

Miracles, Divine Healings, and Angels:  
Beliefs Among U.S. Adults 45+  
with Hispanic Oversample

Conducted for *AARP The Magazine*  
and *AARP Segunda Juventud*

**August 2008**

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Miracles, Divine Healings,  
and Angels: Beliefs  
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## Purpose and Methodology

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The purpose of this study was to understand what Americans age 45 and older think about miracles and miraculous events, including what they believe about divine healings, guardian angels, the circumstances under which someone may receive a miracle, and how miraculous events have changed their outlook on life. The information was gathered to inform an upcoming article for *AARP The Magazine* and *AARP Segunda Juventud*.

Questions were included on an omnibus survey on July 17 – July 21, 2008. The omnibus CARAVAN survey, conducted by Opinion Research Corporation (ORC), is a weekly national telephone survey of U.S. households. ORC conducted a stratified, random-digit-dialing sample of telephone households. The survey included demographic and lifestyle questions, as well as questions about miracles and other topics.

The survey was conducted with 1,315 respondents age 45 and older and all responses were subsequently weighted by age, gender, ethnicity, and region to be nationally representative of the U.S. population 45+. The margin of error is +/- 3%.

In addition to the general population survey, a Hispanic oversample was conducted July 16 – July 23, 2008. ORC conducted a stratified, random-digit-dialing sample of telephone households. The sample targeted areas of at least 30% Hispanic population. Questions were asked in respondent's preferred language, Spanish or English.

The Hispanic oversample was conducted with 251 respondents age 45 and older. The margin of error is +/- 6%. Responses were not subsequently weighted by demographic variables. A comparison of the sample to the nationally representative 2006 American Community Survey revealed similar demographic distributions on relevant variables. Consequently, comparisons between general and Hispanic samples are made using the weighted data for the general sample and unweighted data for the oversample.

## Executive Summary

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### *General Population*

- Four in five survey respondents (80%) say they believe that miracles occur today as in ancient times, while roughly two-thirds say they believe that illnesses and injuries can be divinely healed (67%). Women are more likely than men to say that they believe in both of these things (85% vs. 73% for miracles and 74% vs. 59% for divine healings).
- The youngest respondents (45-54) are more likely to believe in miracles (85%) compared to respondents age 55 and over (77%). Younger adults were also more likely than older adults to believe in angels (84% vs. 75% among 55+) and in spirits or the Holy Spirit (89% for 45-54 vs. 82% for 55+).
- Over a third—37%—of respondents say they have witnessed a miracle. Very few demographic differences are seen across subcategories (even among demographics where you might expect a difference such as education and income).
- A slightly smaller percentage of respondents say they have witnessed a divine healing (29%). Women (31%) are somewhat more likely than men are (26%) to say they have witnessed a healing.
- The majority of those who say they have witnessed a divine healing knew the person being healed. Over half (53%) say it was a family member, but a little more than 4 in 10 (42%) say they were healed personally. Among those who have seen a healing, only slightly more than half say they've changed their behavior or outlook as a result of the healing. Respondents who were themselves healed were much more likely to have changed their behaviors/attitudes than respondents who simply witnessed the healing of another.
- Respondents are split on whether or not some people are more likely to receive a miracle than others (45% say yes, 49% say no). Younger adults (45-59), those with lower education, lower household income, and those who have personally witnessed a miracle are the most apt to say that some people are more likely to receive miracles than others.
- When asked what makes someone worthy of receiving a miracle, having faith (73%), prayer (67%), and strength of desire (55%) are seen by the majority to be determining factors.
- Unsurprisingly, God (84%) and Jesus (75%) were the two figures respondents rated highest in bestowing miracles. Women are more likely than men to believe that Jesus (78% vs. 70%) and the Holy Spirit (78% vs. 68%) do so. Only 47% of respondents thought angels bestowed miracles.
- One in ten (11%) say they have ever seen an angel. There are very few demographic differences amongst those who have seen an angel. When asked how angels influence people's lives, nearly three quarters of respondents (73%) say that angels act as watchers over their lives. Slightly fewer adults 45+ (69%) believe angels help people in trouble or need.

- More than one-third describe themselves as “very religious or spiritual” (36%), while one-half of respondents age 45 and older describe themselves as “somewhat religious or spiritual,” and about one in ten (9%) describe themselves as “not at all religious or spiritual.” Women are more likely to consider themselves “very religious or spiritual” (42%) compared to men (30%).
- When asked about religious behaviors, nearly three quarters say they pray or meditate a couple times a week or more (72%). Women are more likely to say they pray with this amount of regularity (78%) than men are (64%). Women are also more likely to say they share their faith with others daily or multiple times per week (29%) compared to men (24%).

### ***Hispanic Population***

In addition to the general population survey, a concurrent Hispanic oversample was fielded, yielding 251 Hispanic respondents age 45 and over. The results that follow compare Hispanics to white non-Hispanics.

- A strong majority of Hispanics report believing in miracles (86%), spirits and angels (86%), and divine healings (82%), significantly more than white non-Hispanics.
- When asked if they had ever witnessed a miracle, a majority of Hispanics say they have (56%), also significantly more than white non-Hispanics (35%).
- More than half of Hispanics reported witnessing a divine healing of an illness or injury (56%). Three quarters of Hispanics (76%) say they have changed their behavior or outlook on life as a result of this healing, far more than white non-Hispanics (49%).
- Having faith (85%), facing enough trials in life (58%), and strength of conviction (58%) all top the list of things Hispanics think make someone worthy of receiving a miracle. Interestingly, prayer—the second highest reason for deserving a miracle given by white non-Hispanics (66%)—ranked the lowest among Hispanics at 49%.
- Unsurprisingly, God (84%) and Jesus (77%) were the two supernatural figures respondents rated highest in bestowing miracles among Hispanics. However, Hispanics are more apt to think that other spiritual entities bestow miracles as well.
- Significantly more Hispanics believe in religious sites and have traveled to visit them than white non-Hispanics (23% of Hispanics have visited a holy site vs. 6% white non-Hispanics).
- Only seventeen percent of Hispanics report having seen an angel. Nonetheless, a majority believe that angels act as watchers over peoples’ lives (79%), help people in need (69%), and provide insight (60%).
- Hispanics are just as likely as white non-Hispanics to say they are religious or spiritual. However, when asked about the frequency in which they engage in religious activities, Hispanics are more likely to say they pray, share their faith with others, and watch or listen to religious programming on a weekly basis than white non-Hispanics.

## Detailed Findings

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### General Beliefs

Almost all respondents 45+ believe in God (92%) or in a higher power (91%). Nearly eight in 10 respondents say they believe in angels (78%) and spirits or the Holy Spirit (84%), and two-thirds of respondents say they believe that illnesses or injuries can be divinely healed (67%).

Over three quarters (80%) of respondents age 45 and older agree either strongly or somewhat with the statement “I believe that miracles still occur today as in ancient times.” Women are more likely to believe in miracles compared to men (85% vs. 73%). In fact, women are more likely than men to say they believe in all of the six spiritual beliefs we asked them about—belief in God (94% vs. 89%), belief in a higher power (93% vs. 89%), belief in spirits or the Holy Spirit (87% vs. 81%), belief that there are spirits or angels looking out for them (85% vs. 70%), and belief that illnesses or injuries can be divinely healed (74% vs. 59%).

