all of our mind, just 2% or some such thing, (science probably doesn't) and just how they decide this wonderful thing is unknown, so then they think that all these wonderful powers are just lying there unused and we just have to learn how to 'tap in to them' and we can all be gods. Sound familiar? "Ye shall be as Gods". And if we did all have these powers- what a mess things would be in! Talk about 'star wars!'

No, there are not any hidden powers in man's mind; it is just the deception of the evil angels playing their parlor tricks making people believe what is not true. There is just one marvelous power that our minds do have. It is a power that Jesus died to give us. It is the power to choose whom we will serve. This is an immense power indeed as it can

choose to serve God and He will then provide everything needed to bring this about. The whole purpose of our lives revolves around making that choice, repent and be 'born again' and eventually have eternal life; or go your own way (which is serving Satan) and eventually die forever. It is just that simple- Choose who is going to be your God.



A Horrible Deception

It is really a horrible thing that so many people who are really wanting to do something 'good' by developing their 'abilities' are really being influenced and finally controlled by evil angels whose purpose is to harm and destroy, and the ones that these deceived people seek to 'help' are often ensnared by demons through their influence.

What does the Bible tell us about magicians and witches?

Ex 9:11 "And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians."

Here we see a demonstration from God to show that these great magicians who were supposed to wield such awesome power were unable to even protect their own bodies from the plagues sent on Egypt from God.

Da 2:27 "Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; 28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days."

Here Daniel tells king Nebuchadnezzar point blank that his famous magicians can't tell the King what he wants to know. They just don't have that kind of power such as God gives through His Holy Spirit to those that serve Him.

De 18:10-12 "There shall not be found among you any ...that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, (hypnotist) or a consulter with familiar spirits (Spirit medium), or a wizard, or a necromancer. (One who claims to talk to the dead) For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD:"

God told His people not to have anything to do with any of these people who claim to have supernatural powers and work magic. God doesn't change, He no more approves of this sort of thing today, than He did then. Why, because He wants to keep something good from us? No, it is because He knows it is all a pack of lies that Satan will use to enslave and destroy us, He wants us to have the good, all the good and not the cruel evil.

Isa 8:19 "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?"

God is saying here that when people tell you to seek wizards and witches, claiming to talk to the dead, that you are to refuse and instead seek God. Why should the living seek help from the dead anyway when the Bible tells us, "The dead know not anything." Ecc. 9:5?



Magic and Children

It is such a sad thing to see little children who are trusting and naïve, being told with great earnestness by parents and others that things are 'real' that are definitely not real and the adult knows it to be a lie. It is considered nice and even important for the children to be able to believe in fantasy, "After all, they are just kids, let them have some fun. Children need to believe in 'magic' and fairy stories. They enjoy it." Now let's take a good look at this; do you enjoy being lied to by a friend? Even if they tell you something that you want to believe, but later you find out it is all a lie, do you say, "Oh, I'm so glad my friend lied to me about that?" Usually the result is that you are hurt badly, you feel betrayed that one you trusted lied to you. You can never fully believe them again comfortably after that experience.

What about your children? If you encourage them to believe in that which is untrue, lying to them about fairies, and mermaids and Santa down the chimney, how are they going to believe you when you tell them how they should live aright, and when you tell them about God? Please face the truth; it is no fun to be made to believe a lie. Mother Eve could tell you that.

"Oh, kids know the difference, they know its just pretend" some say. But how can they? Children are dependent on parents and teachers to teach them what is real and unreal, what is beneficial and what is harmful. No untruth is beneficial, it all has a baleful effect, warping the mind and making it harder to discern between truth and error. The whole subject of our salvation is on truth vs. error; to be warped in discernment makes it almost impossible to believe to the saving of the soul.

The very fact that children are innocent and trusting and easily fooled makes it an even more wicked thing on the part of those that know the truth to lie to them or allow them to believe in things that are not true. Oh course they believe you, and it seems happy to them but it's because they trust you are telling them the truth. Now a days this deliberate deception of the helpless and innocent is amplified a thousand fold by the reinforcement of TV, movies, video games and a whole billion dollar entertainment and toy industry that gets rich through aiding the corruption of the developing minds of our children.

Mankind has this desire to be a god, to have power, to get your own way, to rule others, to be able to get what you want with no effort on your part (Laziness) and the idea of Magic feeds this in children until it is terrible in its results. Unreality, even when it is known to be unreal still affects the mind as the person craves for it to be real. The Bible tells us that only those who love truth will be saved, if we love fantasy and the unreal, we cannot love God as we must learn to do if we would be saved.

