



## Do-It-Yourself Miracles

Earlier this week I found a link to a group of sportsmen who have discovered a new pastime. They call it “Liquid Mountaineering,” but the name is a little bit misleading. The activity doesn’t involve mountains at all, but it does involve water. Specifically, they’ve taken up the sport of walking on water.

Actually, it’s not walking so much as it is running. Speed is an essential element in their technique, which consists of three primary elements. The first is, in one of the practitioner’s own words, to “Run really fast.” The second element is to run on a slight curve, like a skipping rock. The third is to wear water repellent shoes.

They are quick to admit that their technique still has a few shortcomings. They’ve posted a video of their activities and by my count about six steps was the farthest any of them got before sinking just like a person would who was wearing ordinary non-water repellent shoes while moving slowly in a straight line. Still, they’re nothing if not optimists, and apparently their current level of success is sufficiently advanced over their earlier efforts to give them hope that one day perhaps they will learn to make it all the way across the river where they practice.

Watching their video I’ll admit that I was a little surprised that there wasn’t any attempt in it to draw the seemingly inevitable parallel between what they’re doing and the story of Jesus (or more appropriately Peter) walking on water. In one quick view of their car there is a small plastic Jesus figure to be seen on the rearview mirror, but there’s no attempt in the video to take cheap shots at Christians, which I found to be a relief since such shots are so very common.

As I’ve continued to consider the video and the participants in it, I’ve begun to wonder if, far from being a potential occasion to mock Christians, such a pastime might not tend to confirm faith in a person who is open to it. After all, what better way of emphasizing the miraculous nature of Jesus’ walk on the Sea of Galilee than by trying to do the same thing over and over yourself and failing every time? What better way to teach the lesson that Jesus was no ordinary man than to read the Gospel’s accounts of him doing things which you know in your own heart, from your own experience, can’t be done by an ordinary human being? This, as all aspects of our faith, requires at least openness to the testimony of the Bible, but it seems to me to be the kind of personalized revelation that we know our Lord uses all the time to reach hearts that might otherwise never respond to him.

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**Our Mission Is: We Will Know, Love, Serve, and Obey Christ and Will Make Him Known to Others!**

**Our Core Values:**

**Growing and Discipling the Family of God**

**Reflecting the Love of God Through Hospitality, Friendship and Fellowship**

**Encountering the Living God Through Traditional and Contemporary Worship**

**Raising and Nurturing Children through the Grace of God**

**Sharing God’s Love By Reaching Out**



*Elijah Ascends in a Chariot of Fire*  
James Tissot  
1896 - 1900

(Fr. Craig continued)

I'm going to check for updates from these athletes from time to time to see what sort of progress they are making. I don't know if they will ever get across the river, but I do hope that in trying and failing they might come to know

the one who can and did walk on water by means other than speed and waterproof sandals.

In Christ,  
Craig+

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## Children's Sunday Morning Summer Bible Study

June 6: Water Covers Wickedness – Genesis 6:5-9:17

June 13: Trust Through Deep Waters – Exodus 14:5-31

June 20: Hope Through The Storm – Mark 4:35-41

June 27: Drenched in God's Power – 1 Kings 18:1-39

July 4: No classes

July 11: Following Through Water And Sand – John 21:1-19

July 18: Encouragement On Boat And Beach – Acts 27:1-28:10

July 25: John, Jesus, And the Holy Spirit – Mark 1:4-11; John 1:24-3



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## Tangible Love

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Love one another the Bible tells us. "Love makes you real", says the Skin Horse to the Velveteen Rabbit. With love, we thrive; without it, we can die. When we reach the end of our lives, we won't care about what we've accomplished; we'll care about how well we've loved and been loved by those closest to us.

Did you ever wonder how God wants us to show that we love Him? We get a clue when we read: "He who loves God must love his brother also." (1 John 4:21). It's just that simple – love. One of the primary ways we can show our love for others is by loving our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we genuinely love each other, it brings joy to our Father in Heaven.

As believers in Christ, we have the responsibility to care for the needs of others. (1 John 3:17). Our acts of love reveal that Jesus resides in our hearts. Giving of our time and talents to others may help us tell others about Him.

The Bible challenges us to even higher ground in loving

others. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul describes what it means to live out God's kind of love. The person who exercises godly love doesn't do so for personal benefit or gain, but "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. . ." (1 Corinthians 13:7). Why? Because godly love endures beyond life's hurts by pulling us relentlessly toward the never-ending care of our Father. In Christ, God proclaimed once more that the good life He wants for us with Him, as well as our brothers and sisters in Christ, is not about rules, but a love relationship. As Paul wrote, all the commandments can be summarized in one word: Love. Because we are "in Christ", we can enjoy peace with God and others because there is love.

To show that love, share your love with and for others. A Christian who is willing to do little things for others, can do great things for the Lord. So watch for opportunities to show Jesus you love Him. He's infinitely worth whatever it takes!