Interestingly, the youngest respondents (45-54) are also more likely to believe in miracles (85%) compared to respondents 55-64 (78%) and 65 and over (75%). Younger adults were also more likely than older adults to believe in angels (84% vs. 77% among 55-64 year-olds and 72% among 65+) and in spirits or the Holy Spirit (89% for 45-54 vs. 83% for 55-64 and 80% for 65+).

Statement	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Strongly or Somewhat Disagree	Don't know/ refused
I believe in God	92%	6%	2%
I believe in a higher power	91	7	2
I believe in spirits or the Holy Spirit	84	13	3
I believe that miracles still occur today as in ancient times	80	18	3
I believe there are spirits or angels looking out for me	78	19	3
I believe in angels or guardian angels	78	19	2
I believe that illnesses or injuries can be divinely healed	67	30	3

As expected, religiosity plays a role in respondents' beliefs. Those who say they are "very" religious are more likely to believe in miracles (94%) than those who say they are "somewhat" religious (83%), who in turn are more likely to believe than those who say they are "not at all" religious (17%). Similar findings are seen for belief in angels and belief in divine healings.

	<b>I believe that miracles still occur today as in ancient times. (agree strongly or somewhat)</b>	<b>I believe that illnesses or injuries can be divinely healed. (agree strongly or somewhat)</b>	<b>I believe in angels or guardian angels. (agree strongly or somewhat)</b>
Total	80%	67%	78%
Men	73	59	70
Women	85	74	85
Age			
45-54	85	71	84
55-64	78	65	77
65+	75	65	72
Income			
Under \$25k	86	76	84
\$25k-\$49.9k	84	71	81
\$50k-74.9k	81	72	82
\$75k+	78	57	73
Region			
North East	77	60	76
North Central	84	67	82
South	81	73	80
West	76	65	74
Education			
Less than H.S.	91	74	91
H.S. graduate	85	75	86
Some college	82	69	79
College, post graduate	71	58	68
Religiosity			
Very religious	94	88	93
Somewhat religious	83	64	81
Not at all religious	17	11	16

## Witnessing a Miracle

Over a third—37%—say they have witnessed a miracle defined in the survey as an incredible event that cannot be scientifically explained. There are no significant differences in age, sex, income, or education among those who say they have witnessed a miraculous event. Respondents who are “very” religious or spiritual are significantly more likely to say they have witnessed a miracle than those who are “somewhat” religious or spiritual (58% vs. 26%). Similarly, those from the south (44%) are more likely than those from the north east (30%) and north central (34%) to say they have witnessed a miracle. This is perhaps not surprising considering that respondents from the south are significantly more likely to say they are “very” religious than those from the north east and west; they are also more likely to be protestants than any other region.

A smaller percentage of people, 29%, say they have witnessed a divine healing of an illness or injury. Women are more likely than men to say they have witnessed a divine healing (31% vs. 26%). And again, those from the south (35%) are more likely than those from the north east (21%) and north central (29%) to say they have witnessed a healing. Education is also a separating factor among those who have witnessed a healing: respondents with less than a high school education (40%) say they have witnessed a miraculous healing more often than those who are high school graduates (28%) and those who have a college or post-graduate degree (26%). Finally, almost half (47%) of those who say they are “very” religious or spiritual witnessed a divine healing, compared to only 19% of those who say they are only “somewhat” religious or spiritual.

<b>(n=915)</b>	<b>%</b>
Have you ever personally experienced or witnessed a miracle?	37
Have you ever personally experienced or witnessed a divine healing of an illness or injury?	29

Respondents who say they have witnessed a divine healing were then asked who they witnessed being healed. Over half (53%) say they saw a family member being healed. Slightly less (45%) saw a friend or acquaintance healed, and four in ten say they themselves were healed (42%). There are few demographic differences in respondents’ relationship to the person being healed.

<b>Who did you witness being healed? Was it... (n=265)</b>	<b>%</b>
A family member	53
A friend or acquaintance	45
You, yourself	42
A stranger	20
Other	*
Don’t know	1

Finally, respondents who witnessed a healing were asked if they had changed their behavior or outlook as a result of their experience. Slightly more than half (56%) say that they have indeed changed. There were no differences in gender or age. Sample sizes for income, region, or education were too small for reliable comparisons.

Interestingly, *whom* respondents saw being healed made a difference in their subsequent behavior or life outlook. The percentage who have changed their outlook on life following a divine healing is significantly higher among those who have been personally healed (73%) than among those who report witnessing a family member (48%), friend or acquaintance (37%), or stranger being healed (36%).

<b>(n=265)</b>	<b>Have you changed your behavior or outlook on life as a result of witnessing this divine healing?</b> <b>(% Yes)</b>
Total	56
Men	58
Women	54
Age	
45-54	58
55-64	55
65+	53
Who Witnessed Being Healed	
A family member	48
A friend or acquaintance	37
You, yourself	73
A stranger	36

## The Who, What, When, and Whys of Miracles

Respondents were asked if they believe some people are more likely to receive a miracle or divine healing than others. Overall, respondents were split on their belief—45% agreed that some are more likely to receive a miracle than others, and 49% disagreed. Younger adults (45-54) are significantly more likely than those over 65 to believe that no one is more likely to be healed than another (52% vs. 44%). Moreover, those with lower education, lower household incomes, and those who have personally witnessed a miracle say some people are more likely to receive a miracle than others.

<b>(n=915)</b>	<b>Do you believe some people are more likely to receive a miracle or divine healing than others? (% Yes)</b>
Total	45
Men	42
Women	47
Age	
45-54	45
55-64	44
65+	47
Income	
Under \$25k	49
\$25k-\$49.9k	49
\$50k-74.9k	48
\$75k+	38
Region	
North East	46
North Central	41
South	48
West	45
Education	
Less than H.S.	61
H.S. graduate	48
Some college	48
College, post graduate	37
Witnessed a Miracle	
Yes	51
No	43

### *Who is Worthy of a Miracle?*

Respondents were then asked what they thought makes someone worthy of receiving a miracle. Nearly three quarters of the respondents believe having faith (73%) makes someone worthy. Prayer, either by the recipient or on the recipient's behalf (67%), and the strength of desire or conviction (55%) are also ranked highly. Only a third believe miracles are bestowed upon those who have faced enough trials in life already (35%) and those with the greatest need (33%).

Women are more likely than men to say that faith (76% vs. 69%) and prayer (72% vs. 61%) make someone worthy of a miracle. Older respondents (65+) were more likely than those age 55-64 to believe that being a good, decent person (47% vs. 40%), having faced enough trials in life (39% vs. 31%), and having the most need (36% vs. 27%) would make someone worthy of a miracle.

Conversely, those with the higher incomes and education are more likely to think that nothing will make someone worthy of receiving a miracle.

It is interesting to note that agency may play a part in respondents' selection of what makes someone worthy of a miracle. That is, respondents were more likely to select options that they and others have control over (e.g., having faith, prayer, strength of desire) and less likely to select options that are out of their control (e.g., having faced enough trials, having the greatest need).

<b>Which of the following do you think makes someone worthy of receiving a miracle? (n=915)</b>	<b>%</b>
They have faith	73
Prayer, by the recipient and/or on the recipient's behalf	67
Strength of their desire and conviction	55
They are a good, decent person	44
They have faced enough trials in life already	35
Those with the greatest need	33
Nothing	9
Other	1
Don't know	2
Refused	2

### *Frequency of Miracles*

When asked how often they think miracles occur, one in four (41%) say “every day” and another 10% say “often.” A quarter (24%) think they occur “occasionally.” Women are more likely than men to say miracles occur on a daily basis (44% vs. 35%). Younger adults (45-54) are more likely than the oldest adults (65+) to believe in daily miracles as well (44% vs. 35%). By region, those in the south (47%) and west (43%) are more likely than those in the north east (28%) to believe in daily miracles; those in the south also think miracles occur every day more than those in the north central region (38%). There were no income differences, but those with the highest level of education (bachelor’s or post-graduate degree) were less likely than those with less education to think miracles occurred on a daily basis.

