



CEO Devotional – December 16, 2013

Written by Richard Blackaby, Blackaby Ministries International, Inc.

Tis the Season for the Miraculous

When my son, Daniel, was 11, he devised the most mischievous, brilliant plan his warped little mind had ever conceived. Adept at teasing his four year-old sister Carrie, he found dastardly delight in pulling pranks on her. As Christmas approached he planned a masterstroke – his *opus*. He carefully gift-wrapped a lump of coal and tagged it “From Santa.” Then, late on Christmas Eve he stealthily deposited the package prominently under the Christmas tree.

The little Grinch was unaware of a hitch in his plan – his mom caught on. Christmas morning, Daniel eagerly handed Carrie the gift and insisted she open it first. She unwrapped it to find a crisp ten-dollar bill taped to a pretty black rock. Daniel’s jaw dropped. He sensed a miracle had just occurred. Then a look of foreboding spread across his face as he took *his* first gift. Sure enough, there was the lump of coal, going to the one who deserved it most.

Christmas has become convoluted with marketing pitches, year-end clearances, office parties, overeating, and numerous other diversions that combine to obscure the main point. Christmas is about *miracles*. And, regardless of how hopeless a situation may appear, miracles still happen.

During the first Christmas season, a childless, elderly man discovered he would be a father (Luke 1:13). A young virgin learned she would give birth to the Son of God (Luke 1:31). People under Roman occupation were assured they would have peace (Luke 2:14). Those enslaved to sin heard the announcement of a Savior (Luke 2:11). Ordinary people doing monotonous jobs were promised great joy (Luke 2:10). From the day of Christ’s birth, the world was changed. As the angel Gabriel declared: “For with God, nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37).

Today these profound truths, though articulated every year in children’s Christmas pageants, are widely regarded as mere seasonal garnish, along with the evergreens and holly. Gabriel’s statement is lost in the music and poetry. But the truth is, God is still working to bring salvation to all people and He is perfectly capable of doing miracles in our lives.

Are we experiencing the miraculous today? It’s not that we don’t regularly experience success, but our accomplishments can usually be explained by our leadership or marketing skills. What is there in our life that can only be explained by God’s power? As we grow older and achieve more success, we tend to rely less upon God to accomplish our goals. But should that be the case? Mark Batterson writes, “*Bold prayers honor God, and God honors bold prayers*. God isn’t offended by your boldest prayers. He is offended by anything less. If your prayers aren’t impossible to you, they are insulting to God. Why? Because they don’t require divine intervention” (*The Circle Maker*, 15). What is it you are currently hoping for that can only be achieved by a miracle?

As you approach 2014, take a moment to reflect on your professional and personal goals for the coming year. How big are they? Are you capable of achieving them through your own effort, skill, and perseverance? Aren’t you ready to strive for something in life that is beyond your management skills to pull off? Don’t you long for at least one triumph in your life for which God gets all the glory? Review your goals and ask God to place a dream in your soul that truly honors Him.