

Fingerprints of God

Psalm 8:1-9

Col 4: v-5-6

There are an estimated 7.5 Billion people on the earth.

Each one has fingerprints and each fingerprint is unique

A dictionary definition of Fingerprint is

“any unique or distinctive pattern that represents unambiguous evidence of a specific person”

* By 9 weeks a baby in the womb has fingerprints

* Apparently without fingerprints we can't write or paint.

* Fingerprints were first accepted as valid police procedure in 1901, at Scotland Yard.

* Where our fingerprints are found is evidence of our presence

* Fingerprints are markers of personal identity

Linked to this aspect of identity the Hebrew word 'Qadosh (kaw-doshe') has a range of meanings –including **Unique, Holy, separate from, belonging to**

Isaiah 64:8

But now, O LORD, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.

A wise man once observed that there are two ways you can **live**...You can live as if nothing is a miracle; or you can live as if everything is a miracle. I would like to use miracles as one example of God's fingerprints:-

Interestingly, the source of this insight is not someone generally associated with faith, but rather one of the giants of science: Albert Einstein. It seems Einstein was suggesting that this world and this life are full of miracles, and indeed that this world and this life are miracles — if only we have the eyes to see that these are God's fingerprints.

That's a huge challenge in our age of “man-made miracles” — micro-surgeries performed on unborn babies, wonder drugs that cure disease and erase pain, boundless harvests that feed billions — when contrasted with man-made horrors — pills that can effortlessly erase unborn life, weapons that can kill by the tens of thousands, mass murderers masquerading as holy men.

Many in the world do not believe in miracles in our day and age...it's a highly contested issue. Through a familiarity with communications, media, and digital technologies our today's

Millennials have been absorbed into postmodern culture...a culture which denies the existence of absolute truth, which celebrates cynicism, which elevates the self and miniaturizes God into some ME-shaped idol.

Christ's words from [Matthew](#) 13:15 could just as well apply to our day and age: "They have closed their eyes Though seeing, they do not see." Put another way, even when God does miraculous things — even if everything really is a miracle — many of our people, including those in the church, miss it because their eyes are closed.

So how should we adjusting our view?

Einstein's notion that everything is a miracle presents us with something of a conundrum. In one sense, "A miracle is, by definition, an exception," as C.S. Lewis puts it. "Parted oceans, improbable pregnancies, stilled storms, the dead raised to life, water turned to wine, a lunch pack that feeds thousands of people, blind people seeing, lame people leaping — these are not normal occurrences. They are unusual and amazing.

Yet Einstein suggests that "everything is a miracle." Every breath. Every heartbeat. Every sunrise. Every day. Every moment. The way to bridge these two seemingly divergent views of miracles, the "exception view" and the "everything view," is to adjust our vision. When it comes to miracles, how we see the world is key to whether we notice God's fingerprints. And our world is literally a miracle.

The earth and its environs are wondrous works of art, marvels of mathematical precision, evidence of a Designer. "The harmony of natural law," Einstein concluded, "reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection."

Cosmologists [calculate](#) the odds of "a life-friendly universe appearing by chance" at less than one in 10 raised to a power of 10 with 123 zeros after it. The odds are, quite literally, astronomical. In other words, life is the "exception," to borrow Lewis' word, and because we are alive, it's not unreasonable to view everything as a miracle, to paraphrase Einstein. Everything: from the infinite expanse of the universe to the infinite complexity of the human brain. Research [studies](#) conclude that the human brain's memory capacity is equal to at least one "petabyte." A WHAT??

It appears that a petabyte equals 1,000,000 gigabytes.

Now that's something us age-mature ones can impress the young people with...

It's estimated that **the human brain can store around 2.5 Petabytes of memory data.**

In short, this arrangement of cells, neurons, and nerves that enables us to learn and think and remember and recall and understand and discern and reason is a miracle of staggering complexity.

God's fingerprints are clear both in the Bible and in the world!

God's Canvas

Lewis described miracles as God's "shortcuts." Looking at miracles, and the world, this way can help us perceive the constancy of miracles in our lives.

Lewis explained that in the miracles of Christ, "God does suddenly and locally something that God has done or will do in general. Each miracle writes for us in small letters something that God has already written, or will write, in letters almost too large to be noticed, across the whole canvas of Nature."

