

## MIRACLES

### The Signs of the Kingdom of God

Jesus accompanies his words with many "mighty works and wonders and signs," which manifest that the kingdom is present in him and attest that he was the promised Messiah.<sup>268</sup>

The signs worked by Jesus attest that the Father has sent him. They invite belief in him.<sup>269</sup> To those who turn to him in faith, he grants what they ask.<sup>270</sup> So miracles strengthen faith in the One who does his Father's works; they bear witness that he is the Son of God.<sup>271</sup>

*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 547-548*

<sup>268</sup> Acts 2:22; cf. Lk 7:18-23.

<sup>269</sup> Cf. Jn 5:36; 10:25, 38.

<sup>270</sup> Cf. Mk 5:25-34; 10:52; etc.

<sup>271</sup> Cf. Jn 10:31-38.

### Faith and Understanding

What moves us to believe is not the fact that revealed truths appear as true and intelligible in the light of our natural reason: we believe "because of the authority of God himself who reveals them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived."<sup>28</sup> So "that the submission of our faith might nevertheless be in accordance with reason, God willed that external proofs of his Revelation should be joined to the internal helps of the Holy Spirit."<sup>29</sup> Thus the miracles of Christ and the saints, prophecies, the Church's growth and holiness, and her fruitfulness and stability "are the most certain signs of divine Revelation, adapted to the intelligence of all"; they are "motives of credibility" (*motiva credibilitatis*), which show that the assent of faith is "by no means a blind impulse of the mind."<sup>30</sup>

Faith is certain. It is more certain than all human knowledge because it is founded on the very word of God who cannot lie. To be sure, revealed truths can seem obscure to human reason and experience, but "the certainty that the divine light gives is greater than that which the light of natural reason gives."<sup>31</sup> "Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt."<sup>32</sup>

*CCC 156-157*

<sup>28</sup> *Dei Filius* 3: DS 3008.

<sup>29</sup> *Dei Filius* 3: DS 3009.

<sup>30</sup> *Dei Filius* 3: DS 3008-10; cf. Mk 16:20; Heb 2:4.

<sup>31</sup> St. Thomas Aquinas, *STh* II-II, 171, 5, obj. 3.

<sup>32</sup> John Henry Cardinal Newman, *Apologia pro vita sua* (London: Longman, 1878), 239.

# What Did You Learn About Miracles?

for younger saints

1. Miracles are:
  - a. something that happens when we are really, really good.
  - b. something to give us greater faith in God.
  - c. things that happen only to sick people.
  - d. all of the above.
2. True or False: Miracles are the power of God working in extraordinary, unexpected ways.
3. True or False: There are three qualifications (or steps) that must occur for something to truly be called a miracle.
4. Miracles help to build people's:
  - a. faith
  - b. fortune
  - c. forgetfulness
  - d. failures
5. One place that we can read about many of Jesus' miracles is in:
  - a. the newspaper.
  - b. the dictionary.
  - c. the Bible.
  - d. all of the above.
6. Recite your memory verse for this month.

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## Quiz Answers

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  - c. things that happen only to sick people.
  - d. all of the above.
2. True or False: Miracles are the power of God working in extraordinary, unexpected ways. **True**
3. True or False: There are three qualifications (or steps) that must occur for something to truly be called a miracle. **True**
4. Miracles help to build people's:
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5. One place that we can read about many of Jesus' miracles is in:
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  - c. the Bible.
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6. Recite your memory verse for this month.

**In the presence of the tabernacle, genuflect (touch your right knee to the floor) while making the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father (touch forehead with right hand), and of the Son (touch chest), and of the Holy (touch left shoulder) Spirit (touch right shoulder). Amen."** (fold hands).

# What Did You Learn About Miracles?

for older saints

1. Miracles are the power of God working in an \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ way.
  - a. external, unrelated
  - b. extraordinary, unexpected
  - c. exciting, uncalculated
  - d. exploratory, undue
2. In the Bible, there are many stories of miracles. Which of the following is not a miracle?
  - a. Moses parting the Red Sea
  - b. Jesus healing the leper
  - c. Jesus going into the desert to pray
  - d. Jesus multiplying the loaves and fishes
3. What three of these words describe the attributes of God?
  - a. omniscience
  - b. omnipotence
  - c. omnitheater
  - d. omnipresence
4. Which of the following are examples of agents through which God works miracles?
  - a. an object
  - b. a person
  - c. an angel
  - d. all of the above
5. True or False: All miracles happen through the power of God.
6. Recite the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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  - d. all of the above
5. True or False: All miracles happen through the power of God.
- True
6. Recite the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. **The Beatitudes:** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *Matthew 5:3-10*