

The Supernatural Kingdom of God

1 Corinthians 2:14

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Most of the Church engages God on a naturalistic level. The believer that engages God only on a naturalistic level. God is part of their naturalist routine. For them faith in God and His Kingdom is something to be experienced after the grave. For now God can only be experienced through the Word and any and all supernatural manifestations is either one 'a sovereign act of God' or demonic. This is what I call the Christian naturalistic paradigm.

Most of us are within this paradigm. We might assert that we believe in the supernatural. That we believe in the power of the Kingdom of God this side of the grave, but our lives testify that we are all too natural in our thinking. The supernatural power of the Kingdom is without effect, because of our unbelief.

Thus, throughout this message one theme that is very important is the aspect of faith. Pure faith, faith without unbelief. A faith that moves mountains. Our society as a whole brainwashes us to not believe. That is one of the big reasons why the supernatural gifts and miracles have stopped manifesting within the Church. We are probably living in the most unbelieving, naturalistic age ever. Too much stock is placed in the opinions of scientists and naturalists. We will not dare second guess our doctor's opinion, but our pastors are second guessed and ridiculed around every corner. The secular's view of religion and Christianity is something cute and cuddly. The world views Christians as ignorant, gullible and foolish. Even Bible believing Christians. The Church retaliates in a carnal way and starts ridiculing and threatening unbelievers with hell fire. Telling homosexuals and unbelievers that they should repent and believe. Is that the best we have?

Did the early Church do that? Did Paul, at the Agora shout: "You Greek idol worshiping heathens, repent and believe!" That kind of 'bible bashing' evangelism is best that carnal Christianity can offer. And this is the Church's fault. We've lost touch with our Heavenly Councilor and Helper (*parakletos*). Without Him we cannot be salt. We are being trodden underfoot, and we believe this is 'normal Christianity'. **Let me show you what should be the norm. Acts 14:8**

ACTS 14:8

8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

**14 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,
15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.**

We make the power of the Kingdom and the power of God into a doctrine that only helps us 'post-mortem' after the grave, is okay. We are failing in our mandate to be salt. Let us again cultivate our faith. And look to the power of the Kingdom and stop being so very natural/carnal in our thinking.

John 11:39-43

³⁹ **"Take away the stone," he said.**

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

⁴⁰ **Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"**

⁴¹ **So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."**

⁴³ **When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" "The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.**

I want to look at three aspects of how we can apply the Kingdom in our lives through faith. This is by no means an exhaustive study on faith or the Kingdom of God. I want this message to practical & relevant to all here. Therefore I want to look at finances, Healing & hearing God's voice. All of these or at least one of these subjects will be relevant for you today.

Believe by faith 1 – Kingdom Finances

Sowing & Reaping (2 Cor. 9:6) – The more you give with cheerfulness and gladness the more you will have to give. We need to sow so that God can give increase. This Kingdom principle can only work when 1) We believe that God is our source. Nothing else. We have sparrow faith. 2) We need to give cheerfully and with pure intentions. We cannot give out of greed and think God should bless our giving.

The premise of sowing and reaping is that God will supernaturally give increase when you believe and trust in Him. We this principle also at work in Exodus and Deuteronomy, where the Lord tells the Israelites to not harvest on the 7th year and cancel all debt on the 7th year. After 7 cycles, in other words, on the 50th you will have a Jubilee Year where slaves and prisoners would be freed and land would be restored the original owner. These are biblical principles that God gave, so that we would apply it, by and through that always trust Him as our Provider. Sabbatical Year/Smitah Year.

I'm touching on these matters because I believe we are about to face great economic calamity. The economies of the World will be shaken. We need to know Who is our Provider and start applying the principle of sowing and reaping so that God can use the Church in the time economic and political calamity that is at the door.

SHOW VIDEO: Lemons Video – must be GMO lemons. “The supernatural things of God offends the natural mind.”