Fictional stories whether 'realistic' or purely fantastic all serve to warp our concepts of reality in very undesirable ways, making it hard for us to follow God and be saved. You see, people can write a story and have things happen in certain ways, but in real life, there are universal laws that won't allow something to work that way. For example- in stories a man can drink and live immorally and abuse his body and yet be super strong and skillful; in real life, he'll be a sick slob! On TV you can see people who live and act in ridiculous ways and yet there they are in a lovely home with all the luxuries and never a hardship; in real life there will be want and unhappiness in such a situation.

Many wrong and hurtful theories had their beginnings in someone writing a novel where the concepts were shown and where they were successful; but in real life, they just don't work! Untruth is never innocent.



MAGIC PART 2

Loving Truth or Loving a Lie

I want you to have a quick look at a couple of Bible texts, first

2 Thess. 2: 10-12 "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Notice the phrase 'they received not the love of the truth'. It is vital that we understand this- God seeks to lead us to 'love the truth', in fact the ability to love the truth is given to us by Him, it is not something that we have to do on our own, in fact we couldn't do it on our own, because since man fell it is natural for him to hate the truth. This ability is essential so that we can be saved, if we don't love and accept the truth we can't be saved.

The reason why they don't accept this ability from God is an interesting one- 'but had PLEASURE in unrighteousness'. I'll put it in simpler terms; they refuse to believe the truth because it's more fun to believe the lies. Watching, hearing or reading untrue things gives them pleasure; they enjoy it. Now the scriptures don't say this is only referring to doctrines, it refers to all truth. It refers to accepting the truth about the sin in our life and what we need to confess and repent of; it refers to facing the truth that the world with its fascinations is wicked and is rapidly heading for destruction; it refers also to fiction and fantasy in entertainment; it also refers to all those little 'lies of convenience' that we indulge in.

If we are going to be saved we have to work in cooperation with the Holy Spirit all the way and He deals in 100% truth. He will teach us only 100% truth. If we don't

want to hear the truth, He finally has to leave us to our own unhappy destinies. That is what it means when it says 'God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie'. God doesn't deceive them, No, of course not- they insist on being deceived, so God has to withdraw His protection and the liar, Satan sweeps in and they are carried away by the muddy torrent of delusions. Even though a person is warned by the Holy Spirit that what he is wanting to hang on to is a lie, if he insists, he finally will really believe his chosen set of lies- at that point he has rejected the Holy Spirit and is lost.

Notice this sad verse-Re 22:15 "For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

This tells us the fate of those who received not the love of the truth; instead they love and make lies and end up outside the city to be destroyed with the wicked. Exposing the Lies

I want to make this point crystal clear, anything out of harmony with the scriptures is not truth. Satan is putting forth the concept that man is immortal in himself. And of course he tells his followers that he is able to give life and do anything for them that they want. Why does he try so hard to make us believe we are all powerful and immortal?

The TRUTH is that only God, that is God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, have underived life. All other lives in the universe are dependent upon the life of God. If we think that we have life in ourselves, then we are not so worried about God's authority. "He's just bluffing when HE warns us, "The wages of sin is death!" After all, we can't really die." God only deals in truth, He never bluffs.

Satan is a powerful angel, he has great power to influence our minds and bodies, great hypnotic ability and can do things that to us seem impossible; but he has no life in himself. This is a truth he knows but refuses to accept. He cannot give life to his followers. He cannot even heal when it is a case where real life-giving power is required. There are many people who go to occult healers, the ones that get 'healed' are usually the illnesses with strong emotional or psycho-somatic aspects. Those with problems that would require real creative power, often seem to get well for a while, only to have the problem reoccur later. That is because he can hype them up with hypnotism and feelings for a while, but he has no power to give life or to re-create; only the Life-giver has this power.

Satan can destroy and kill, and he does when God finally is forced by our stubborn refusal to allow Him to save us, to withdraw His protection; but he can't give life. He can't even keep his human servants alive when it is so valuable to him to do so. If they get sick and die, he can do nothing about it. His only recourse is to impersonate some of them like he has in spiritualism and make us think they are still alive or they are contacting us from 'beyond'.

This brings us to a great understanding of the 1,000-year period when Satan and his angels are going to be left here on this desolate earth, while all the saints are in heaven. Satan has boasted to his followers that he will resurrect them and they shall live forever in his kingdom. Well, God is going to give him his chance. He is going to have 1,000 years to resurrect the wicked dead whose bodies will litter the earth. He won't be able to do it; he will finally realize that only God is the source of life, his life included.

