

He makes them stagger like drunkards [Job 12:25](#). He forms the light and creates darkness, He brings prosperity and creates disaster [Is 45:7](#). He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens above, and on the earth beneath [Da 6:27](#).

How do we discern counterfeit miracles? Miracles can either be from God, or the demonic world. For example, God performed miraculous signs and wonders to authenticate the message of His servants [Ex 4:30-31](#); [Mt 11:2-5](#); [Mk 9:39](#); [Jn 14:11](#); [2 Co 12:12](#). God also demonstrated His supreme and infinite power, when He performed miraculous signs and wonders that Pharaoh's magicians were unable to replicate [Ex 8:9-11, 18; 9:11](#). However, miracles can also be counterfeited [Ex 7:11-12, 22; 8:7, 9-11; 2 Th 2:9](#); [Rev 16:14; 19:20](#). The Bible states that the antichrist, or man of lawlessness will appear on the world scene, and deceive many people through signs and wonders. He will even make fire come down from heaven in the sight of men [2 Th 2:1-12](#); [Rev 13:13](#). Satan and evil spirits can also perform false signs [2 Th 2:9-10](#); [Rev 16:14](#). Jesus warns that there will be false Christs and false prophets, that will perform signs and wonders to lead many people astray [Mt 24:24](#); [Mk 13:22](#). Scripture gives us specific instructions on how to distinguish between true and false teachers and prophets; but not specifically how to recognize false miracles [Is 8:20](#); [1 Jn 4:2-6](#). **The methods for identifying true and false teachers or prophets are:** 1) Do they bring forth good fruit? Are their deeds Christlike? Is he/she qualified? [Mt 7:15-20](#); [1 Ti 3:1-13](#); [2 Ti 2:14-26](#) 2) After examining their teachings/prophecies, are they in line with scripture? [1 Ti 1:3-11](#); [1 Ti 6:1-21](#); [2 Pe 2](#); [Heb 4:12](#) 3) Are they both preaching/prophesying the truth, and living according to the truth? [1 Th 5:20-22](#); [2 Ti 3: 4:1-8](#); [Tit 1: 2](#). If the answers to these questions are negative, regardless of what kinds of miracles, or how many miracles are performed, they are false messengers.

Would you like to learn more about the power of God - His great miracles, awesome signs and mighty wonders? He is the one true, Creator God of the universe, and His miracles are life transforming! Let us give God the glory that is due His name [Ps 29:2](#). Declare His glory and mighty acts throughout the world, and may His name be exalted! [Ps 96:3](#).

Scriptural References:

Deuteronomy 7:19
Deuteronomy 26:8
1 Chronicles 16:9,12
Job 12:13-25
Psalm 17:7
Psalm 40:5
Psalm 65:8
Psalm 77:11-12,14
Psalm 78:4
Psalm 86:17
Psalm 89:5
Psalm 96:3
Psalm 105:2,5,27
Psalm 107:8,15,21,24,31
Psalm 111:4
Psalm 119:27
Psalm 136:4
Psalm 139:14
Psalm 105:1-45
Isaiah 25:1
Isaiah 29:14
Isaiah 44:25
Jeremiah 32:20
Matthew 11:20
Luke 21:11,25
John 12:37
John 21:24-25
Acts 4:30
Acts 7:36
Acts 8:6,13
Acts 13:41
Acts 15:12
Acts 19:11-20
Romans 15:19
Galatians 3:5

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Extraordinary Miracles, Signs & Wonders

What kinds of miracles, signs and wonders are mentioned in the Bible? Why did Jesus perform miracles? Does God still perform miracles today?

