

Illus: Early ministry - I had been on staff for about 4 months - pastor Greg took me out for coffee and asked me point blank "Show me one area of your life where you have a supernatural dimension at work - power beyond yourself." Up until that point I had never really considered that to be a area of need in my life.

Greatest need in every disciples life - contend for - and develop a supernatural dimension in your ministry.

I. The Missing Dimension

A. Ministry Realities

1. Ministry takes work True of ministry and life
 - a) Have to plan outreaches / set up equipment / practice / organize / fill out permits etc
2. Ministry requires dedication and commitment
 - a) Faithfulness is prerequisite for ministry - can you show up on time / show up when scheduled
 - b) Our church would not run without faithful dependable people - laboring
3. Critical understanding ministry at its core is supernatural
 - a) Reality is Labor and hard work is not automatically rewarded with victory and breakthrough
 - (1) Can be frustrating especially in ministry - doing everything right and still not seeing what we want
4. Our text shows us - what was happening was **far beyond** just the natural - handkerchief healing ministry

Acts 19:11 *Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.*

- a) God was at work in Pauls ministry - it was more than simply try hard and be better - supernatural

B. Problem: Men can approach ministry only in the natural

1. Mistake #1 - Our **efforts alone** equal results
 - a) The right marketing, right charisma, the right analytics and that's what will bring breakthrough
2. Mistake #2 - Formula based ministry
 - a) I did what pastor said / held my hand in just the right way / said all the right words
 - b) *"In the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches"*
3. Mistake #3 - Basing ministry on information only— *The notes / the documents / the technical tips and tricks*
 - a) Many men can approach ministry this way - if I just know enough and learn enough I will be effective

C. Mechanics of ministry can **hide and mask the missing dimensions** inside disciples

1. Men in our story — in many ways were church kids — 7 sons of Sceva - a Jewish chief priest
 - a) One of the realities of being born and raised in this church and among this fellowship - you can function for a long time without a **personal supernatural dimension**
 - b) Not talking about living as a hypocrite - fake and not even saved / good intentioned men who love God
2. Our church in many ways is a machine - many people involved in many different ministries
 - a) Its under the umbrella of the corporate body of Christ - what is missing in a man personally is hidden
3. Ministry has a way bringing to light whats in our own hearts and what's missing
 - a) In ministry you will face problems and circumstances that simply saying the right words will not be enough

Acts 19:13-14 *Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.*

- b) **The expectation is not that every area of your life the supernatural is at work - but there should be at least one area of the supernatural - and identifying the weak areas**

II. Painful Exposure

A. What is lacking in a disciple will eventually be exposed :This is the result of the missing dimension

1. **What is missing in a disciple will become obvious**

Acts 19:15 *And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"*

2. **Ministry Magnifies**

- a) IF there is no supernatural dimension of breakthrough or power in your life today - Ministry doesn't magically take that away - rather problems and situations make that more obvious
- b) These seven sons were not exposed until they stepped into an arena where they were challenged

B. Exposure is not comfortable

Acts 19:16 *Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*

1. **Humbling** — wounding of the pride.
 - a) Our text - these men were stripped naked and ran out of the house — would have been humbling
 - b) The nature of man - we don't like our weakness being exposed / don't like light shining on our lack
2. **Spin you out** — how come it didn't work? Why no fruit? Why no visitors?
 - a) Seen this in men - an outreach didn't work / ministry venture ended unexpectedly/ experienced a set back or reversal - men spin out- quit- leave the ministry - develop a bad attitude and blame God for not doing enough to help them.
3. **We run from our own calling**

- a) Come to conclusions about God/ ministry / we blame the methodology of the church and fellowship - *it doesn't work / maybe I am not called - maybe God does not want to use my life any more*
- b) *7 sons - we never hear from them again / could have been powerfully used by God*

(1) *Embarrassed, frustrated, humiliated, learn to settle, unaware there is something missing inside*

2 Kings 4:31 *Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened."*

- C. Painful exposure is actually good for you — it's God trying to help you.
 - 1. God doesn't want you to have to function in ministry on your own.
 - a) Good news - if there is a lack - something missing in your / that's fixable / changeable
 - 2. Being exposed forces us to **examine ourselves**
 - a) As a disciple have to learn how to assess where you are at in life - ask the question
 - b) *Why am I not personally fruitful/ on outreach why can't I get anyone saved/ I have no lasting fruit in my life/ people don't respond when I preach / I've never seen someone healed after I pray for them - WHY?*
 - (1) *Finances / relationships / carnality and the flesh / lack of dominion*
 - 3. Lack of supernatural power and dominion effects more than just you
 - a) This tormented and possessed man was not changed -
 - b) See - today it may seem like just another outreach / another one80 / another service - but really its peoples lives - the devil has people bound and addicted - tormented and broken - you are the answer

Acts 19:17 *The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored.*

III. **Contending For A Supernatural Dimensions**

- A. The answer to a missing dimension when we are painfully exposed — we must **contend for the supernatural!**
 - 1. Mechanics are only one part of discipleship — ministry is supernatural
 - a) We need more than great flyers, more flyers, more ads, more information, more techniques, more training - **all of which you better have in place** - but they will never make up for a supernatural dimension
 - 2. This is personal for every man

Matthew 17:19 *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"*

- a) These men asked Jesus - "What am I missing?" / **Can you ask your pastor that?**

Matthew 17:21 *However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."*

- b) Pastor can points in your life that are meant to help you: **How do you react to that?**
 - (1) Problem is we can get offended / butt hurt / pout for months or years - when your pastor was simply trying to save you from pain down the road - if he didn't care about your future he wouldn't say anything to you in the first place
- 3. Here is the main point - if you are missing a supernatural dimension - that is fixable - you can change those spiritual factors

Luke 10:17-18 *Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*

- a) This is the result of a supernatural dimension - we become supernaturally effective

- B. When you reach this point, you can contend for a supernatural dimension — it is obtainable!
 - 1. Identify an area of life you need a supernatural dimension.
 - a) That comes from the word of God - if my life does not match what God has declared - then I am missing something.
 - 2. Build your faith from the Word of God for it.
 - a) *PG - this is what God has said now what are you going to do about*
 - (1) Tell me 3 scriptures about - breakthrough in money, healing, fruitfulness
 - (2) **Converts will not grow beyond their level of revelation - and disciples will not grow beyond their hunger for the word of God**
 - 3. Ask God for a supernatural dimension.
 - a) If any of you lacks wisdom - let him ask...
 - 4. Do things in the kingdom of God that stretch your faith
 - a) Step out into the supernatural — put yourself in situations that you need the supernatural dimension.

One of the first men that I prayed for after my convo with PG - Juhan Fifield / had a bad back pain we paid and he was healed — THAT WAS FOR ME - I had prayed before - but this was a direct connection with what had contended for.

- b) You have an opportunity now to identify and gain a supernatural dimension

- C. What does a supernatural Dimension look like once you've obtained it? How do you know if you have the SD?
 - 1. You witness — people get saved, come to church, lock in, get involved, sent into the ministry
 - 2. You pray for the sick — they get healed!
 - 3. You pray for people to be filled with the H.G. — they're filled and are set free from habits/addictions
 - 4. You get dominion in finances — breakthrough in finances/get out of debt/able to give liberally/etc
 - a) Essentially the areas of life where you had no victory - that changed and now you have victory