But do you know what he does when God finally returns for the judgment of the wicked and He resurrects them to meet their sentence of death? Why he goes right back

into lying as soon as he has someone to lie to! He runs out into the crowds of the wicked and tells them that he resurrected them and now they can take the city from the saints and live forever on earth with him as king. He is indeed a liar and the father of it. Remember that when you find your heart reaching out to believe in 'magic'.



Are Miracles the same as Magic?

Often when people come up against something that they can't explain away, where it surely appears that supernatural agencies are at work, they are then sure that it must be from God, or they will think it proves the dead are interacting with them. But they don't take into consideration the myriads of fallen angels in this world that are totally dedicated to deceiving you and tricking you into believing their lies instead of the Word of God.

Re 16:14 "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

2Co 11:14 "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

But what about when God really performs a miracle, is it the same as magic? No, there is a big difference. Take for example when Jesus fed the 5,000 + people from a small lunch. It wasn't some kind of magic; He is the Creator and has the power to create. He used the same power to feed the people that he uses in nature every day to feed the multitudes of earth, He just accelerated it, that's all.

He can recreate- he can raise the dead, heal and restore by using the same power He used to create everything in the first place. The power is in God, He is the only being who has life in Himself; but Satan has no such power in himself and neither do we. Satan can impersonate the dead, and really fool us, but not truly raise them. He can oppress people and make them sick and then by removing his oppressive power make it appear they are healed, but to actually heal people like the man blind from birth that Jesus healed, he can't because that took real creative power.



Signs and Wonders

What about the things people are calling miracles these days? Statues of Mary that weep tears or blood? It is very easy for Satan to cause a few drops of blood or tears to appear on a dumb idol. That is easy for him, and there go thousands of people all amazed and because they do not choose to believe the Word of the Living God, they are fooled by a devil's trick with a dumb idol. What is even more sad is the things that people think are 'proved' by these happenings.

So I have a plaster saint and all of a sudden I find blood or tears on it. What does that mean? Well, really all it means is that a fallen angel, (or a dishonest person) put tears or blood on my plaster saint. It doesn't mean my plaster saint is really alive, it isn't a sign from God to tell me to worship the idols as the Bible tells me not to do that. It isn't even the collective minds of all the people worshiping the idol that causes it to happen, no it is merely 'devils working miracles' seeking to deceive the very elect.

What about when a heathen idol really 'drinks' milk? It is easy for the devil and his angels to slurp up milk or in some way get it to disappear when it is offered to the idol. Does it mean the idol has power? No, the bible says idols have no power, only the demons that are involved in them. Does it mean that the idol is going to do something wonderful for you? No, it can't do anything for you, and the only thing the devils want to do for you is to trick and destroy you.

See what I mean about anything that is not in harmony with the scriptures being untrue? When we study and learn what the Bible says, then if we see an idol drink milk or bleed or cry, we simply say, "yes, there is old Satan trying to trick people into disobeying God" and we walk away and seek to warn others not to believe his lies.

There is another terrible trick Satan is using a lot today, he gets people together then hypnotizes them and makes them act in strange ways, he takes them captive and gives them all sorts of 'wonderful feelings', and thousands think it is the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit never makes people do weird things, God never plays games with people; that is Satan's field, he invented games and he loves to play games with the tender hearts of people and fool them and destroy them.

Friends, if you read about the Holy Spirit in the Bible, you will learn that He does a lot for us and in us, but He never makes us speak gibberish or bark or roar, or run around out of control. This is a deception and people say, "see, God is with us! So we are right in breaking His laws or He wouldn't be blessing us". Get hold of the Bible folks, and if it is not in agreement with the Bible, it is a lie, it's the bait on the mousetrap and you are the mouse.



God Working Within His Laws

God's power is working marvelously every day, in feeding us, protecting us, healing us but it is seldom thought of as a miracle as He is so dependable we take it for granted and He usually works through His own laws of nature. Nevertheless, there is real creative power at work in us and around us every day. Even when it seems a 'miracle' has happened, it doesn't mean that God is not working through His own natural laws. For example, when an airplane flies, is that because the natural law of gravity is magically turned off? No, it is because there are other laws that counteract the law of gravity and allow the plane to fly.

You know, science can tell you how gravity works and they can measure it and calculate it; but no one really knows what it is. The Bible tells us it is the power of God holding the universe together. What makes a seed grow? Man can't make a seed that will grow- no, it is the power of God; the Life-giver that makes a seed grow.

God can work through natural laws we know nothing about, and yet, God is not limited by His own laws, He works with them and through them but can work outside of them also if He sees fit.

How did God Create?

The 1st chapter of Genesis tells about God creating the earth. It says that He merely spoke and things were created. God has that kind of power. If I say I will make a painting, for example, then I have to work and do that, but when God says for something to exist, it is there. The power is in God to do this.