What do the words 'miracles,' 'signs,' 'wonders,' and 'works' mean? 1) **Dunamis** - The Greek word for "power" is dunamis, which means "mighty deed, miracle" Ac 2:22; "power" Ac 1:8; "strength, ability" Ac 4:33; "supernatural power" Mt 24:29; Mk 13:25; Lk 21:26; Eph 1:21. Most often translated as "miracles." According to the *Merriam Webster Dictionary*, the word "miracle" is defined as "an extraordinary event manifesting a supernatural work of God." It is something that occurs beyond natural explanation. God's miracles are described as marvellous things Ps 78:12 (KJV); marvellous works 1 Chr 16:12, 24; Ps 9:1; 105:5; 139:14; Rev 15:3 (KJV). Miracles manifest the glory of God Ps 96:3; Jn 11:4, and of Christ Jn 2:11. Miracles demonstrate the life-giving power of God. For example, God raised Jesus from the dead Ac 2:24; 3:15. Also, miracles display supernatural power of healing. For example, Jesus healing a man born blind Jn 9:1-12. Miracles should produce faith and obedience Dt 11:1-3; Dt 29:3,9; Jn 20:30-31. Miracles cause great amazement Hab 1:5; Mt 8:27; Mt 13:56; Mk 6:2. Miracles describe extraordinary healings of the apostles Ac 19:11. Miraculous powers is one of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor 12:8-10, and is distributed by God according to His sovereign will (*Read Tract - 'Gifts Of The Holy Spirit'*) Mt 10:1; Lk 9:1; 1 Cor 12:8-11,28-30. The marks of a true apostle include miracles, signs and wonders Ac 2:43; 5:12; 2 Cor 12:12. 2) **Semeion** - a "sign" is an indicator of God's presence and purpose. Foretells extraordinary events soon to happen. Great heavenly signs will introduce the Day of the Lord. There will be awesome, astronomical phenomena in the sun, moon and stars, for all to see on the earth Joel 2:28-31; Lk 21:11,25; Ac 2:17-22 (*Read Tract - 'Heavenly Signs'*). A sign is evidence of a divine commission and message Ex 4:1-5; Mk 16:20; Jn 2:11,18,23; Ac 6:8. Jesus fulfilled prophecy about His death and resurrection. The Lord may perform signs and wonders directly, or through human agents Ac 14:3. According to Mk 16:15-18, specific signs will accompany true believers, including: (i) casting out demons, (ii) speaking in tongues, (iii) not getting hurt from snakes and poison, (iv) laying hands on the sick, and all which they will recover. 3) **Teras** - "wonder, prodigy, portent, miracle," producing astonishment Da 4:2-3; Ac 19; Heb 2:4. The Lord may grant signs and wonders to be done by, or through human agents Ac 2:43; 5:12; 6:8; 14:3; 15:12. 4) **Ergon** - "act, work, workmanship" Jn 5:20, 36; Eph 2:10. Works bear witness and validate Jesus' claim and declaration of relationship with God the Father Jn 10:25; 14:11. Jesus said that those who believe in Him will perform even greater works than He did Jn 14:12. Believing in Jesus, who was sent by God the Father, is the vital "work" God calls for, and it leads to eternal life Jn 6:29,40. Our good works give glory to God the Father in heaven Mt 5:14-16.

What was the meaning and purpose of the ten plagues on Egypt? God multiplied His signs and wonders, with ten catastrophes upon Egypt, to convince Pharaoh to free the Israelites from their harsh slavery, which they endured for 400 years. God appointed Moses, His servant, to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God promised to display His wonders as confirmation of Moses' authority Ex 3:20. This confirmation served 2 purposes. 1) To demonstrate to the Israelites that God is alive, all-powerful, and worthy of their worship. 2) To demonstrate to the Egyptians that their variety of nature "gods" whom they worshipped were lifeless and useless. **1st Plague - Blood:** Ex 7:14-24; 2nd Plague - Frogs: Ex 8:1-15; 3rd Plague - Gnats: Ex 8:16-19; 4th Plague - Flies: Ex 8:20-32; 5th Plague - On Livestock: Ex 9:1-7; 6th Plague - Boils: Ex 9:8-12; 7th Plague - Hail: Ex 9:13-35; 8th Plague - Locusts - Ex 10:1-20; 9th Plague - Darkness: Ex 10:21-29; 10th Plague - On Firstborn - Ex 11:1-10. The 10 plagues are described in greater detail in Ex 7-12. The parting and crossing of the Red Sea was a spectacular event, where the Lord displayed His awesome power, to deliver the Israelites from their slavery, bondage and tyranny in Egypt Ex 12-15; Dt 10:21; Ps 106:8-12; Heb 11:29.

