

Chapter 6

Doing the Works of God

The Gospels refer to the miracles of Jesus as “mighty works” and “signs” (Matt. 11:20; 14:2; Mark 6:2, 5, 14; 16:17, 20; Luke 19:37; John 20:30); but Jesus himself called them “the works of God” (John 9:3). The key to understanding why he does them—his one dominant purpose, was to fulfill the Father’s will, or as Jesus himself said, “that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13). He did not regard any of his works as his own; rather, they were the Father’s works. They therefore became evidences of the Father’s pleasure in the Son and witnesses to Christ’s divine claims. The New Testament records thirty-five specific miracles that Jesus performed, which can be summarized under three convenient headings: (1) healings, (2) control over nature, and (3) raising the dead.

In addition to the twenty-three specific healings identified in the Gospels—including six exorcisms—there are general references to the many healings of Jesus. The synoptic writers record:

They brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick [possibly