



LIFE IN THE SUPERNATURAL
Christ's Ministry Through Us!
COURSE WORKBOOK

Also used for
Retreat/Small Group Leader Guide

LIFE IN THE SUPERNATURAL

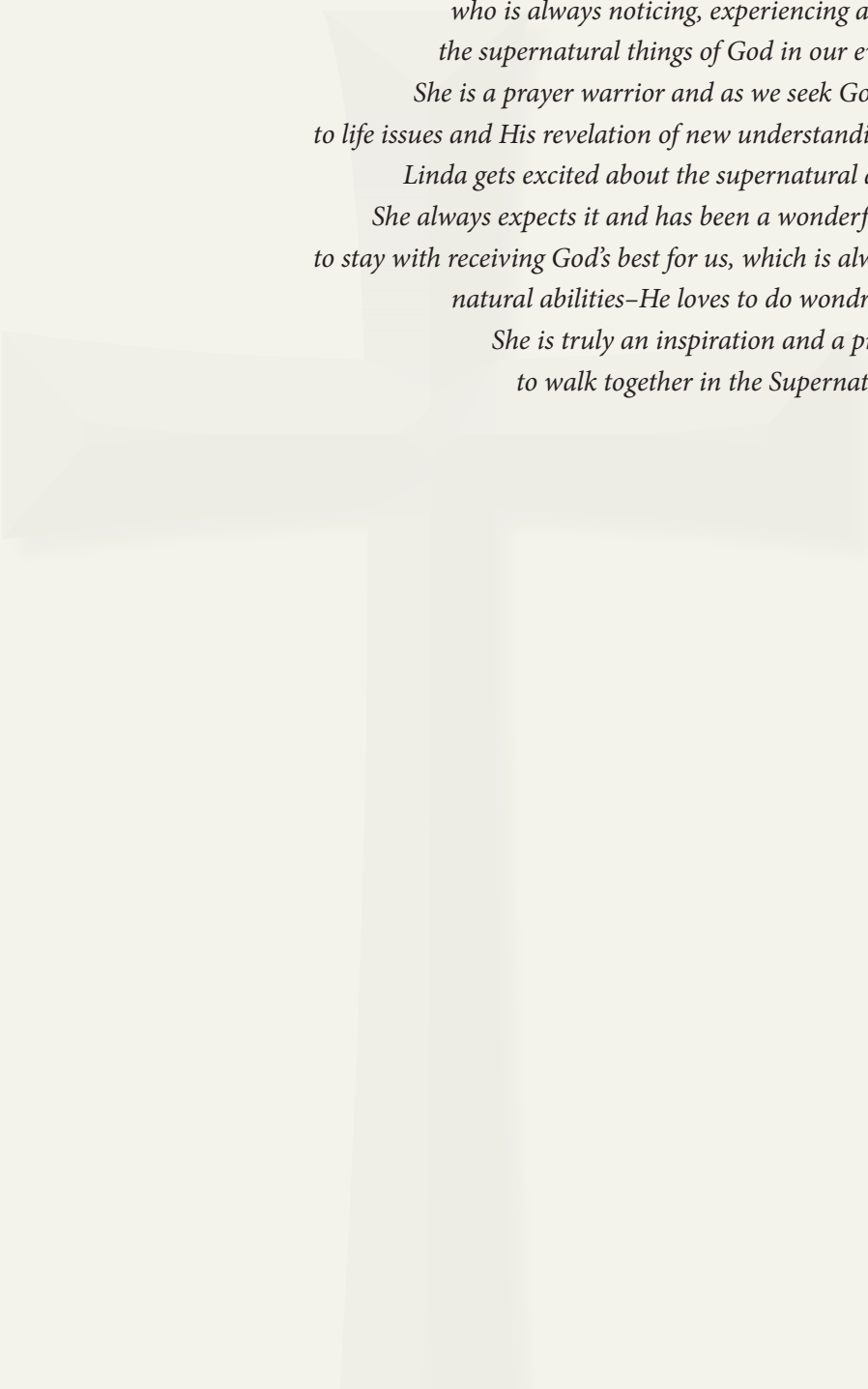
Christ's Ministry Through Us!