Finally, those who say they are “very” religious (58%) are more likely to believe miracles occur daily than those who are only “somewhat” religious (32%) or “not at all” religious (8%); those who are “somewhat” religious are, in turn, more likely to believe in daily miracles than those who are “not at all” religious.

<b>How often do you think miracles occur? Would you say... (n=915)</b>	<b>%</b>
Every day	41
Often	10
Sometimes	17
Occasionally	24
Never	4
Don’t know	3
Refused	1

### *Who Bestows Miracles?*

Over eight in ten respondents (84%) believe that God or another supreme being is responsible for bestowing miracles on people. Three quarters (75%) believe Jesus or the Holy Spirit (73%) bestows miracles. About half believe that angels (47%) bestow miracles.

There are almost no demographic differences in respondents' belief that God bestows miracles; however, women are significantly more likely than men to believe Jesus (78% vs. 70%) and the Holy Spirit (78% vs. 68%) do so. Education is a large marker of respondents' beliefs about who bestows miracles. Those who completed college or a post-graduate degree are less likely to say they think *any* of these powers bestow miracles.

<b>What supernatural powers do you think bestow miracles on people? (n=915)</b>	<b>%</b>
God or another supreme being	84
Jesus	75
Holy Spirit	73
Angels or guardian angels	47
Saints	32
Deceased relatives or others who have passed	19
Other spirits	18
Other	*
None	5
Don't know	2
Refused	1

*Religious Sites*

Respondents were also asked about their belief in sites where miracles or divine events have been reported to take place. Nearly half (47%) say they fully believe in the sites, with a small percentage of those—six percent—saying they have actually traveled specifically to see this type of site. There are no significant differences in gender, age, or income among those who have traveled to the sites. However, those with a college degree or higher (8%) are significantly more likely than those with less than a high school degree (4%) to say they have traveled to one of these sites. Conversely, those with less than a high school degree are significantly more likely than those with a college degree or higher to say they *believe* the sites are holy and would travel to them if they have the opportunity (51% vs. 36%). Women and those under 65 are also more likely than their counterparts to believe in the sites, though they have not traveled to one.

<b>Some people travel to sites where miracles or divine events have been reported to take place. Please tell me which of the following statements <i>best</i> represents your views? (n=907)</b>	<b>%</b>
I have traveled specifically to see this type of site because I felt it was important to do so	6
I have never traveled to such a site but believe these places are holy and will do so if I have the opportunity	41
I am not sure I fully believe in these sites	22
I do not believe these sites are what they claim to be	24
Don't know	4
Refused	3

## Angels

As mentioned previously, nearly eight in ten survey respondents say they believe in angels (78% strongly/somewhat agree). When asked further about how they think angels influence their lives<sup>1</sup>, nearly three quarters of respondents say they act as watchers over people's lives (73%). Slightly less, 69%, say angels help people in need or trouble, while slightly over half (58%) say they provide insight or inspiration. Women are more likely than men to say that angels do any one of these things (89% vs. 81%). Likewise, younger adults (89% for 45-54) are more likely than older adults (84% for 55-64 year olds and 82% for 65 and over) to say that angels are influential in any one of these ways.

<b>How do you think angels influence your life? What do they do? (n=881)</b>	<b>%</b>
They act as watchers over people's lives	73
They help people in need or trouble	69
They provide insight or inspiration	58
They act as guides to the afterlife	46
None	10
Other	*
Don't know	3
Refused	2

When asked if they've ever seen an angel, only 11% say they have. Further, there are no demographic differences amongst the 11%, though that is likely due to the small number of respondents who say they have seen an angel.

<b>(n=881)</b>	<b>%</b>
Have you ever seen an angel?	11

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<sup>1</sup> Only respondents who say they "strongly agree," "somewhat agree," or "somewhat disagree" with the statement "I believe in angels or guardian angels" are asked further questions about angels.

However, almost half of respondents say they think deceased relatives serve as angels or guardian angels in their lives (45%). Women, again, are more likely to agree to this belief than men (51% vs. 36%), as are 45-54 year olds (50%) and 55-64 year olds (45%) compared to adults 65 and over (37%). Those in the west (49%) are more likely than those in the south (39%) to say they believe deceased relatives serve as angels. Furthermore, respondents with only a high school education (50%) or less than a high school education (57%) are more likely to believe in relatives as angels than those with some college (44%) or a college degree or higher (38%).

<b>(n=881)</b>	<b>Do you think your deceased relatives serve as angels or guardian angels in your life? (% Yes)</b>
Total	45
Men	36
Women	51
Age	
45-54	50
55-64	45
65+	37
Income	
Under \$25k	50
\$25k-\$49.9k	42
\$50k-74.9k	49
\$75k+	46
Region	
North East	48
North Central	46
South	39
West	49
Education	
Less than H.S.	57
H.S. graduate	50
Some college	44
College, post graduate	38

## Religiosity

### *Self-Perceived Religiosity*

More than one-third describe themselves as “very religious or spiritual” (36%), while one-half of respondents age 45 and older (53%) describe themselves as “somewhat religious or spiritual,” and about one in ten (9%) describe themselves as “not at all religious or spiritual.” Respondents who say they are “not at all religious or spiritual” were asked if they consider themselves agnostic, atheist, or something else. One in four of these respondents (40%) consider themselves agnostic, one in six (17%) consider themselves atheist, and a third (32%) say they are something else.

Women are more likely to consider themselves “very religious or spiritual” (42%) compared to men (30%). Respondents in the south are more likely to say they are “very religious or spiritual” (43%) than respondents in the north east (28%) and west (34%). Respondents who graduated college or hold an advanced degree are more likely than those with less education to say they are “not at all religious or spiritual,” and less likely than those with less than a high school education and those with a high school degree to say they are “somewhat religious or spiritual.”

<b>Would you describe yourself as very religious/spiritual, somewhat religious/spiritual, or not religious/spiritual at all? (n=995)</b>	<b>Very religious/spiritual</b>	<b>Somewhat religious/spiritual</b>	<b>Not at all religious/spiritual</b>
Total	36	53	9
Men	30	53	14
Women	42	52	5
Age			
45-54	36	54	8
55-64	37	50	11
65+	36	53	9
Income			
Under \$25k	38	56	5
\$25k-\$49.9k	35	58	5
\$50k-74.9k	40	48	11
\$75k+	36	50	13
Region			
North East	28	59	10
North Central	36	54	9
South	43	47	7
West	34	54	10
Education			
Less than H.S.	33	64	2
H.S. graduate	37	56	5
Some college	36	53	8
College, post graduate	36	46	15

*Religious Activities*

Finally, respondents were asked about the frequency with which they did several general religious related activities<sup>2</sup>. Nearly three quarters of them say they pray or meditate a couple times a week or more (72%). Women are more likely to say they pray with this amount of regularity (78%) than men are (64%). Women are also more likely to say they share their faith with others daily or multiple times per week (29%) compared to men (24%).

