

Miracles

What Are We Talking About?

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See also *Miracles: From God or Man?* by Jimmy Jividen

Oxford English Dictionary:

“A marvelous event . . . which cannot have been brought about by human power or by the operation of any natural agency, and must therefore be ascribed to the special intervention of the deity or of some supernatural being; chiefly, an act (ex. of healing) exhibiting control over the laws of nature . . . The agent is a person performing a miracle, therefore showing their words are from God”

The Current Situation

- Benny Hinn
- Millions believe miracles still occur today
- A great need for an accurate and scriptural understanding of miracles

Unnecessary Confusion

- The Scriptures reveal genuine, authentic miracles performed by God
- The New Testament clearly shows what a “miracle” is

New Testament Terms

To understand what is involved in New Testament miracles, we begin by examining the root meaning of the terms used to describe them:

- Miracles
- Wonders
 - Signs
 - Works

Miracles, Wonders, Signs, Works

Each word has shades of meaning, adding different dimensions to our understanding

- Three of these words occur together in two of the Scriptures in our present study
- Perhaps no one word can fully express the meaning of the miraculous event

Acts 2:22

“Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst”

- Three dimensions of Jesus' miracles
- Purpose of miracles: to show that Jesus was approved by God

Hebrews 2:4

“God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit”

- The author warns the Hebrew Christians not to neglect their salvation, stating that miracles confirmed the message of salvation

“Signs”

σημεῖον (*sēmeion*)

- As in English, “sign” points to something beyond itself
- A street sign is not the street, but points beyond itself to the street it identifies
- Miracles of the NT do not center on themselves; they have a greater purpose
- Point to God's approval of the man and the message (Mk. 16:20)

“Wonders”

τέρας (*teras*)

- Refers to the viewer's response of awe or fear to a miraculous event
- 16 occurrences, always with “signs”
- Acts 2:43
- Purpose: obedience (Rom. 15:18-19)

“Miracles”

δύναμις (*dunamis*)

- Means “power”
- We get “dynamite” and “dynamo”
- Reflects the power source of the miracle
- Superhuman power to suspend the laws of nature (Acts 1:8)
- Nicodemus recognized God's power (Jn. 3:2)

“Works”

ἔργον (*ergon*)

- Extensively used by John of Jesus' miraculous works
- Proved Jesus is the Christ (Jn. 10:24-25)
- John often uses “works” to refer to the miraculous works done by Jesus so that people would believe (Jn. 10:37-38)

Summary

- Miracles, wonders, signs, works reflect different aspects of the N. T. miracles
- Came from supernatural power
- Struck awe and wonder in the hearts of those who witnessed them
- Pointed to and confirmed God's message
- Works designed to produce faith