Only God can create life, if Satan is trying to trick us into thinking something is coming to life, he has to either impersonate it, he or his angels, or he has to hypnotize you and make you think you are seeing something when you are really not.



Laws of the Universe

God has set up His universe with laws to govern and control how things work. We call them natural laws and they are very dependable. If Magic were a true concept, nothing would be dependable. Just imagine dropping something and one day it will fall to the floor and the next go smashing up through the ceiling? Think about the properties of water, they act in certain ways, dependably so. But what if one day you drink water and are refreshed but another day everything changes somehow and you are poisoned; Or if one day water decided to act like gasoline and burst into flames.

Astronauts can tell you just how exact and dependable God's natural laws are- if it were not so, they never could have gone to the moon and back.

And think of the number of mischievous and mean people there are, who if they could manipulate these laws at will, we would never have a moment's peace. Actually, if you get deeply enough involved with the demon spirits that are the real power behind 'magic'; that is just what happens, you will be tormented and never have a moment's peace!

God doesn't run that kind of universe, His laws are good, beneficial and consistent so we can have security in our lives to the degree we learn to live in harmony with those laws.



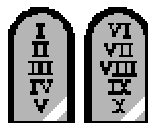
Does God prefer Miracles?

There are basically two kinds of miracles, one where God uses His creative, life-giving power to heal or restore and the other where He uses His agents, such as our guardian angels to protect us by stopping harm from reaching us or by snatching us from harm's way.

Both of these He is doing constantly, we will never know how much we are dependant on the direct power and intervention of God in our lives, until the veil is removed and we see the unseen and are shown all His providences.

It is only when these interventions come in an accelerated or dramatic way that we tend to see them and call it a miracle. But really, every day we live and every loaf of bread we eat is a miracle of God's love and sustaining power.

We often want to see His power in this accelerated form and we pray for 'miracles'. We are impatient and want to see the dramatic instantaneous healings and so on. But God's desire is that we learn to understand the laws He has put in place to govern Nature and our health and to live in harmony with them. He cannot work for us with 'miraculous' power when we cast aside His laws of health and then ask Him to heal us anyway. It is no less the power of God that heals us when we take hold of the health message and bring our habits in line with His laws; then when he heals suddenly in response to the prayer of faith. Also the person healed 'instantly' is expected then to obey the Laws of health, which are no less God's laws then are the Ten Commandments, 'lest a worse thing come unto him.'



The Dependable Laws of a Dependable God

God's promises are sure and available to all who will fulfill the conditions contained in them. Just as the laws of nature are dependable, consistent and measurable, so are the promises and sustaining power of our loving heavenly Father. The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that there is a science in the things of God. It is a science that God wants us to study, it is much greater than magic, as it always works and there is real power from the Life-giver to back it up. Where do we go to study that science? We are to go to our knees, ask God, in the name of Jesus, for the Great Heavenly Teacher, the Holy Spirit and then we are to get into the Bible and study and learn. Everything that we find there we are to put to practice. When we are shown changes we must make and things to repent of, we are to do it. Remember as long as you continue to learn the lessons of this science and practice them, the Holy Spirit will keep teaching you more. There is no limit to the knowledge and power of the science of the Bible!

Real Power in a Book?



By the Word of the Lord...

We have heard about magic books, we seem fascinated by the idea of some musty old tome found in some attic in an ancient trunk being full of secret spells that when studied and practiced cause all sorts of wonderful and powerful events. Well I want to tell you this day that there is such an ancient book and you probably have that book in your home. It is the only book that actually has real power in it. It is the Bible.

Remember what we found out was the way God created everything? It was by His Word. Where do we find His Word today? In the Bible! It is the most wonderful mystery, greater than any of those lies old Satan tells us, that God put His power in that Word He gave to us. Jesus Himself, who is actually the Creator, calls Himself the Word of God and so He identifies Himself with the Bible. The Holy Spirit who is the actual author of the Bible, is made available to teach it to us personally if we will have Him.

Why friends, this is greater than any magic and fantasy Satan could dream up! The power of the Life-giver is actually to be found in His Word! Even a wizard if he found a magic spell in an old book would have to go and do something to try it out. We don't have to do anything just accept it and believe it and it is ours. Once you really grasp the concept that God never lies, He means exactly what He says; and that the reality of whatever He has promised is found in the Word itself, then the whole Universe opens up before you! Even the commandments, when it says, Thou shalt, or Thou shalt not, are promises! If we just say, yes, Lord, I will, or I won't, then the power to obey is there as soon as we accept it and make it ours! If we just say, yes, Lord, I will, or I won't, then the power to obey is instantly provided to us. God doesn't have to 'do anything' to give it to us, it is already there.