<b>I'm going to read a list of religious or spiritual activities. Please tell me how often you do each of these things. Would you say... (n=907)</b>	<b>Every day/More than Once a Week</b>	<b>Once a Week</b>	<b>Once a Month</b>	<b>Several Times a Year</b>	<b>Once a Year or Less</b>	<b>Never</b>
Pray or meditate outside of religious services	72	8	5	6	2	5
Read religious materials or scripture outside of religious services	35	15	14	11	8	16
Share your faith with others	27	18	16	14	7	15
Listen to religious radio or watch religious television	20	16	10	10	7	34
Attend religious services	15	35	10	11	11	16
Volunteer for religious organizations or at your place of worship	10	14	12	12	9	40

<sup>2</sup> Only respondents who say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' religious/spiritual are asked about their religious activities.

## Hispanic Oversample

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In addition to the general population survey, a concurrent Hispanic oversample was fielded, yielding 251 Hispanic respondents age 45 and over. The results that follow compare Hispanics to white non-Hispanics. Unfortunately, due to small sample sizes, we are unable to compare these findings to any other race/ethnicity group.

### General Beliefs

Almost all Hispanic respondents agree either strongly or somewhat with the statement, “I believe in God” (98%). Over 9 in 10 also say they believe in a higher power (94%). Moreover, most Hispanics believe in spirits or the Holy Spirit (93%), miracles (86%), angels (84%), that there are spirits or angels looking out for them (86%), and in divine healings (82%).

Hispanics are significantly more likely to say they hold all of these beliefs than white non-Hispanics with differences ranging from 7 percentage points for belief in God (98% vs. 91%) to 18 points for belief in divine healings (82% vs. 64%). The only exception is belief in a higher power, where Hispanics and white non-Hispanics report similar levels of belief.

Statement	White Non-Hispanics (n=754)	Hispanics (n=251)
I believe in God	<b>91%</b>	<b>98%</b>
I believe in a higher power	91	94
I believe in spirits or the Holy Spirit	<b>83</b>	<b>93</b>
I believe that miracles still occur today as in ancient times	<b>78</b>	<b>86</b>
I believe there are spirits or angels looking out for me	<b>75</b>	<b>86</b>
I believe in angels or guardian angels	<b>75</b>	<b>84</b>
I believe that illnesses or injuries can be divinely healed	<b>64</b>	<b>82</b>

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

Due to the small number of oversample respondents, only a few demographics can be examined for differences. There were no age differences in general beliefs and only two gender differences: Hispanic women are significantly more likely than Hispanic men to say they believe in God (100% vs. 95%) and believe in miracles (93% vs. 80%).

<b>(n=251)</b>	<b>I believe that miracles still occur today as in ancient times. (agree strongly or somewhat)</b>	<b>I believe that illnesses or injuries can be divinely healed. (agree strongly or somewhat)</b>	<b>I believe in angels or guardian angels. (agree strongly or somewhat)</b>
Total	86	82	84
Men	80	79	80
Women	93	86	88
Age			
45-54	88	81	85
55-64	90	81	89
65+	80	85	77

## Witnessing a Miracle

When asked if they have ever witnessed a miracle, a majority of Hispanic respondents—fifty-six percent—say they have. This percentage is significantly more than the 35% of white non-Hispanics who say they have witnessed a miracle. There are no significant differences in age or sex.

A similar majority of Hispanics (56%) say they have witnessed a divine healing of an illness or injury, more than double the number of white non-Hispanics (26%).

	<b>White Non- Hispanics (n=684)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=239)</b>
Have you ever personally experienced or witnessed a miracle?	<b>35%</b>	<b>56%</b>
Have you ever personally experienced or witnessed a divine healing of an illness or injury?	<b>26</b>	<b>56</b>

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

When asked *who* they witnessed being healed, 57% of Hispanics say a family member, while four in ten say themselves. Slightly more than a quarter say a friend or acquaintance (27%) and only 15% say they've witnessed a stranger being healed. There were no significant differences between Hispanics and white non-Hispanics.

<b>Who did you witness being healed? Was it...</b>	<b>White Non- Hispanics (n=180)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=135)</b>
A family member	52	57
A friend or acquaintance	48	27
You, yourself	37	41
A stranger	21	15
Other	*	0
Don't know	1	0

Finally, when asked if they had changed their behavior or outlook on life as a result of witnessing this divine healing, three quarters of Hispanics—76%—say they have done so. Comparatively, only half (49%) of white non-Hispanics say the same. Sample sizes in both groups are too small to examine demographic differences.

<b>Have you changed your behavior or outlook on life as a result of witnessing this divine healing?</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=180)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=135)</b>
Yes	<b>49%</b>	<b>76%</b>
No	50	23
DK	*	1

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

## The Who, What, When, and Whys of Miracles

Respondents were then asked if they believe some people are more likely to receive a miracle or divine healing than others. Two-thirds of Hispanics agree with this belief (66%), while only 43% of white non-Hispanics believe some people are more likely to receive a miracle than others.

<b>Do you believe some people are more likely to receive a miracle or divine healing than others?</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=684)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=239)</b>
Yes	<b>43%</b>	<b>66%</b>
No	52	26
DK/Ref	5	8

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

### *Who is Worthy of a Miracle?*

Further, respondents were asked what they thought makes someone worthy of receiving a miracle. Eight-five percent of Hispanics believe that having faith makes someone worthy of a miracle, the top reason. Strength of desire and conviction (58%), having faced enough trials in life already (58%), being a good, decent person (54%), and having the greatest need (53%) are also believed by the majority of Hispanics to make someone worthy of a miracle. A few demographic differences emerged here as well. Hispanic men are significantly more likely than Hispanic women to believe that being a good, decent person makes someone worthy of a miracle (61% vs. 46%). Further, younger Hispanics (ages 45-54) are significantly more likely than those 55-64 to believe than those with the greatest need (60% vs. 41%) are worthy of a miracle.

Hispanics are more likely than white non-Hispanics to say that all of these situations make someone worthy of a miracle with the exception of prayer—white non-Hispanics in this case are significantly more likely than Hispanics to say that prayer makes someone worthy of a miracle (66% vs. 49%).

<b>Which of the following do you think makes someone worthy of receiving a miracle?</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=684)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=239)</b>
They have faith	<b>73%</b>	<b>85%</b>
Prayer, by the recipient and/or on the recipient's behalf	<b>66</b>	<b>49</b>
Strength of their desire and conviction	55	58
They are a good, decent person	<b>44</b>	<b>54</b>
They have faced enough trials in life already	<b>34</b>	<b>58</b>
Those with the greatest need	<b>33</b>	<b>53</b>
Nothing	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>
Other	1	5
Don't know/Ref	4	1

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

### *Frequency of Miracles*

When asked how often they think miracles occur, 46% of Hispanics say “every day” and another 15% say “often.” One in five (20%) think miracles occur “sometimes.” Only 36% of white non-Hispanics believe that miracles occur every day, significantly less than Hispanics. Instead, white non-Hispanics are more likely to believe that miracles occur “occasionally” (26% vs. 12% for Hispanics).

<b>How often do you think miracles occur? Would you say...</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=684)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=239)</b>
Every day	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>
Often	11	15
Sometimes	19	20
Occasionally	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>
Never	4	2
Don't know	3	5
Refused	1	0

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

### *Who Bestows Miracles?*

Over eight in ten Hispanic respondents (84%) believe that God or another supreme being is responsible for bestowing miracles on people. Over three quarters (77%) believe Jesus bestows miracles, and 69% believe it is the Holy Spirit. A little over half (56%) believe that angels do so.

