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*The miracles performed by Jesus are intended to reveal His glory.
They reveal His person and His work.*

Chester A. McCalley

Words of the Faith

Miracles — Four Words

We need to examine the four words used for miracles in the New Testament. Each of them views miracles from a different perspective.

- A miracle may be described from the standpoint of effect produced. This word (τέρας = *teras*) is translated “wonder(s)” and considers the effect the miracle had on those who observed it. Upon the healing of a paralytic the people “were amazed” and said, “We have never seen anything like this (Mark 2:12).” When Jesus calmed a storm, “they (the disciples) were greatly astonished

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Suggested Studies

Study in Romans

As we near the end of our study in Romans, the next section addresses the conduct of believers, towards fellow believers, unbelievers, and those in authority over us.

- N-Rom 100 Conduct Among God’s Family, part 1 12:10-13
- N-Rom 101 Conduct Among God’s Family, part 2 12:10-13
- N-Rom 102 Blessing the Persecutor 12:14
- N-Rom 103 Christian Reactions 12:17-21
- N-Rom 104 Introduction to Government, Chapter 13
- N-Rom 105 Leadership Authority 13:1-3
- N-Rom 106 Duties of Government 13:3-5
- N-Rom 107 The Believer and Taxes 13:5-7
- N-Rom 108 Paying Bills, part 1 13:8
- N-Rom 109 Paying Bills, part 2 13:8

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(Mark 6:51)." Jesus made a deaf man hear and those who saw it "were utterly astonished... (Mark 7:37)." Acts 2:22 lists the performing of wonders as part of Jesus' accreditation from God. This word never stands alone to describe a miracle; it is always accompanied by another word. Why? Because wonder and amazement

is subjective matter that rests on emotion. God wants us to do more than stand in amazement; He wants us to learn about the person who performed the miracles.

- A miracle may be described from the standpoint of the message taught. The word that indicates what is taught (σημεῖον = *sameion*) is translated "sign" or "miracle." Signs always point beyond themselves to what they teach. John 20:30-31 is a good example: Signs are intended to teach us that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God..."

- Miracles may be described from the standpoint of the power displayed. They are thus called "powers" (δύναμις = *dunamis*). See Matthew 11:20, 21, 23 for this word.

- Lastly, miracles may be described from the standpoint of that which is normal and natural to God. As such they are called "works" (ἔργον = *ergon*). □

