

Miracles in Acts

1. Jesus was validated by miracles (Luke 4:14, 18–19; 7:22–23; Acts 2:22; 10:38–39; Heb 2:3b–4; Josephus, *Ant.* 18 §63–64).
2. Miracles were a platform for preaching and evangelism for the Apostles (Acts 3:12; 5:12–16; 15:12), Stephen (Acts 6:8), and Philip (Acts 8:6, 13, 18).
3. The first century world did not draw a distinction between the natural and supernatural world. Hence, the reality of miracles was assumed, not proved. What had to be proved was whence the power came—from good or evil spiritual forces (cf. Acts 14:15–19; 2 Thess 2:9).
4. Miracles in the Gospels are done exclusively by Jesus’ authority. In Acts, likewise, they are done in *his* name (cf. 3:12, 16; 19:13–15)
 - There are seven exorcisms in the Gospels but only one in Acts
 - Jesus performs three nature miracles but none are performed by humans in Acts
 - In the Gospels no humans are punished through miracles but there are three human deaths and two people blinded (temporarily) in Acts.
5. There is a clear comparison between Peter’s and Paul’s miracles in Acts:

Peter	Paul
“many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles” (2:43)	Paul and Barnabas (the apostles) did many miracles and signs in Iconium (14:3–4)
Lame Man from birth (3:1–10)	Lame Man from birth (14:8–11)
Earthquake ends a Prayer meeting (4:31)	Earthquake ends prayers sung to God (16:26)
Curses Ananias and Sapphira (5:1–11)	Curses Elymas (13:8–12)
Healing with a shadow (5:15)	Healing with a handkerchief (19:12)
Peter grants miraculous gifts through hands (8:17)	Paul grants miraculous gifts through hands (19:6)
Raises Tabitha from the dead (9:40)	Raises Eutychus from the dead (20:9–12)
Peters chains loosed (12:7)	Paul’s chains fell off (16:26)

Categories of miracles in Acts:**Done by:**

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| I. | Resuscitations | |
| 1. | Peter raises Tabitha (9:36-42) | Peter |
| 2. | Paul raises Eutychus (20:9-12) | Paul |
| II. | Healings Exorcisms | |
| 1. | Peter & John heal the lame man at the Temple gate (3:1-16) | Peter & John |
| 2. | Ananias cures Saul of his blindness (9:17-18) | Ananias |
| 3. | Peter heals the paralytic Aeneas (9:33-35) | Peter |
| 4. | Paul cures the lame man of Lystra (14:7-9) | Paul |
| 5. | Paul heals Publius' father of dysentery (28:7-8) | Paul |
| III. | Exorcisms | |
| 1. | Paul exorcises girl possessed of divining spirit (16:16-18) | Paul |
| IV. | Punishments | |
| 1. | Peter strikes Ananias and Saphira dead (5:5-11) | Peter |
| 2. | Saul struck blind on the road to Damascus (9:8-9) | God |
| 3. | Herod slain by an angel (12:23) | Angel |
| 4. | Paul temporarily blinds the sorcerer Elymas (13:9-12) | Paul |
| V. | Cosmic Miracles | |
| 1. | Sound of a wind and sight like a fire at Pentecost (2:2-6) | Spirit |
| 2. | Earthquake at a prayer meeting (4:31) | God |
| 3. | Philip snatched by the Spirit (8:39) | Spirit |
| 4. | Paul shakes off viper from his arm (28:3-6) | God |
| VI. | Miraculous escapes | |
| 1. | Prison doors open for the Apostles (5:17-25) | Angel |
| 2. | Peter released from prison by an angel (12:5-11) | Angel |
| 3. | Chains fall from Paul and Silas (16:25-30) | God |
| VII. | Collective Miracles | |
| 1. | Many signs and wonders done by the Apostles in Jerusalem (2:43) | Apostles |
| 2. | Apostles perform signs and wonders among the people (5:12) | Apostles |
| 3. | Peter's shadow cures many in the streets (5:15) | Peter |
| 4. | Multitudes from outside Jerusalem are healed (5:16) | Peter |
| 5. | Stephen works great signs and wonders (6:8) | Stephen |
| 6. | Philip cures crippled and possessed in Samaria (8:6-8, 13) | Philip |
| 7. | Miracles worked by Paul and Barnabas on mission journey (14:3) | Paul & Barnabas |
| 8. | Great signs and wonders done among the Gentiles (15:12) | Paul & Barnabas |
| 9. | Miracles worked through objects touched by Paul (19:11-12) | Paul (by proxy) |
| 10. | Paul heals all the sick brought to him on Malta (28:9) | Paul |