There are no significant differences between Hispanics and white non-Hispanics in their beliefs that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit bestow miracles. However, Hispanics are more apt to think that other spiritual entities bestow miracles as well. Hispanics are more likely to believe that angels (56% vs. 45%), saints (46% vs. 31%), and deceased relatives (27% vs. 18%) bestow miracles than white non-Hispanics.

<b>What supernatural powers do you think bestow miracles on people?</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=684)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=239)</b>
God or another supreme being	86	84
Jesus	76	77
Holy Spirit	74	69
Angels or guardian angels	<b>45</b>	<b>56</b>
Saints	<b>31</b>	<b>46</b>
Deceased relatives or others who have passed	<b>18</b>	<b>27</b>
Other spirits	16	15
Other	*	1
None	5	1
Don't know	2	2
Refused	1	0

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

*Religious Sites*

When asked about their belief in sites where miracles or divine events have been reported to take place, seven in ten (71%) Hispanics believe these sites are holy, and nearly a quarter (23%) of those have actually traveled to the site. There are no significant differences in gender or age among those who have traveled to the sites; however, Hispanics are significantly more likely to believe in these sites than white non-Hispanics (71% vs. 44%).

<b>Some people travel to sites where miracles or divine events have been reported to take place. Please tell me which of the following statements best represents your views?</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=676)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=228)</b>
I have traveled specifically to see this type of site because I felt it was important to do so	<b>6%</b>	<b>23%</b>
I have never traveled to such a site but believe these places are holy and will do so if I have the opportunity	<b>38</b>	<b>48</b>
I am not sure I fully believe in these sites	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>
I do not believe these sites are what they claim to be	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>
Don't know	4	4
Refused	2	1

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

## Angels

As mentioned previously, a significant majority of Hispanics believe in angels (84% strongly/somewhat agree). When asked further about how they think angels influence their lives<sup>3</sup>, 79% say they act as watchers over people’s lives. Slightly less say angels help people in need or trouble (69%) or provide insight or inspiration (60%), and half say they act as guides to the afterlife (50%). Only one race/ethnicity difference emerged in this question—Hispanics are more likely than white non-Hispanics to say that angels act as watchers over people’s lives (79% vs. 72%).

<b>How do you think angels influence your life? What do they do?</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=653)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=224)</b>
They act as watchers over people’s lives	<b>72%</b>	<b>79%</b>
They help people in need or trouble	68	69
They provide insight or inspiration	57	60
They act as guides to the afterlife	45	50
None	11	6
Other	*	1
Don’t know	3	1
Refused	1	*

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

When asked if they’ve ever seen an angel, only 17% of Hispanics say they have, significantly more than white non-Hispanics (9%).

<b>Have you ever seen an angel?</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=653)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=224)</b>
Yes	<b>9%</b>	<b>17%</b>
No	<b>88</b>	<b>82</b>
DK/Ref	3	1

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

Moreover, half of Hispanic respondents say they think deceased relatives serve as angels or guardian angels in their lives (50%), significantly more than white non-Hispanics (40%).

<b>Do you think your deceased relatives serve as angels or guardian angels in your life?</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=653)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=224)</b>
Yes	<b>40%</b>	<b>50%</b>
No	<b>52</b>	<b>40</b>
DK/Ref	7	10

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

<sup>3</sup> Only respondents who say they “strongly agree,” “somewhat agree,” or “somewhat disagree” with the statement “I believe in angels or guardian angels” are asked further questions about angels.

## Religiosity

### *Self-Perceived Religiosity*

More than one-third of Hispanic respondents describe themselves as “very” religious or spiritual (37%), while one-half (49%) say they are “somewhat” religious or spiritual, and about one in ten (9%) say they are “not at all” religious or spiritual. Interestingly, though Hispanics have been consistently more likely to endorse statements about miracles and religious beliefs throughout the study, they are not more likely than white non-Hispanics to describe themselves as more religious.

<b>Would you describe yourself as very religious/spiritual, somewhat religious/spiritual, or not religious/spiritual at all?</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=754)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=251)</b>
Very Religious/Spiritual	35%	37%
Somewhat Religious/Spiritual	52	49
Not Religious/Spiritual At All	10	9
DK/Uncertain	1	5
Refused	1	1

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

### Religious Activities

Finally, respondents were asked about the frequency with which they did several general religious related activities<sup>4</sup>. Over three quarters of Hispanics say they pray or meditate a couple times a week or more (76%) and almost half (49%) say they share their faith with others.

<b>I'm going to read a list of religious or spiritual activities. Please tell me how often you do each of these things. Would you say... (n=228)</b>	<b>Every day/More than Once a Week</b>	<b>Once a Week</b>	<b>Once a Month</b>	<b>Several Times a Year</b>	<b>Once a Year or Less</b>	<b>Never</b>
Pray or meditate outside of religious services	76	10	5	3	1	4
Share you faith with others	49	15	9	8	4	15
Read religious materials or scripture outside of religious services	43	13	12	9	5	18
Listen to religious radio or watch religious television	28	16	11	7	8	29
Attend religious services	21	29	17	11	4	17
Volunteer for religious organizations or at your place of worship	14	11	10	8	7	47

No age or gender differences were seen in these responses; however, Hispanics are significantly more likely than white non-Hispanics to perform several religious or spiritual activities more than once a week or more—praying or meditating outside of religious services (86% vs. 79%), sharing your faith with others (63% vs. 43%), and listening to religious radio or watching religious television (44% vs. 34%).

<b>Percentage Who Say They Do These Religious Activities Once a Week or More</b>	<b>White Non-Hispanics (n=676)</b>	<b>Hispanics (n=228)</b>
Pray or meditate outside of religious services	<b>79%</b>	<b>86%</b>
Read religious materials or scripture outside of religious services	48	55
Share your faith with others	<b>43</b>	<b>63</b>
Listen to religious radio or watch religious television	<b>34</b>	<b>44</b>
Attend religious services	50	50
Volunteer for religious organizations or at your place of worship	23	25

*Bolded rows are significantly different at the 95% confidence level*

<sup>4</sup> Only respondents who say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' religious/spiritual are asked about their religious activities.

## Annotated Questionnaires

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### General Population

Please tell me . . .

S8QUAN What is your age? [RECORD NUMBER FROM 18-98, -1 FOR REFUSED]

[IF S8QUAN REFUSED, ASK]

S8 Please tell me, which of the following ranges best fits your age? [READ LIST]

- |    |             |
|----|-------------|
| 01 | 18-20       |
| 02 | 21-24       |
| 03 | 25-29       |
| 04 | 30-34       |
| 05 | 35-39       |
| 06 | 40-44       |
| 07 | 45-49       |
| 08 | 50-54       |
| 09 | 55-59       |
| 10 | 60-64       |
| 11 | 65-69       |
| 12 | 70-74       |
| 13 | 75 or older |
| 99 | REFUSED/NR  |

ASK AGES 45 AND OLDER ONLY.  
ALL OTHERS SKIP TO NEXT SECTION

On another subject . . .

**N = 995**

C1 Different people have different spiritual beliefs and convictions. I am going to read a series of statements that ask about your personal beliefs and experiences.

