

We believe in miracles say 72% of young people

Are miracles possible? According to a new survey, three in five British people think miracles can happen. If so, it could explain the remarkable survival story of baby Lily Groesbeck.



Angel: Lily Groesbeck survived a car crash after a "mysterious voice" guided rescuers to her.

On the evening of March 6, 2015, Lynn Jennifer Groesbeck lost control of her car on a bridge in rural Utah. The vehicle smashed through the rail and plunged into the icy river below.

Groesbeck was killed on impact, but her 18-month-old daughter, Lily, survived. The scene of the crash would not be discovered for another **14 hours**.

When police arrived, they did not know if anybody was inside the car. However, as they approached, several officers heard a mysterious voice: "Help us! Help us!" it rang out.

They pulled Lily out of the car, alive but unconscious, but her mother was long dead. Where did the voice come from? "It's a **miracle**

," claimed Officer Tyler Beddoes.

He is not alone in his belief. A new **survey** has revealed that three in five UK adults believe that some form of miracle is possible. Furthermore, 72% of people aged 18 to 24 believe miracles can happen — more than any other age group.

Miracles have long been a cornerstone of Christian faith, from the resurrection of Jesus Christ to his turning water into wine.

However, they came under sustained attack during the **Enlightenment**. Philosopher David Hume proposed a naturalist view of the world — that events can only be explained by physical and naturally occurring stimuli.

Are miracles possible?

By God

Of course, some argue. It is arrogant to claim that everything can be explained by science. Whether God intervenes in your life is a matter of faith. But allowing for the possibility of supernatural events, and the notion that nature's laws can be broken, is sound judgement.

Nonsense, others respond. Belief in miracles goes against the weight of humanity's collective experience of how the world works. People who witness "miracles" are often influenced by religious zeal or psychological stress.

Q & A

Q: What do we know?

A: While a lot of people believe that some form of miracle can happen, 38% of people stated

that these things are not necessarily related to God.

Q: What do we not know?

A: What explains the disparity between a belief in the possibility of miracles and a disbelief in

the role of God. It could be that some people believe that supernatural phenomena can take place in a non-religious way.

YOU DECIDE

Do you believe in miracles?

ACTIVITIES

In your own words, write a definition of the term "miracle". Share it with the class and discuss your ideas. How are they different and how are they similar? As a class, can you agree on the best definition?

SOME PEOPLE SAY...

"Miracles are not contrary to nature but only contrary to what we know about nature."
 Saint Augustine

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



WORD WATCH

14 hours – Authorities were amazed that Lily survived this long. She was subjected to extreme cold, was suspended upside down the whole time, and had no food or water.

Miracle – Defined by *Oxford Dictionaries* as “an extraordinary and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore attributed to a divine agency.”

Survey – Comres poll commissioned by the BBC.

Enlightenment – European intellectual movement of the late 17th and 18th centuries which emphasised reason and individualism rather than tradition and mysticism.



BECOME AN EXPERT

Read this article on [theday.co.uk](https://www.theday.co.uk) for links to recommended videos and further reading.



Notes