We are told that Faith is what is important, where do we get faith? Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the WORD of GOD! We get faith by hearing and reading the Bible. I challenge you, start re-reading some of those old promises you have heard since childhood and just rattle off without thought, read them slowly saying to yourself, " God

means this. He means it for me. The very power to bring this about is right here in these words because these are the Words of the Living God! This is His gift to me personally!" That's the 'faith of a little child'! If a parent tells a little child, "Come here and I'll give you a toy", he will toddle on over with a big smile and the hand out to receive. Oh, dear readers try coming to God with a big smile and the hand out to receive; it will change your life!



Breaking Free from the Magic Trap

So why, Oh why does not everybody grab onto the real power of the Life-giver and start living according to the laws of the universe and enjoying the radiant victorious life? Well, I am sad to say it, but all too many of us want things that the Great Creator God will not give us. Why, because He is mean and selfish? NO, no, no! Rather, because they are sinful and wrong, and sin, if unchecked will destroy the universe as well as every one who hangs on to it.

I want to take a walk on the dark side with you for a moment. What kind of things do we want when we seek Satan's lies? Well we want to be rich, (money is power), we want to get our own wishes, we want to control others, we want to be able to 'help' others (on our own terms of course), we want to be able to make others admire us, we want to be able to get things done and acquire things with no effort and without waiting for the natural time it takes (we are lazy and impatient).

OK, but do we want to have rich people control everything in our lives? Do we want people to enslave, manipulate and control us? Do we want people to be able to force us to obey them or they will harm us? You begin to see if you think about it for a while that all these concepts don't stand up under the light of the 'Golden Rule'.

Always remember, if somebody does something to somebody, it isn't much fun for the little guy, and in Satan's power struggle, there are lots of little guys. In fact, because he is the most powerful, all people are 'little guys'. Want a life where you are always bossed around and tortured by Satan? Well, just follow his lies and you'll be there!

God doesn't want that for any of His creatures, His laws are set up so all can be free and happy and get along together joyfully forever. Now that's worth having!

Let's look at Pokemon, now wouldn't we just love to have a pocket full of little monsters who will obey us and attack others on command? (That's a bit like a guard dog, we think he'll only bite our enemies, but often he bites us too.) But do you want someone who doesn't like you to have a pocket full of monsters and command them to hurt you? That's a bit different isn't it?

What about Harry Potter, a great wizard or sorcerer, you'd love to have him for a friend and he'd work magic and help you. But what if he didn't like you any more? Then you're in trouble aren't you? And think how scared you'd be of offending him! That's the way the poor native peoples of the world were when they had to obey the witch-men,

they lived in terror of offending them. They were oh, so happy when the missionaries came and told them about Jesus who was stronger than the witch-men.

Remember the story of the sorcerer's apprentice? Well this foolish young fellow was lazy and wanted to use magic to do the job he was supposed to do himself. He got some magic going, but he couldn't get it turned back off and got into terrible trouble. You know, this is what will happen to everyone who decides to follow Satan's lies and try and work magic of any kind; they will end up trapped and not be able to break free from the snare. Then Satan will laugh as he destroys them.

But I'll let you in on the most wonderful mystery of the universe. It's called the 'mystery of Godliness'. God saw that when Mother Eve obeyed Satan to try to get some magic power, that she and all mankind would be ensnared and destroyed by Satan. So He stepped in and provided a way of escape for all who will agree to take it. The Creator Himself, Jesus, the Son of God, paid the death penalty and God said, "There, the door is open again, you can come home to Me now, I've bought back for you the right to choose. If you choose to come to Me, Satan can't get you any more. Oh, he'll try, he'll put bait out, he'll tell you lies, but if you keep coming to Me and choosing My ways, he can't ever take you back! And I'll send all the power in the universe to keep you safe if need be."

You know, dear reader the Bible says, Mt 28:18 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Now when I went to school 'all' meant everything, there's nothing left. So if Jesus has 'ALL POWER' how much real power does Satan have? NONE! And how much real power do witches and wizards and Harry Potter and Pokemon and New Age have, and well I could go on all day couldn't I? And the answer is they have NONE; no power at all. And finally, how much power do you have if you follow Satan, who has no power? You have less than none.

Now, what if you have already been hooked, perhaps on Harry Potter, Dungeons and Dragons, New Age, Wicca or something? Well there is still one gift that God gave you- the power to choose to break free. behind you if you choose to leave Satan and follow Jesus. Satan will rage and bellow, but he can't take you away from God if you don't agree to let him do it.

Jos 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve;... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.