



## Matthew 9:8

(8) Now when the multitudes saw *it*, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

## Mark 2:12

(12) Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw *anything* like this!"

## Luke 5:26

(26) And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"

*New King James Version*

The people were stunned, moved to glorify [God](#), filled with fear, and confounded. It is no surprise that the witnesses to the miracle were amazed at the astounding [healing](#). Each of the three gospel writers uses a different Greek word to express a variation of a state of awe. Nevertheless, considering the great impact this miracle had on observers, most of them were not moved to have [faith](#) in God. Though filled with awe at His mighty works, they were not convinced or converted. Faith is not produced through sight ([II Corinthians 5:7](#)). [Miracles](#) and physical proof do not instill faith. God must call a person, opening his mind to His [truth](#) ([John 6:44](#)). Today, people tend to think that sensationalism will convert sinners, designing their religious presentations to impress people and increase followers by physical rather than spiritual quality.

In addition, the people were moved to glorify God in their limited way ([Matthew 9:8](#)). Yet, their reaction to the healing did not cause a change of heart in them.

Luke writes that they were all "filled with fear" ([Luke 5:26](#)). It can be terrifying to be near

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the power of Almighty God. Paul states, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" ([Hebrews 10:31](#)). Realizing his own sinfulness in the presence of the perfection and might of God, Peter knelt in fear at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord" ([Luke 5:8](#)). Again, however, most of the witnesses to the paralytic's healing refused to overcome their sins and change their lives.

James notes that even the demons believe and tremble before God ([James 2:19](#)), yet they, of course, have never been converted. This principle should enlighten us about the professed religion of others. Being filled with awe, glorifying God, or experiencing fear are not enough in themselves; they are merely beginnings of understanding and [wisdom](#) ([Psalm 111:10](#); [Proverbs 9:10](#)).

Some witnesses to this miracle said, "We never saw anything like this!" ([Mark 2:12](#)). Others exclaimed, "We have seen strange things today!" ([Luke 5:26](#)). They were confounded. The miracle they witnessed was one of a kind, different from anything they had ever seen before. No other "gods" compare with our God the Father and Jesus Christ!

In Luke's account, the word "strange" is the Greek word from which the English word "paradox" derives. It suggests true things that are contrary to all common sense and ordinary experience. The things of God are beyond the understanding of mere human beings. In this miracle, we see the incomprehensible sovereignty and glory of God in His comfort and healing of the sick through His Son [Jesus Christ](#), our Savior.

— Martin G. Collins

**To learn more, see:**

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