

Many religious people today believe that you have to be able to speak in unknown tongues to be saved.

In 2006, the cover of Time Magazine asked "Can We still believe in miracles?"



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Time related how a child with a brain tumor had physicians who gave her only a 1 in 5 chance of surviving. An Episcopalian priest anointed her citing Ja 5:14 with consecrated oil. After the operation they found it was an infection, with no cancer at all.

Another example given was of a teenage daughter hit by car. The Dr. said there was no hope. But the girl recovered from her coma.

Yet another man was hit by
600 amps of 575 volts. He spent
a long time in burn unit but
recovered

For another person a kidney stone
disappeared.

The question was asked “Why do some cancers vanish while others consume? Why do people starve if 5 loaves could feed 5000?”

The Catholic church has weeping Madonnas and tortillas that bleed. When people pray to a Saint, some are healed, others are not..

Pentecostals are the fastest
growing churches in the US.

“People don't come to listen
they come to do.”

One skeptical Pastor was quoted saying “Miracles are like crack cocaine; you never get enough of them.”

What does the Bible teach about
the miraculous gifts?

First, the apostles received the
ability to do miracles.

Acts 1:4 And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Acts 2:14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give heed to my words. 15 "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; 16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

The Holy Spirit was received in
the same way by Cornelius.

Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. 45 And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also.

46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

We want to notice that the Holy Spirit was not given for salvation

Acts 11:13 "And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa, and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; 14 and he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' 15

"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He did upon us at the beginning.

Getting the Holy Spirit as Cornelius and his household did was not a normal occurrence

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Notice that receiving the Holy Spirit required the apostle's hands after this experience Cornelius had to show that the Gentiles should be allowed into the church.

When Philip preached in Samaria, he could not give these miraculous gifts to others.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. 13 And even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, 15 who came down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 8:18 Now when Simon saw
that the Spirit was bestowed
through the laying on of the
apostles' hands, he offered them
money,

When Paul met the disciples of John, who didn't even know about the Holy Spirit, he baptized them and then — he laid his hands upon them and then they spoke in tongues!

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

Paul was the last of the apostles
of Jesus Christ, all of whom were
eyewitnesses of Jesus
resurrection.

1Co 15:8 and last of all, as to one
untimely born, He appeared to me
also.

Acts 1:21 "It is therefore necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us – 22 beginning with the baptism of John, until the day that He was taken up from us - one of these should become a witness with us of His resurrection."

Some of these things reported in Time Magazine are truly amazing but they are not miracles.

A miracle sets aside the laws of nature with no possible explanation by natural means.

Lets look at a Biblical example of a miracle.

Acts 3:2 And a certain man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.

Acts 3:4 And Peter, along with John,
fixed his gaze upon him and said,
"Look at us!" 5 And he began to
give them his attention, expecting to
receive something from them. 6 But
Peter said, "I do not possess silver
and gold, but what I do have I give
to you: in the name of Jesus Christ
the Nazarene - walk!"

7 And seizing him by the right hand,
he raised him up; and immediately
his feet and his ankles were
strengthened. 8 And with a leap, he
stood upright and began to walk;
and he entered the temple with
them, walking and leaping and
praising God. 9 And all the people
saw him walking and praising God;

Medicine is an inexact science and people are misdiagnosed on a daily basis. Tumors are mistaken for infections and vice versa.

Atheists sometimes recover from
comas while sometimes
Christians do not.

People recover from horrible accidents, regardless of their religious conviction while atheists do the same.

The question “Why do some cancers vanish while others consume? Why do people starve if 5 loaves could feed 5000?”, is answered by Matt 5:45.

Mt 5:45 in order that you may be
sons of your Father who is in
heaven; for He causes His sun to
rise on the evil and the good, and
sends rain on the righteous and
the unrighteous.

We must distinguish between the marvelous and the miraculous. Truly many things are marvelous but God used the miraculous for a special time and purpose.

The apostles did not use their powers to heal loved ones, but to confirm the word of God.

2 Tim 4:20 Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.

Phil 2:25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; 26 because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

Mark 16:20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.]

That word has been confirmed by
the signs and miracles Jesus and
His apostles did and is now
preached to you.

Mark 16:15 And He said to them,
"Go into all the world and preach
the gospel to all creation. 16 "He
who has believed and has been
baptized shall be saved; but he
who has disbelieved shall be
condemned.