



Belief in miracles is one of the cornerstones of Catholic faith and, indeed, of all Christian tradition. But what are miracles, and why are they so important to Catholics? Are they merely extraordinary events that challenge our understanding of nature, or is there something deeper to them—a reality pointing to the presence and action of God in the world? In this article, we will explore the meaning and purpose of miracles from the Catholic perspective, considering their history, theological foundation, and relevance for the spiritual life of each believer.

## 1. What Is a Miracle in the Catholic Faith?

In general terms, a miracle is defined as an event that transcends the laws of nature and cannot be explained by human means. For Catholics, miracles are a manifestation of God's power and mercy, a divine intervention that shows His love and purpose in our lives. The Church does not see miracles as "supernatural tricks," but as signs of God's closeness—a divine language that invites us to have faith, to trust, and to recognize His presence in the world.

According to the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**, miracles are "signs and wonders" that point toward the Kingdom of God and confirm the truth of divine revelation (CCC, 548). This approach sees miracles as spiritual tools that nourish faith, strengthen hope, and encourage us to live in love and fidelity to God.

## 2. Miracles in Scripture: The Bible as Witness of Divine Intervention

Belief in miracles is deeply rooted in the Bible. From the Old Testament, we see how God performs wonders beyond human capability, such as the parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21) to free the people of Israel or the manna in the desert to feed them on their journey (Exodus 16:4-35). These acts not only serve an immediate purpose but are also signs of God's covenant and paternal care.

In the **New Testament**, miracles reach a high point in the life and work of Jesus Christ. He performs numerous signs, such as healing the sick, raising Lazarus, and ultimately, His own resurrection. Jesus does not perform these miracles to display power but to reveal the compassionate and merciful nature of God. His miracles are directed toward the good of others, especially the poor, the sick, and the marginalized, and always point toward the conversion of the heart.

A central aspect of Jesus's miracles is their ability to awaken faith. On several occasions, Jesus says to the recipients of His miracles, "Your faith has saved you" (Mark 5:34, Luke



7:50). Here, the miracle is not only a divine intervention but a call to respond with faith and live in communion with God.

### 3. The Theological Perspective: Miracles as Signs of the Kingdom of God

In Catholic theology, miracles are understood as signs pointing to the ultimate reality of the **Kingdom of God**. Jesus came to announce the Kingdom, which is the saving and transformative presence of God in the world. His miracles are “proofs” that this Kingdom has begun to manifest here and now, even though its fullness is reserved for the end of times.

St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the Church’s greatest theologians, explained that miracles are special interventions that God performs to help us see His power and love. They do not violate creation or contradict nature but exceed our natural laws, reminding us that God is the author of all creation and therefore sovereign over it. In this sense, miracles are not opposed to reason but elevate us to a deeper understanding of the mystery of God.

Miracles, according to this perspective, call us to live in the hope that God is in control, even in circumstances that seem desperate. They are an invitation to remember that our life does not depend solely on our own efforts, but on a God who loves us and desires the best for us.

### 4. Faith and Reason: Accepting Miracles in the Modern World

In an age marked by scientific advancement and skepticism, belief in miracles faces many challenges. Faith and reason are often viewed as conflicting forces, especially when it comes to accepting the possibility of divine interventions in the natural world. However, the Catholic Church holds that faith and reason are compatible and, in fact, complement each other.

The Church does not deny scientific progress or the value of rational knowledge; on the contrary, it welcomes them as gifts from God. Accepting miracles does not imply rejecting science but recognizing that there are realities beyond our limited understanding. Science can explain the “how” of many phenomena but not necessarily the “why.” Miracles, in this sense, do not challenge scientific logic but invite us to open ourselves to a spiritual dimension that gives meaning and direction to our lives.

### 5. Modern Miracles: Cases and Criteria for Authenticity

Miracles are not just part of ancient stories. The Catholic Church continues to investigate and recognize miracles, especially in the context of canonizations of saints or extraordinary events such as Marian apparitions. Each supposed miracle is rigorously investigated by the



Church, which establishes clear criteria for its authenticity. Only after exhaustive medical and scientific studies, and verifying that there is no possible natural explanation, does the Church declare an event as miraculous.

**Examples of recent miracles** include instantaneous healings from incurable diseases, Eucharistic phenomena, and Marian apparitions like those in Lourdes or Fatima. These events remind the faithful that God continues to act in the world and invites us to approach Him with faith and humility.

## 6. Practical Application: Living Open to the Presence of God

Belief in miracles invites us to live in a particular way, with eyes and hearts open to God's presence and love. Here are some practical tips for integrating this perspective into our daily lives:

- **Recognize the small daily wonders:** Not all miracles are spectacular; many go unnoticed in the everyday. Every sunrise, every act of kindness, every step of inner growth can be seen as an expression of God's presence in our lives.
- **Ask God with faith, but trust in His will:** We can and should ask for miracles in our lives, but always from a place of trust in God's will. Let us remember that, in the end, what God wants for us is our greatest good, even if His ways are difficult for us to understand.
- **Live in gratitude:** Gratitude is a natural response to recognizing God's gifts in our lives. Living with a grateful heart not only strengthens our faith but also opens us to receive God's grace and comfort in every situation.
- **Be signs of God's mercy to others:** Just as Jesus' miracles pointed to God's love, we too can be a reflection of this love in the world. Helping those in need, comforting those who suffer, and living with compassion and generosity are practical ways of being "miracles" for others.

## 7. Conclusion: Faith in Miracles as an Expression of Life in God

Belief in miracles is not mere credulity; it is a faith response to God's revelation that, since the beginning of creation, has shown His love and power. Miracles remind us that the God in whom we believe is neither distant nor indifferent; He is present and active, interested in every aspect of our lives.

In a world that often seeks answers solely in rational terms, faith in miracles invites us to open ourselves to a deeper understanding of reality. It reminds us that, while we may not



control everything, there is a God who has the power and desire to intervene for our good. By believing in miracles, we join the history of believers who, over the centuries, have experienced God's closeness and have been witnesses to His work in their lives.

May this faith in divine intervention inspire us to live with hope, trust, and gratitude, confident that God continues to act in the world and in each one of us, always inviting us to a deeper and transformative relationship with Him.