For instance, "As part of the Natural order, God makes wine. He does so by creating a vegetable organism that can turn water, soil, and sunlight into a juice which will, under proper conditions, become wine. Thus, in a certain sense, He constantly turns water into wine, for wine, like all drinks, is but water modified. Once, and in one year only, God, now incarnate, short-circuits the process: makes wine in a moment: uses earthenware jars instead of vegetable fibres to hold the water ...

We may think we're too rational, too intelligent, too evolved, too advanced to believe in miracles, but perhaps we're the very opposite. Perhaps we're too dense, too oblivious, too cynical, too self-obsessed to notice miracles, to see God's fingerprints, to perceive what God is doing.

Our obliviousness is sad but it's not new. The Psalmist recounts in Psalm 106 "When our ancestors were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses."

Miracles may appear to be the exception in a fallen world. Yet by setting things right — life defeating death, evil being cast out, the unjust vanquished, the righteous vindicated, wholeness replacing brokenness, abundance dislodging hunger, shalom conquering war — they actually provide "a glimpse of what the world was meant to be," as Philip Yancey writes. "Death, decay, and destruction are the true suspensions of God's laws; miracles are the early glimpses of restoration."

Jesus promised that miracles would not end when He went away to prepare a place for us. And He keeps His promises. Many of us have prayed for and seen healing, relationships restored, prodigals return to the family and most likely much more, both in the macro and the micro of our lives

Our challenge as people of faith is not just to believe in miracles, but to see them as God having been there done it and left His mark.

Glove illustration

Finger prints can be 'seen' metaphorically as well as literally. For example some teachers (and I mean this in the non-physical sense) will have left their fingerprints upon our lives, mentors leave their fingerprints on their mentees, disciplers leave their impression on their disciples...

So....

if God is living and active, should he not be leaving His fingerprints on the world today?

If God really is omnipresent, that is present at the same time everywhere, shouldn't we be discovering His fingerprints in every realm of life?

And if we do discover God's fingerprints amidst our daily living, what difference does it make?

As we approach the Advent season we come to celebrate once again the ultimate fingerprint of God...His very self in the form of the man Jesus, Immanuel, GOD WITH US.

John's gospel says it - The Word became flesh and lived among us - If we believe,, as Christians, that these words are true then the only conclusion that can be drawn is that about two Mellenia ago for approximately 33 years God literally plastered his fingerprints upon the face of this planet in a relatively small area in the Middle East.

One touch can everything!

What should our fingerprints look like as people of the resurrected Christ?

Col 4 v 5-6

They should be a sign of the present –

our actions should offer an alternative, more authentic way of living today.. a proclamation of God's character.

A source for empowerment –

our lives should be rooted in God given values so as to be empowered and to be able to empower others

A symbol of the future –

our actions and behaviour should point beyond the immediate to be a foretaste of a renewed heaven and earth...this is our personal legacy

It is always energising to discover God's fingerprints in our daily lives in both good times and tough times. As God's children we are called to encourage one another... to spur each other on in these good works.

Movie clip – Fingerprint

So the challenge to us is in how we choose to leave these marks of ours on a dysfunctional and hurting world

As a Christian we must always remember that we leave a mark (fingerprint) on the life of everyone we come in contact with, and it is the mark (fingerprint) of Christ.

So we are compelled to get involved, get our hands dirty. As only in the actions of restoration, forgiveness, sacrifice, generosity, hospitality, befriending, comforting the hurting, visiting the sick, engaging with the lonely, the marginalised and the imprisoned will we find the true joy and blessings of God's Shalom.

Some of us think we don't get much chance in our daily life to do anything significant... and it's true that we cannot all be a Mother Teresa or William Willberforce but, as author Noel Moules says in his book ***Fingerprints of Fire, footprints of peace***, "*at the centre of all weakness, there is power... and cites examples "Fragile snow flakes in blizzard making snow drifts that can create a stand still.... Or yeast kneaded into flour disappears only to enable the bread to rise or a tiny seedling germinating under a heavy slab can break the concrete.*

We are all going to leave our own fingerprints and not one will be the same...

What mark, what legacy, what imprint are we going to leave that speaks of our identity in the God of all creation?