Believe by faith 1 – Supernatural Healing

God wants you healed. We struggle to see supernatural healing, because so many times our theology is mangled and twisted. We have different perspectives. 1) Some see sickness as from God. That God gives us cancer to teach us lessons. 2) Others view sickness and illness as our own fault. We have some sin in our lives or something. 3) Some view it as part of the fallen world. Sin and death entered the world when Adam sinned and therefore we get sick. Whatever the case may be, I believe the Biblical message is one that tells us that God wants us to be healthy. We need to understand this. We need to found our faith on Biblical truth. The Bible tells us that He gave Himself for us. 2 Peter: “By His wounds we were healed” Past tense. If we are to experience God’s supernatural healing we need to start building and cultivating our faith. We need to believe so that we can see the glory of God.

Luke 13:10-13

¹⁰On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” ¹³Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

I want to re-iterate this point by telling a story that I heard by Bill Johnson. This is a story about 2 paintings

TELL STORY OF 2 PAINTINGS:

Faith is crucial if we are to experience God’s supernatural power and healing. Unbelief can hinder God’s power from manifesting in our lives. All things of God is received through faith. Always grace through faith. That’s how we received salvation. Grace through faith. Why is it that with other matters we don’t want to apply faith? Faith is crucially important. To illustrate this point, I want to read from Mark 6, where Jesus returns to his hometown.

Mark 6:4

⁴Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” ⁵He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Don’t think Mark is saying that God is unable to heal. No I think Mark 6 tells us that for healing to manifest the one being prayed to and the one doing the praying should stand in faith. Faith is a crucial element if we are to experience God and His Kingdom supernaturally. Unbelief will stop the restorative and healing power of God.

Believe by faith 3 - Supernatural Hearing

During the Reformation a term Sola Scriptura was coined. It was an attempt by the Reformers to signal the need to return to the truth of Scripture as our foundation. Which is great. However, the intention was that the Bible should be the ultimate and final authority of all doctrine and dogma. Sola Scriptura never meant that a relationship with God is reading the Bible. Reading the Bible is not a relationship with God. It is but the doorway to God. We read the written logos to encounter the Divine Living Logos.

We read the Bible and have neglected the still small voice. Theologians has become masters in exegesis, but has no spiritual discernment. I remember a fellow student of theology told me during an assignment, we were working together, that I should pray and ask the Lord for guidance. He, my friend, will rather do exegesis, as prayer is not for him. To be a Christian is to pray! To read the Bible is to pray!

It is imperative that we learn God's voice, because some times He will lead us against our own mind and general wisdom and common sense. He will want us to take a step in faith, but without our spirit being sensitive to His Spirit we will not be able to discern.

"Disciples on Boat" at sea of Galilea.

Matthew 14:22

²²Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost,"they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

ἀναγκάζω – made, to force or compel. Why did Jesus have to compel or force the disciples into the boat. Because these were fishermen. They new that the wind was sterring up the waves and that the conditions weren't ideal to cross. Still against their knowledge and belief the Lord asked that the cross. The Lord wants us to obey Him, wether we want to or not.

We need to hone our ability to hear His voice. Stop filling your eye gates and ear gates with all kinds of nonsense and learn how to hear God's voice. Develop your prayer life, where you speak and God speaks. Prayer shouldn't be a monologue. It's communion – dialogue. Personally I struggle with this. I'm not walking in the fullness of hearing God. I know of prophets and believers who would walk into a bookshop and litteraly be so sensitive to the Spritit that

He would be able to lead them to specific book on a shelf. Go straight. Turn left. Second row. No, no, no, no, not that one. There it is. Buy that book.

These kind of testimonies challenge me. It challenges me to such an extent that I'm willing to leave everything, not my wife. My wife will leave everything with me. To leave everything and live in the mountains for a year, until I can clearly hear the voice of My Master.

Supernatural God:

Church places God within a neat and tidy box. This God. God only acts within the box. Anything outside our paradigm of Who God is, is automatically dismissed. Religions coaxes us into thinking about God in limited human naturalistic terms. There is a difference between our perception of Who God is and Who He really is. That's why we always need to pray Ephes. 1:16-21 (pray it for year, every waking moment. Cultivate a desire to know God more. Not Theology, but the person of the Triune God. His Character).