

POWER BELIEVED CAPABLE OF MIRACLES

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When King Herod heard of Christ's miracles, he thought Christ must be John the Baptist, risen from the dead (Matthew 14:1, 2). Evidently he believed that John had great power— so much that he wouldn't have been surprised to see him work a miracle. Nor must we explain that by saying that Herod didn't know much about John. He *did* know *very* much about him. He had imprisoned him for preaching against his marriage; but during John's imprisonment, Herod often listened to him (Mark 6:20).

Yet we learn from John 9:41 that John the Baptist *didn't work any miracles*. What, then, would cause Herod to think that Christ was John risen from the dead, *because* of His miracles? It must have been that John's *words* had such power in them that Herod thought it conceivable that he could work miracles. John's words had impressed Herod that he was "a just and a holy man," so as to cause Herod to *fear* him (Mark 6:20). John spoke with authority, as Christ did (Matthew 7:28, 29).

Whether God uses *us* to work any miracles like those Christ worked when He was on earth, is of little importance; and it isn't in the ways of God to grant such miracles frequently in our day. Their purpose during Christ's time on earth was to convince people that He was the Messiah. But what *is* important is that our words, spoken on God's behalf, have power in them as we speak "as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). When do we hear God's Word proclaimed with such power that people *wouldn't think it surprising* if the one speaking were able to work miracles? May God's Word *be* proclaimed with such power!
