

Tests for a Miracle Witness

A miracle is what is not naturally possible. It is a supernatural occurrence. It is paranormal.

Miracles are events that seem to be against nature or the way natural law usually runs. In other words, they cannot be explained by nature. Examples are the Blessed Virgin Mary appearing to children, the unexplained cure of incurable illness, blood coming out of nowhere on Catholic communion wafers, the sun spinning at Fatima in Portugal in 1917 and most importantly Jesus' supernatural return from the dead.

LESSONS FROM ETHICAL JOURNALISM

The Rules of Ethical Journalism are -

- Verify every reported fact.
- Quickly correct errors and disseminate the correction at least as widely as the original content.
- Report all objectively credible sides of any issue while properly presenting the proportional weight of the evidence.
- Put facts and quotes in their proper context.
- Go to original sources whenever possible, and give subjects an opportunity to respond.
- Respect and preserve the confidentiality of sources.
- Accept neither payment nor gifts from anyone within the scope of your reporting.
- Resist pressure from editors, advertisers, employers, or anyone else to suppress facts that the public needs to know.
- Disclose any potential conflicts of interest.
- Never plagiarize; always attribute.
- Clearly distinguish opinions, advocacy and commentary from fact, and label them accordingly.
- Clearly distinguish advertising from editorial content, and label it accordingly.
- Subject copy to editorial review.
- Treat sources, subjects, colleagues and members of the public as human beings deserving of respect.
- Show compassion for those affected by news coverage, especially victims of natural and man-made disasters, children and sex crime victims, and those accused of crimes until they are tried in a court of law.
- Welcome questions and encourage civil, public discourse around journalistic practices, coverage and news content.

No such precautions exist with gospel writers or miracle writers. As bad as any miracle report from today is, it is nothing compared to what the gossellers did. For example, despite the accusations made by Jesus and the writers against the Jewish leaders, there was no way left open for the leaders to reply. It is true that religion preachers

A person might be totally honest but a liar in relation to a miracle claim. It's the one lie one can never get caught out for telling. If somebody stares at a spot on the wall and says they are seeing the Virgin Mary there is no proof that they are not seeing her.

Testimony to miracles that falls into at least one of the following categories:

1. -Absurd
2. -Random

3. -Failing to convey a noble picture of God or the Catholic faith

4. -Hypocritical (Hypocrites in religion cannot be trusted. The person who lies in his spiritual life is lying about a far more serious matter than an apparition and so cannot be trusted if he speaks of having visions. Apparitions etc where there has been no examination of the witnesses to eliminate hypocrisy - a little hypocrisy would be fine - are suspect eg Knock, Fatima etc.)

5. -Happening too much

are automatically denied consideration by the Church.

It proves that the Church is lying when it says it believes in miracles because reliable people have spoken of experiencing them. This is because it wants to filter the evidence and manipulate it. It uses science to “verify” the miracles it wants to believe in. If miracles demand dishonesty then they are plainly against science.

Belief in miracles is caused by acceptance of the testimony of the witnesses to the miracles that suit the Christians to believe in. You never hear of the Church investigating and authenticating a barely known apparition. It is only popular ones they look at.

Suppose it is true that testimony is a good enough reason to believe in a miracle. Suppose a testimony is evidence for a miracle. Some conditions must be fulfilled.

- You must know the witness has good perception.

- The witness must be honest in religious and spiritual matters – and that honesty matters more than any other kind of honesty they have. A person who steals might still be telling the truth about experiencing a miracle. A person who may be honest in all things except spiritual cannot be a good witness for a miracle.

- A witness who you do not know is no good. Believing in what apostles said who lived thousands of years ago is worse than believing a miracle story from a few years before you were born.

- A witness believing something miraculous happened is only evidence of their sincerity and not of their accuracy. But you have to test their sincerity first and foremost and then test their accuracy. Otherwise you would have to examine miracle claims and take them seriously enough to investigate carefully even if those claims are made by liars.

If belief in miracles is really based on respect for human testimony, then surely the more sincere the testimony is, the more credibility we should assign to it. Surely the more ridiculous and bizarre the miracle reported, the more sincere the witness can be. That is dangerous. It shows we should just assume that miracles do not happen. Assuming they do forces us into absurdity.

You need suitable and sufficient verification of the person's truthfulness and general accuracy in affidavit form from independent parties before you can consider their testimony. You need to be sure they are not into religious and spiritual lies. It is easy to find people who commit the sin of unrepentance for a past sin - such as character defamation. Yet they lie to God by praying to him and praising him and make great sacrifices for him. Except it is not for him. If God is pure love they reject him by loving their sin. They pray in order to feel good about their sin and they worship a version of God that does not match a God of perfect love and holiness. The more they pray the less sense of certain sin they have. They would easily lie about a vision or miracle. Then you need hard evidence.

Is hard evidence the only acceptable evidence for a miracle? YES!