

Thirsting after the Supernatural

God is a Supernatural God

I want to begin by making some introductory comments:

Firstly, the foundation upon which we want to build is the biblical truth: God does not change – He is still a miracle working God of signs and wonders. Malachi 3:6, “For I am the Lord, I do not change”

Secondly, because God does not change he expects his unchanging ways to be replicated – to be continued through this church.

Thirdly, Ephesians 1:18-19 is an important revelatory key to walking in the Spirit.

Ephes. 1:17-19

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. [18] I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, [19] and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,

Fourthly, the supernatural realm of God can only be accessed through the Holy Spirit living in us and working through us.

The supernatural from an Old Testament Perspective

God’s miraculous power is not limited to an era of miracles. God does not change. A record of God’s miraculous power and provision in the Old Testament:

- The creation account (Genesis 1-2)
- The creation of God’s people through Abraham and Isaac
- Deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage.
- Miracles performed through Elijah and Elisha
- Miracles manifested through the prophets

From a New Testament Perspective

- The Virgin birth Luke 1:35. The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.
- Miracles performed through Jesus
- The cross events; Jesus the sacrificed Lamb
- The resurrection of Jesus
- The birth of the Church (Acts 2)
- Miracles performed by the apostles and disciples in the early church.
- Miracles performed by the disciples over the past two millennia

Move with the Rhythm of the Holy Spirit

What constitutes the rhythms of the Holy Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit longs to perform creative miracles.
- The Holy Spirit is the chief administrator of the church.
- He enables us to see what the Father is doing (John 5:19).
- He fills us and empowers us to do the words and works of Jesus.
- He is the divine connector between heaven and earth and the church.

How do you flow with the rhythms of the Holy Spirit?

- a. Contend for your experience with God

Mark 4:24

"Consider carefully what you hear," (believe) he continued. "With the measure you use, (apply to your life) it will be measured to you--and even more.

'Consider or pay attention' says Jesus; in other words be determined what you will contend for in your experience of God. Most of us are easily satisfied with too small an expectation of God.

- b. Feed your spirit on examples of spiritual promises of a great release of power

John 14:12

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Acts 2:17-20

" 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. [18] Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

[19] I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

[20] The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

Acts 19:11-20

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, [12] so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

[13] Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." [14] Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. [15] One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" [16] Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

[17] When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. [18] Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. [19] A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. [20] In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

c. Feed your spirit on the great revivalists of the past. It is important to study history of revivals to stir up your spirit.

d. Believe God for the greater works.

From knowledge to experience

- Fix our eyes on the supernatural, miracle working Jesus

Col. 3:1-3

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. [3] For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

- God still works miracles on behalf of those who dare to believe him.

God deals with us in supernatural ways

- Born again is a supernatural birth

- Your heavenly Father wants to bring you to the place where you are walking in the supernatural and experiencing miracles in every areas of your life on a consistent basis.

A new Paradigm

- a. A paradigm shift is a change from one way of thinking and doing things to another.
- b. George Barna in his recent book Revolution has observed the following paradigm shifts taking place in the church.
- c. Revolutionary Age. Revolutionary Christians don't play church. They are aggressively opposed to compromise or soft sell or sinful nature to expand organizational turf.
- d. Revolutionaries zealously pursue an intimate relationship with God, which God promised we would have.
- e. They are passionate about practicing the same passions that defined the early church in order to be agents of transformation in the world.
- f. T.L Lowery writes, "There is a hunger within the body of Christ that is deeper than ever before... They are no longer content to just go through the motions. They long for an intimate relationship with the Father that will result in their lives being transformed so they can effectively impact their world." (2007:47)
- g. God is raising up those who long to be more familiar with the supernatural than with the natural world.