What kinds of miracles did Jesus perform? cleanses a leper - Mt 8:1-4; heals a centurion's servant - Mt 8:5-13; heals Peter's mother-in-law - Mt 8:14-15; calms the storm - Mt 8:23-27; heals 2 demon-possessed Gadarene men - Mt 8:28-34; heals a paralytic - Mt 9:1-8; Jairus' daughter restored to life, and a woman with internal bleeding healed - Lk 8:40-56; the man with a withered hand - Mt 12:9-14; feeding the five thousand - Mk 6:30-44; walks on water - Mt 14:22-33; Canaanite woman's daughter healed - Mt 15:21-28; cures many people - Mt 15:29-31; feeding the four thousand - Mt 15:32-39; cures a demon-possessed boy - Mk 9:14-29; drives out impure spirit - Mk 1:21-28; multitudes healed - Mk 3:7-12; heals the demon-possessed Gerasene man Mk 5:1-20; healing the sick in Gennesaret - Mk 6:53-56; heals a deaf and mute man - Mk 7:31-37; cures a blind man at Bethsaida - Mk 8:22-26; healing of blind Bartimaeus - Mk 10:46-52; teaches and heals - Lk 6:17-19; raises widow's son at Nain - Lk 7:11-17; heals a crippled woman - Lk 13:10-17; heals the man with dropsy - Lk 14:1-6; cleanses ten lepers - Lk 17:11-19; blind beggar receives sight - Lk 18:35-43; water turned to wine - Jn 2:1-12; heals an invalid on the Sabbath - Jn 5:1-18; a man born blind receives sight - Jn 9:1-12; raises Lazarus to life - Jn 11:38-44; official's son healed - Jn 4:43-54; draught of fishes - Lk 5:4-6; Jn 21:5-6; demon possessed mute man healed - Lk 11:14-26; cures the fig tree - Mk 11:12-25; Malchus' ear restored - Lk 22:49-51. Jesus performed many other miracles, not recorded in the Bible Jn 20:30; 21:25.

Why did God the Father, and Jesus the Son, perform miracles? 1) Jesus demonstrated His supreme power and authority over: (i) **Nature**. For example: walking on water Mt 14:22-33; calming the storm Mt 8:23-27; multiplying bread and feeding five thousand people Mt 14:13-21. (ii) **Sickness through instantaneous healings**. For example: a man with leprosy Mt 8:1-4; a deaf and mute man Mk 7:31-37; and a crippled woman Lk 13:10-17. (iii) **Death**. For example: raising of a widow's son Lk 7:11-17; raised a dead girl Mt 9:18-26. (iv) **Evil spirits**. For example, restoring two demon-possessed men Mt 8:28-34; healing of a demon-possessed boy Mt 17:14-21; restores a demon-possessed man Mk 5:1-20. (v) **Forgiveness of sins** - Mt 9:6. Jesus performed miracles through the divine power of God the Father. Jesus stated that He could do nothing by Himself Jn 5:19,30; 14:10, 21. 2) Jesus testified that He was sent from God the Father, as the divine representative of the coming Kingdom of God: Mk 1:15; Jhn 14:11, 3) **Fulfilled prophecy**: Jesus used miracles to prove that He was the promised Messiah Is 42:7; Mt 11:4-6; 12:40; Lk 7:20-22; Ac 2:22. Miracles are an irrefutable and conclusive proof of Christ's divine mission Jn 5:20, 36; 10:25, 38. The preaching of the gospel was confirmed by signs Mk 16:20. The main objective of miracles is to demonstrate the supremacy, authority and power of God. God's mighty acts show forth divine kingship Ex 10:2; Ps 145:10-20; Hab 3:2. Miracles are evidence of God's presence and great power, and invite human praise Ps 77:14; 78:4, 145. **Miracles meet various human needs:** (i) **Miracles bring God's judgment** - 2 Ch 26:19-20; Ac 5:10; Ac 13:11. (ii) **Miraculous births** - Ge 18:10-14; Jdg 13:2-3; 1 Sa 1:20; 2 Ki 4:14-17; Lk 1:34-37. (iii) **Miracles involve military victory** - Ex 12:29-36; 2 Ch 32:21; Jos 10:12-14; 1 Sa 7:10-12. (iv) **Miraculous help in trouble** - Da 6:27; Ps 91:11-12; Da 6:19-23; Mt 8:23-27; Mk 4:36-41; Lk 8:22-25; Ac 12:6-11; 16:25-26. (v) **Gifts of supernatural strength** - Jdg 14:5-6; Jdg 14:19; 1 Ki 18:46. Miracles are part of God's

