

"VIEWING THE SUPERNATURAL CORRECTLY"

1 Thess 1:5-8

A man I admired for incredible gift ministry – it was obvious he was moving away from it. I asked why: He said, "I felt like a trained monkey; They don't want me – they just want me to perform." Attitude led him astray. Wrong views of the supernatural can hinder what God wants to do.

I. INCORRECT VIEWS OF THE SUPERNATURAL

A. There are incorrect views people have about the supernatural that hinder genuine ministry

1. **It is only for certain people:** Only certain people have been gifted supernaturally by God

- a. 1950's: This was propagated (God's man of faith & power) – b/c men were trying to build ministries/competing/making \$
- 1. That hindered us for years: 'The healer/crusade guy' No one else could do what he did

2. **It is optional:** You don't really need it to do God's work; All we need to do is pray/evangelize

- a. 1 Thess 1:5 our gospel did not come in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance...

3. **That it is for a performance:** We bring in a guy every once in a while to amaze us

- a. Much of what you see on the internet is drawing attention to the man

4. **That other people's abuse determines the reality of the supernatural:**

- a. The religious world is full of fakes & kooky nonsense: Fake words - radio in ear b. Bizarre practices
- c. False doctrine: Forces us to fight against (Brownsville/Toronto Blessing)

B. The sad fact is that you cannot accomplish God's will without a supernatural dimension!

1. Jesus emphasized the supernatural so much – b/c He knew that ministry is impossible without it!

II. VIEWING THE SUPERNATURAL CORRECTLY

A. **The supernatural is for people:** To help them

1. People are sick/hurting 2. Bound 3. Can't see clearly 4. Discouraged

- a. A supernatural touch from God can change everything – change their whole life!

B. **The supernatural is for God's Glory:**

1. The point is not for people to say "awesome man" – but rather "awesome God!"

- a. **Mark 2:12** 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!"

- 1. God is real! He does care! He can help me!

2. The ultimate purpose of the supernatural is to show how great God is!

C. **The supernatural is to bring breakthroughs**

- 1. Personal breakthroughs: Healing/deliverance/faith/finances 2. Breakthroughs in churches: People get saved - multiplies

D. **The supernatural is to inspire others:** The mistake my friend made – he didn't try and help others to have what he had

1. Elisha saw what Elijah had: *I want what you have!*

- a. Have a heart to want others to have it b. Encourage them – they can c. Teach/involve them

III. APPROPRIATING THE SUPERNATURAL

A. **Identify what you need – and what you want!**

1. This may begin with desire: God puts desires in our hearts – we need to respond to that

- a. **1 Corinthians 12:31** But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

2. Faith personalizes the word of God: Peter said "This is that! This is for us/right now!"

B. **Immerse yourself in the supernatural**

1. Whatever you feed on – will become part of you: Lester Sumrall - *Feed your faith, and starve your doubts*

- a. Read/study scriptures/stories on the supernatural b. Read books c. Listen d. Watch clips

2. Ask questions of people who are used supernaturally: *Iron sharpens iron*

C. **Ask God for a supernatural dimension**

1. Anyone who is/has been used in the supernatural will tell you at some point they began to ask God for it

- a. **2 Kings 2:9** And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "**Ask!** What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

- 1. How much do you want it? Can you live without it? Ask! Seek! Knock!

D. **Step out in faith:**

1. The Holy Spirit only flows as we risk and obey

- a. The risk part lays our pride on the line b. The obedience shows our devotion

- 1. **Matthew 13:12** For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

a. When we risk and obey – God releases more: The flow of the Holy Spirit

- 1. Pray for someone for healing b. Try a word in witnessing