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions.  
[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

A. I believe in a higher power

Strongly agree	<b>81%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>11%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>2%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>4%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

B. I believe in God

Strongly agree	<b>83%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>9%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>3%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>4%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

C. I believe in spirits or the Holy Spirit

Strongly agree	<b>67%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>17%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>5%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>8%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

D. I believe in angels or guardian angels

Strongly agree	<b>54%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>24%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>8%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>11%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

E. I believe there are spirits or angels looking out for me

Strongly agree	<b>53%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>25%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>8%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>11%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

F. I believe that miracles still occur today as in ancient times

Strongly agree	<b>54%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>26%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>7%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>10%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>2%</b>
REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

G. I believe that illnesses or injuries can be divinely healed

Strongly agree	<b>38%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>29%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>12%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>18%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>2%</b>
REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

IF STRONGLY DISAGREE THAT MIRACLES STILL OCCUR AND ILLNESSES/INJURIES  
CAN BE DIVINELY HEALED, C1F [04] AND C1G [04], SKIP TO INSTRUCTIONS  
BEFORE C10.  
ALL OTHERS CONTINUE.

Many people have different definitions of miracles and divine interventions. In the following questions when we talk about a miracle, we are specifically referring to an incredible event that cannot be explained scientifically.

**N = 915**

C2 Have you ever personally experienced or witnessed a miracle like I just described?

01	YES	<b>37%</b>
02	NO	<b>61%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

**N = 915**

C3 Have you ever personally experienced or witnessed a divine healing of an illness or injury?

01	YES	<b>29%</b>
02	NO	<b>69%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

IF EXPERIENCED DIVINE HEALING, C3 [01], CONTINUE. ALL OTHERS SKIP TO C6
--

**N = 265**

C4 Who did you witness being healed? Was it . . .  
[READ LIST. RECORD AS MANY AS APPLY. WAIT FOR YES OR NO FOR EACH]

01	You, yourself	<b>42%</b>
02	A family member	<b>53%</b>
03	A friend or acquaintance	<b>45%</b>
04	A stranger	<b>20%</b>
195	OTHER [SPECIFY]	<b>*</b>
198	DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
199	REFUSED	<b>0</b>

**N = 265**

C5 Have you changed your behavior or outlook on life as a result of witnessing this divine healing?

01	YES	<b>56%</b>
02	NO	<b>43%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>*</b>

**N = 915**

C6 Do you believe some people are MORE likely to receive a miracle or divine healing than others?

01	YES	<b>45%</b>
02	NO	<b>49%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>4%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

**N = 915**

C7 Which of the following do you think makes someone worthy of receiving a miracle?  
[READ AND ROTATE LIST. RECORD AS MANY AS APPLY. WAIT FOR YES OR NO FOR EACH]

01	Those with the greatest need	<b>33%</b>
02	They are a good, decent person	<b>44%</b>
03	They have faced enough trials in life already	<b>35%</b>
04	They have faith	<b>73%</b>
05	Strength of their desire and conviction	<b>55%</b>
06	Prayer, by the recipient and/or on the recipient's behalf	<b>67%</b>
195	OTHER [SPECIFY]	<b>1%</b>
197	NOTHING	<b>9%</b>
198	DON'T KNOW	<b>2%</b>
199	REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

**N = 915**

C8 How often do you think miracles occur? Would you say . . .  
[READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

01	Never	<b>4%</b>
02	Occasionally	<b>24%</b>
03	Sometimes	<b>17%</b>
04	Often	<b>10%</b>
05	Every day	<b>41%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>3%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

**N = 915**

C9 What supernatural powers do you think bestow miracles on people?  
[READ LIST. RECORD AS MANY AS APPLY. WAIT FOR YES OR NO FOR EACH. ROTATE 01-06]

01	God or another supreme power	<b>84%</b>
02	Holy Spirit	<b>73%</b>
03	Jesus	<b>75%</b>
04	Angels or guardian angels	<b>47%</b>
05	Saints	<b>32%</b>
06	Deceased relatives or others who have passed	<b>19%</b>
07	Other spirits	<b>18%</b>
195	OTHER [SPECIFY]	<b>*</b>
197	NONE	<b>5%</b>
198	DON'T KNOW	<b>2%</b>
199	REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

IF STRONGLY DISAGREE IN BELIEF IN ANGELS/GUARDIAN ANGELS, C1D [04],  
SKIP TO C13.  
ALL OTHERS CONTINUE.

**N = 881**

C10 How do you think angels influence your life? What do they do?

[READ AND ROTATE LIST. RECORD AS MANY AS APPLY. WAIT FOR YES OR NO FOR EACH]

01	They help people in need or trouble	<b>69%</b>
02	They provide insight or inspiration	<b>58%</b>
03	They act as guides to the afterlife	<b>46%</b>
04	They act as watchers over people's lives	<b>73%</b>
195	OTHER [SPECIFY]	*
197	NONE	<b>10%</b>
198	DON'T KNOW	<b>3%</b>
199	REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

**N = 881**

C11 Have you ever seen an angel?

01	YES	<b>11%</b>
02	NO	<b>85%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>2%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

**N = 881**

C12 Do you think your deceased relatives serve as angels or guardian angels in your life?

01	YES	<b>45%</b>
02	NO	<b>48%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>6%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

**N = 995**

C13 Would you describe yourself as very religious or spiritual, somewhat religious or spiritual, or not religious or spiritual at all?

01	VERY RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL	<b>36%</b>
02	SOMEWHAT RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL	<b>53%</b>
03	NOT RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL AT ALL	<b>9%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW/UNCERTAIN	<b>1%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

**N = 88**

[ASK IF C13 (03)]

C14 Would you consider yourself agnostic, atheist, or something else?

01	AGNOSTIC	<b>40%</b>
02	ATHEIST	<b>17%</b>
03	SOMETHING ELSE	<b>32%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW/UNCERTAIN	<b>11%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

<p>IF CONSIDER YOURSELF NOT RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL, C13 [03], SKIP TO INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE C19. ALL OTHERS CONTINUE</p>
---

**N = 907**

C15 Now I'm going to read you a list of religious or spiritual activities. Please tell me how often you do each of these things.

Would you say every day, more than once a week, once a week, at least once a month, several times a year, once a year or less, or never?

[ROTATE ITEMS]

A. Attend religious services

Every day	<b>2%</b>
More than once a week	<b>13%</b>
Once a week	<b>35%</b>
At least once a month	<b>10%</b>
Several times a year	<b>11%</b>
Once a year or less	<b>11%</b>
Or, never	<b>16%</b>
DON'T KNOW	*
REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

B. Pray or meditate outside of religious services

Every day	<b>61%</b>
More than once a week	<b>11%</b>
Once a week	<b>8%</b>
At least once a month	<b>5%</b>
Several times a year	<b>6%</b>
Once a year or less	<b>2%</b>
Or, never	<b>5%</b>
DON'T KNOW	*
REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

C. Listen to religious radio or watch religious television programs

Every day	<b>12%</b>
More than once a week	<b>8%</b>
Once a week	<b>16%</b>
At least once a month	<b>10%</b>
Several times a year	<b>10%</b>
Once a year or less	<b>7%</b>
Or, never	<b>34%</b>
DON'T KNOW	*
REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

D. Share your faith with others

Every day	18%
More than once a week	9%
Once a week	18%
At least once a month	16%
Several times a year	14%
Once a year or less	7%
Or, never	15%
DON'T KNOW	1%
REFUSED	2%

E. Read religious materials or scripture outside of religious services

Every day	23%
More than once a week	12%
Once a week	15%
At least once a month	14%
Several times a year	11%
Once a year or less	8%
Or, never	16%
DON'T KNOW	*
REFUSED	2%