redemptive plan 2 Sa 7:23; Ac 2:22-24; Heb 2:3-4. **Miracles happen at times of special importance and significance:** (i) At the time of the exodus - Ex 3:2-3; Ex 7:3-4; Ex 16:11-15; Ex 17:6-7. (ii) At times of national religious crisis - 1 Ki 18:30-39; 2 Ki 3:16-25; 2 Ki 4:3-7, 40-41. (iii) At the time of Jesus' ministry - Mt 14:15-21; Mk 6:35-44; Lk 9:12-17; Jn 6:5-13; Jn 11:38-44. (iv) In the time of the early Christians - Lk 10:17; Ac 8:6, 13; Ac 19:11-12. God's true servants were identified in 2 ways: 1) Their divinely inspired messages were always clear, direct, accurate and specific - Ex 4:30-31; Am 3:7; 2 Pe 1:21, 2) The performance of miracles to confirm the authenticity of God's message. Ex 17:1-7; 1 Ki 18:2; Ki 2:23-24; Mt 11:2-5; Mk 9:39; 16:20; Lk 10:9,17; Jn 10:38; 2 Co 12:12. Miracles were designed to authenticate and validate God's message and His messengers - to show that they were truly sent by Him. Signs were also performed by messengers of God, as evidence of their divine calling Ex 4:1-17; Dt 34:10-12. Preaching of God's word was confirmed by miracles, signs and wonders Mk 16:20; Heb 2:4. Those who worked miracles accredited the power to God Ac 3:12. Throughout the Old Testament, the primary method God used to communicate His message was through prophets. God still continues to display His power in miraculous ways today, as when Jesus did when He introduced Himself to His early followers, whose miracle-working power came from God the Father. God can and does work through anyone whom He chooses, in whatever way He chooses Ps 135:6. With the complete canon of scripture though, God mainly communicates His will and purpose for man, through the Bible - His infallible word Ps 19:7. Therefore, we allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us through the scriptures. This is how we become spiritually mature Christians. God's wonders should always be remembered, and spoken of, so that all generations may praise His mighty deeds 1 Ch 16:12; Ps 105:5; Ex 10:2; Ps 77:11-12. God may, according to His sovereign grace and mercy, choose to miraculously provide specific help to people on a case-by-case basis 2 Ki 4:1-7; Ro 9:15, or He may choose to harden a person's heart, for specific purposes Ex 7:1-6; 10:1; Jos 11:20; Ro 9:18.

Are we to seek after miraculous signs and wonders? God Almighty is a God of wonders Ps 136:4. He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, who has the power and authority to do whatever He pleases to fulfill His purposes, in the heavens above, and on the earth beneath. As mentioned earlier, miracles were a part of the ministries of God's servants, mainly to confirm that their message was from God, and that they truly were sent by God Heb 2:3-4. Examples include Moses, Elijah and Elisha, and Jesus and the apostles. In Jesus' day, people expected the performance of signs as 'evidence' of supernatural power and authority Mt 16:1. In Elijah's day, fire came from heaven to consume the burnt sacrifice, and demonstrate that the Lord alone was God 1 Ki 18:17-40. However, Jesus warns us about seeking after signs and wonders, rather than seeking the truth of God's word Mt 12:39. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders who asked Him for a sign, and described a generation that seeks only after signs and wonders, as a wicked and adulterous generation. He was referring to spiritual adultery, because their generation had become unfaithful to God, its spiritual husband Mt 12:38-42; 16:1,4; Mk 8:11; Lk 11:16; 23:8.