F. Volunteer for religious organizations or at your place of worship

Every day	3%
More than once a week	7%
Once a week	14%
At least once a month	12%
Several times a year	12%
Once a year or less	9%
Or, never	40%
DON'T KNOW	1%
REFUSED	2%

N = 907

C16 Some people travel to sites where miracles or divine events have been reported to take place. Please tell me which of the following statements BEST represents your views.  
[READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER]

- 01 I have traveled specifically to see this type of site because I felt it was important to do so 6%
- 02 I have never traveled to such a site but believe these places are holy and will do so if I have the opportunity 41%
- 03 I am not sure I fully believe in these sites 22%
- 04 I do not believe these sites are what they claim to be 24%
- 98 DON'T KNOW 4%
- 99 REFUSED 3%

N = 907

C17 I'm going to read you a series of statements. Tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement. Please remember, there are no right or wrong answers.  
[ROTATE ITEMS]

A. I go to my place of worship because it helps me to make friends

Strongly agree	<b>10%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>17%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>10%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>22%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>37%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

B. It is important to me to spend time in private thought and prayer

Strongly agree	<b>69%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>20%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>2%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>4%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>3%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>*</b>
REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

C. I pray mainly to gain relief and protection

Strongly agree	<b>25%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>27%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>9%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>18%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>18%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

D. What religion offers me most is comfort in times of trouble and sorrow

Strongly agree	<b>49%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>27%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>7%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>8%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>6%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

E. My whole approach to life is based on my religion

Strongly agree	<b>40%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>24%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>7%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>12%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>14%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

F. I go to my place of worship mainly because I enjoy seeing people I know there

Strongly agree	<b>12%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>22%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>10%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>19%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>34%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>2%</b>

**N = 907**

C18 What religion do you consider yourself?  
[DO NOT READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

- 01 PROTESTANT (INCLUDE BAPTIST, LUTHERAN, METHODIST, PRESBYTERIAN, EPISCOPALIAN, PENTECOSTAL, JEHOVAH'S WITNESS, CHURCH OF CHRIST, ETC) **59%**
- 02 CATHOLIC **20%**
- 03 JEWISH **1%**
- 04 MORMON (INCLUDE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS) **2%**
- 05 ORTHODOX CHURCH (GREEK OR RUSSIAN) \*
- 06 ISLAM/MUSLIM \*
- 07 ATHEIST \*
- 08 AGNOSTIC **1%**
- 195 OTHER RELIGION [SPECIFY] **3%**
- 197 NO DENOMINATION/SPIRITUAL **7%**
- 198 DON'T KNOW **2%**
- 199 REFUSED **3%**

Hispanic Oversample

Please tell me . . .

S8QUAN What is your age? [RECORD NUMBER FROM 18-98, -1 FOR REFUSED]

[IF S8QUAN REFUSED, ASK]

S8 Please tell me, which of the following ranges best fits your age? [READ LIST]

- |     |             |
|-----|-------------|
| 14  | 18-20       |
| 15  | 21-24       |
| 16  | 25-29       |
| 17  | 30-34       |
| 18  | 35-39       |
| 19  | 40-44       |
| 20  | 45-49       |
| 21  | 50-54       |
| 22  | 55-59       |
| 23  | 60-64       |
| 24  | 65-69       |
| 25  | 70-74       |
| 26  | 75 or older |
| 100 | REFUSED/NR  |

<p>ASK AGES 45 AND OLDER ONLY. ALL OTHERS SKIP TO NEXT SECTION</p>
--

On another subject . . .

**N = 251**

C1 Different people have different spiritual beliefs and convictions. I am going to read a series of statements that ask about your personal beliefs and experiences.

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions.  
[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

H. I believe in a higher power

Strongly agree	<b>86%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>7%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>2%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>3%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	*

I. I believe in God

Strongly agree	<b>93%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>4%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>1%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>1%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>0</b>
REFUSED	<b>0</b>

J. I believe in spirits or the Holy Spirit

Strongly agree	<b>84%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>10%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>2%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>4%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	*

K. I believe in angels or guardian angels

Strongly agree	<b>75%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>9%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>4%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>11%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	*

L. I believe there are spirits or angels looking out for me

Strongly agree	<b>74%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>12%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>2%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>9%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>3%</b>
REFUSED	<b>0</b>

M. I believe that miracles still occur today as in ancient times

Strongly agree	<b>72%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>15%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>4%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>8%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>*</b>

N. I believe that illnesses or injuries can be divinely healed

Strongly agree	<b>65%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>17%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>7%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>9%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>2%</b>
REFUSED	<b>0</b>

IF STRONGLY DISAGREE THAT MIRACLES STILL OCCUR AND ILLNESSES/INJURIES  
CAN BE DIVINELY HEALED, C1F [04] AND C1G [04], SKIP TO INSTRUCTIONS  
BEFORE C10.  
ALL OTHERS CONTINUE.

Many people have different definitions of miracles and divine interventions. In the following questions when we talk about a miracle, we are specifically referring to an incredible event that cannot be explained scientifically.

**N = 239**

C2 Have you ever personally experienced or witnessed a miracle like I just described?

03	YES	<b>56%</b>
04	NO	<b>43%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>*</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>*</b>

**N = 239**

C3 Have you ever personally experienced or witnessed a divine healing of an illness or injury?

03	YES	<b>56%</b>
04	NO	<b>42%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>*</b>

IF EXPERIENCED DIVINE HEALING, C3 [01], CONTINUE. ALL OTHERS SKIP TO C6
--

**N = 135**

C4 Who did you witness being healed? Was it . . .  
[READ LIST. RECORD AS MANY AS APPLY. WAIT FOR YES OR NO FOR EACH]

05	You, yourself	<b>41%</b>
06	A family member	<b>57%</b>
07	A friend or acquaintance	<b>27%</b>
08	A stranger	<b>15%</b>
195	OTHER [SPECIFY]	<b>0</b>
198	DON'T KNOW	<b>0</b>
199	REFUSED	<b>0</b>

**N = 135**

C5 Have you changed your behavior or outlook on life as a result of witnessing this divine healing?

01	YES	<b>76%</b>
02	NO	<b>23%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>0</b>

**N = 239**

C6 Do you believe some people are MORE likely to receive a miracle or divine healing than others?

01	YES	<b>66%</b>
02	NO	<b>26%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>8%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>*</b>

**N = 239**

C7 Which of the following do you think makes someone worthy of receiving a miracle?  
[READ AND ROTATE LIST. RECORD AS MANY AS APPLY. WAIT FOR YES OR NO FOR EACH]

07	Those with the greatest need	<b>53%</b>
08	They are a good, decent person	<b>54%</b>
09	They have faced enough trials in life already	<b>58%</b>
10	They have faith	<b>85%</b>
11	Strength of their desire and conviction	<b>58%</b>
12	Prayer, by the recipient and/or on the recipient's behalf	<b>49%</b>
195	OTHER [SPECIFY]	<b>5%</b>
197	NOTHING	<b>4%</b>
198	DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
199	REFUSED	<b>0</b>

**N = 239**

C8 How often do you think miracles occur? Would you say . . .  
[READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

06	Never	<b>2%</b>
07	Occasionally	<b>12%</b>
08	Sometimes	<b>20%</b>
09	Often	<b>15%</b>
10	Every day	<b>46%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>5%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>0</b>

**N = 239**

C9 What supernatural powers do you think bestow miracles on people?  
[READ LIST. RECORD AS MANY AS APPLY. WAIT FOR YES OR NO FOR EACH. ROTATE 01-06]

08	God or another supreme power	<b>84%</b>
09	Holy Spirit	<b>69%</b>
10	Jesus	<b>77%</b>
11	Angels or guardian angels	<b>56%</b>
12	Saints	<b>46%</b>
13	Deceased relatives or others who have passed	<b>27%</b>
14	Other spirits	<b>15%</b>
195	OTHER [SPECIFY]	<b>1%</b>
197	NONE	<b>1%</b>
198	DON'T KNOW	<b>2%</b>
199	REFUSED	<b>0</b>

IF STRONGLY DISAGREE IN BELIEF IN ANGELS/GUARDIAN ANGELS, C1D [04], SKIP TO C13. ALL OTHERS CONTINUE.
---

**N = 224**

C10 How do you think angels influence your life? What do they do?  
[READ AND ROTATE LIST. RECORD AS MANY AS APPLY. WAIT FOR YES OR NO FOR EACH]

05	They help people in need or trouble	<b>69%</b>
06	They provide insight or inspiration	<b>60%</b>
07	They act as guides to the afterlife	<b>50%</b>
08	They act as watchers over people's lives	<b>79%</b>
195	OTHER [SPECIFY]	<b>1%</b>
197	NONE	<b>6%</b>
198	DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
199	REFUSED	<b>*</b>

**N = 224**

C11 Have you ever seen an angel?

01	YES	<b>17%</b>
02	NO	<b>82%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>0</b>

**N = 224**

C12 Do you think your deceased relatives serve as angels or guardian angels in your life?

01	YES	<b>50%</b>
02	NO	<b>40%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW	<b>10%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>*</b>

**N = 251**

C13 Would you describe yourself as very religious or spiritual, somewhat religious or spiritual, or not religious or spiritual at all?

04	VERY RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL	<b>37%</b>
05	SOMEWHAT RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL	<b>49%</b>
06	NOT RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL AT ALL	<b>9%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW/UNCERTAIN	<b>5%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

**N = 23**

[ASK IF C13 (03)]

C14 Would you consider yourself agnostic, atheist, or something else?

01	AGNOSTIC	<b>9%</b>
02	ATHEIST	<b>13%</b>
03	SOMETHING ELSE	<b>48%</b>
98	DON'T KNOW/UNCERTAIN	<b>30%</b>
99	REFUSED	<b>0</b>

IF CONSIDER YOURSELF NOT RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL, C13 [03], SKIP TO INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE C19. ALL OTHERS CONTINUE
---

N = 228

C15 Now I'm going to read you a list of religious or spiritual activities. Please tell me how often you do each of these things.

Would you say every day, more than once a week, once a week, at least once a month, several times a year, once a year or less, or never?

[ROTATE ITEMS]

G. Attend religious services

Every day	<b>4%</b>
More than once a week	<b>17%</b>
Once a week	<b>29%</b>
At least once a month	<b>17%</b>
Several times a year	<b>11%</b>
Once a year or less	<b>4%</b>
Or, never	<b>17%</b>
DON'T KNOW	*
REFUSED	*

H. Pray or meditate outside of religious services

Every day	<b>64%</b>
More than once a week	<b>12%</b>
Once a week	<b>10%</b>
At least once a month	<b>5%</b>
Several times a year	<b>3%</b>
Once a year or less	<b>1%</b>
Or, never	<b>4%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>0</b>

I. Listen to religious radio or watch religious television programs

Every day	<b>16%</b>
More than once a week	<b>12%</b>
Once a week	<b>16%</b>
At least once a month	<b>11%</b>
Several times a year	<b>7%</b>
Once a year or less	<b>7%</b>
Or, never	<b>29%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>2%</b>
REFUSED	*

J. Share your faith with others

Every day	<b>32%</b>
More than once a week	<b>17%</b>
Once a week	<b>14%</b>
At least once a month	<b>9%</b>
Several times a year	<b>8%</b>
Once a year or less	<b>4%</b>
Or, never	<b>14%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>0</b>

K. Read religious materials or scripture outside of religious services

Every day	<b>25%</b>
More than once a week	<b>18%</b>
Once a week	<b>13%</b>
At least once a month	<b>12%</b>
Several times a year	<b>9%</b>
Once a year or less	<b>5%</b>
Or, never	<b>18%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>*</b>
REFUSED	<b>0</b>

L. Volunteer for religious organizations or at your place of worship

Every day	<b>5%</b>
More than once a week	<b>9%</b>
Once a week	<b>11%</b>
At least once a month	<b>10%</b>
Several times a year	<b>8%</b>
Once a year or less	<b>7%</b>
Or, never	<b>47%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>2%</b>
REFUSED	<b>*</b>

**N = 228**

C16 Some people travel to sites where miracles or divine events have been reported to take place. Please tell me which of the following statements BEST represents your views.  
[READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER]

- 05 I have traveled specifically to see this type of site because I felt it was important to do so **23%**
- 06 I have never traveled to such a site but believe these places are holy and will do so if I have the opportunity **48%**
- 07 I am not sure I fully believe in these sites **9%**
- 08 I do not believe these sites are what they claim to be **14%**
- 98 DON'T KNOW **4%**
- 99 REFUSED **1%**

**N = 228**

C17 I'm going to read you a series of statements. Tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement. Please remember, there are no right or wrong answers.  
[ROTATE ITEMS]

G. I go to my place of worship because it helps me to make friends

Strongly agree	<b>33%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>12%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>7%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>13%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>32%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>3%</b>
REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

H. It is important to me to spend time in private thought and prayer

Strongly agree	<b>75%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>14%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>3%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>2%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>5%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>*</b>

I. I pray mainly to gain relief and protection

Strongly agree	<b>70%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>14%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>2%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>5%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>7%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>2%</b>
REFUSED	<b>0</b>

J. What religion offers me most is comfort in times of trouble and sorrow

Strongly agree	<b>73%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>13%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>2%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>4%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>5%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>4%</b>
REFUSED	<b>*</b>

K. My whole approach to life is based on my religion

Strongly agree	<b>62%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>17%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>4%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>6%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>9%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>1%</b>
REFUSED	<b>*</b>

L. I go to my place of worship mainly because I enjoy seeing people I know there

Strongly agree	<b>32%</b>
Somewhat agree	<b>11%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>6%</b>
Somewhat disagree	<b>8%</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>38%</b>
DON'T KNOW	<b>3%</b>
REFUSED	<b>1%</b>

**N = 228**

C18 What religion do you consider yourself?  
[DO NOT READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

05	PROTESTANT (INCLUDE BAPTIST, LUTHERAN, METHODIST, PRESBYTERIAN, EPISCOPALIAN, PENTECOSTAL, JEHOVAH'S WITNESS, CHURCH OF CHRIST, ETC)	<b>25%</b>
06	CATHOLIC	<b>65%</b>
07	JEWISH	<b>*</b>
08	MORMON (INCLUDE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS)	<b>*</b>
05	ORTHODOX CHURCH (GREEK OR RUSSIAN)	<b>*</b>
06	ISLAM/MUSLIM	<b>0</b>
07	ATHEIST	<b>0</b>
08	AGNOSTIC	<b>0</b>
195	OTHER RELIGION [SPECIFY]	<b>4%</b>
197	NO DENOMINATION/SPIRITUAL	<b>*</b>
198	DON'T KNOW	<b>4%</b>
199	REFUSED	<b>2%</b>