What were people's responses to miracles? - Both positive and negative responses to miracles are recorded in the Bible. For example: **Faith** - Jn 7:31; Ac 9:33-35,40-42; Ac 13:12. Some responded in faith and obedience. For example, the widow gave Elijah her last meal before she could be miraculously provided for 1 Ki 17:13-15. Whilst others, rebelled and still did not believe Jn 12:37. **Temporary faith** - Ex 15:20-24; 16:1-3; 17:3; Nu 20:3-5; Lk 17:17-18; Jn 2:23-24; 6:49. **Trust** - Ex 14:31. **Amazement** - Da 3:24; Mt 15:31; Mk 7:37; Ac 3:9-10; 8:13; 12:16. **Delight** - Lk 13:17. **Praise and worship** - Ex 4:30-31; 15:11,21; Ps 9:1; Da 3:28; 4:2-3; 6:26-27; Mt 15:31; Lk 17:15-16; 19:37; Ac 3:8; 4:21-22. **Closer attention paid to God's word** - 1 Ki 17:24; Ac 8:6. **Fear** - Mk 5:15-17; Lk 8:36-37; Ac 5:5,11; 19:17. **Disbelief** - Ge 17:17-18; 18:12-13; Nu 14:11; Lk 1:18,20; Ac 12:14-15. **Hardness of heart** - Ex 7:3-4; 8:19; 11:10; Ps 78:32; Mt 11:20-22; Lk 10:13-14; Jn 9:18,28-29; Jn 10:25-26; 12:37; 15:24. **Opposition** - Jn 11:47-48; Ac 6:8-9; 16:19-21. **Disobedience and rebellion** - Nu 14:22-23; Ps 78:11-22,42-43; 106:7. **Jealousy** - Ac 8:18-19. Jesus did not perform many miracles in His own hometown because of their unbelief, since they ignored His power and rejected Him Mt 13:57-58. Therefore, miracles are limited by insufficient faith Mk 6:5-6. Miracles require faith Mt 14:28-31; 17:14-20. In 2 Ki 4:3-6, the number of jars limited the supply of oil. Those who performed miracles were required to have faith Mt 17:20; 21:21; Jn 14:12; Ac 6:8. Faith was also required in those for whom miracles were performed Mt 9:28; Ac 3:16; 14:8-10. Faith is the crucial principle that we need for awesome miraculous signs and wonders to happen in our lives. Jesus said all things are possible for one who believes Mk 9:23. The wicked desire to see miracles Mt 27:42; Lk 11:29; 23:8, and they often acknowledge the performance of miracles Jn 11:47; Ac 4:16.

What other miracles, signs and wonders are mentioned in the Bible: God alone performs innumerable and astounding miracles, signs and wonders Job 9:10; Is 29:14. There is nothing too hard for Him Ps 136:4; Jer 32:17. God demonstrates His control over nature and weather disasters Nu 16:30-34. He sends the rain and causes the thunder Job 37:4-6; Is 30:30. He brings out the stars one by one and calls them by name Is 40:26. Every work of creation is an act of God's divine intervention (providence) Ps 104. He shows His might through the seas and rivers Ex 14:21-27; Ps 107:33. God displays His justice and righteousness. For example, Sodom and Gomorrah, Egypt, Canaanites, Assyrians, king Abimelech, Korah, and others Ge 12:17; 19:1-29; Ex 12:17; Nu 17: 2 Sa 6:7; Jos 6; 2 Ki 19:35. God also demonstrates His miracles of provision Ex 15:22-27; 16:1-36. God must "make a new thing," for people to know His rulership Nu 16:30. To destroy evil doers - rain, hail, fire and brimstone are stored in the heavens and sent at just the right time and quantity Ge 19:24; Ex 9:22-24; Job 37:6; 38:22; Ps 18:13; Jer 10:13. God changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them Da 2:21. God gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning Da 2:21. God is the judge: He humbles one, and exalts another Ps 75:7; Mt 23:12. The Lord shatters the mighty and sets up others in their place Job 34:24. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak Is 40:29-31. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him Da 2:22. The Lord sends poverty and wealth 1 Sa 2:7. He foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners. He overthrows the learning of the wise, turning it into nonsense Is 44:25. What He tears down cannot be rebuilt; the man He imprisons cannot be released Job 12:14. He brings drought, by holding back the waters; he lets the waters loose, to flood and devastate the land Job 12:15. Power and victory belongs to the Lord Ex 14:14; Job 12:16; Pr 21:31; 2 Ch 25:8. He leads rulers and priests away stripped. He overthrows officials long established. He makes fools of judges Job 12:17,19. He removes the shackles put on by kings and ties a loincloth around their waist Job 12:18. He silences the lips of trusted advisers and takes away the discernment of elders Job 12:20. He pours contempt on nobles and disarms the mighty Job 12:21; Ps 107:40. He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and disperses them Job 12:23. He deprives the leaders of the earth of their reason; He makes them wander in a trackless waste Job 12:24. They grope in darkness with no light;