Course Workbook and Retreat/
Small Group Leader Guide

WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE





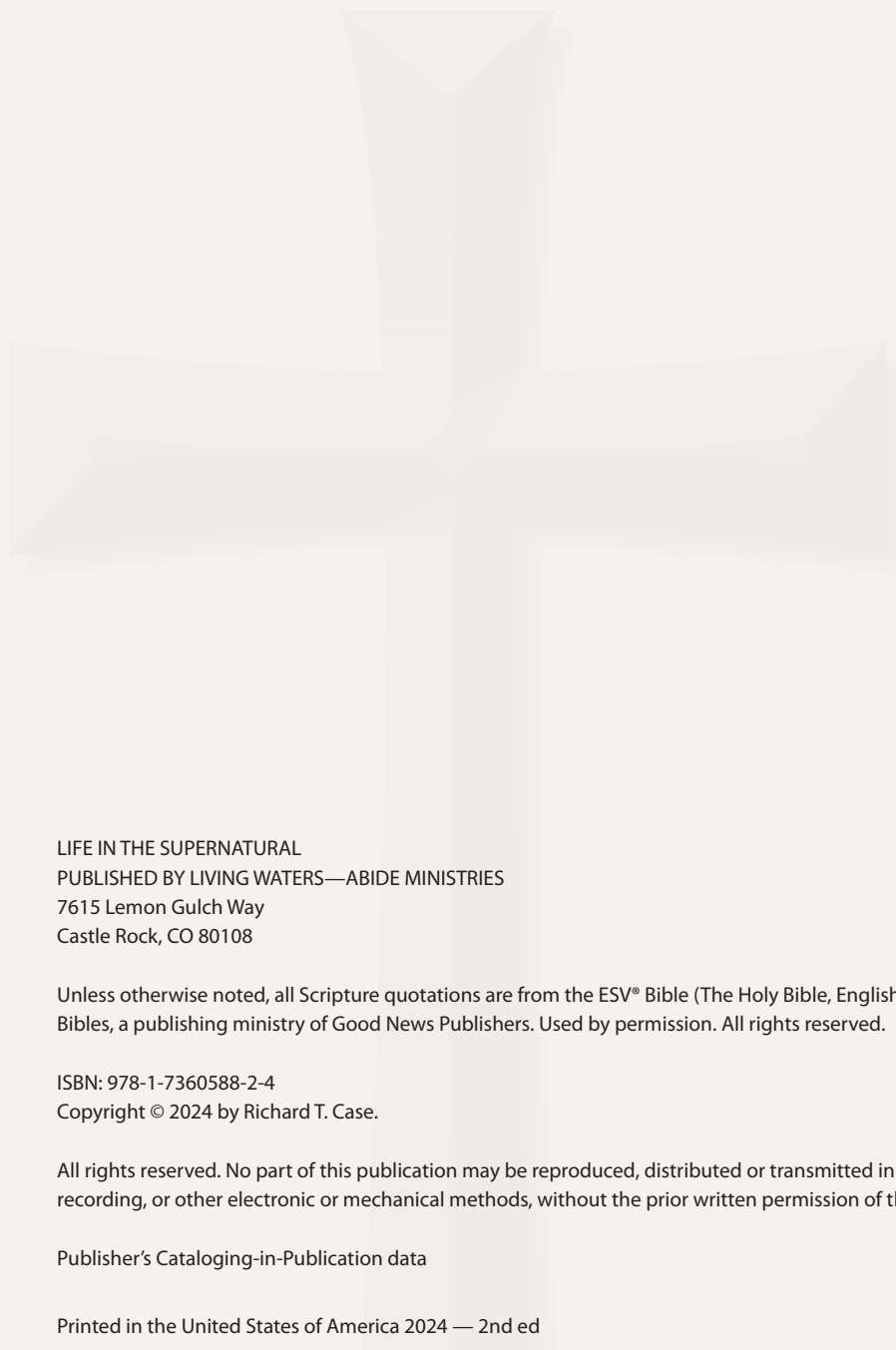
*To my wife, Linda,
who is always noticing, experiencing and sharing
the supernatural things of God in our everyday life.
She is a prayer warrior and as we seek God's resolutions
to life issues and His revelation of new understanding of the Covenant life,
Linda gets excited about the supernatural activity of God.
She always expects it and has been a wonderful encouragement
to stay with receiving God's best for us, which is always beyond us and our
natural abilities—He loves to do wondrous works.
She is truly an inspiration and a privilege
to walk together in the Supernatural.*

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank all of the leaders of our **Ministry: Living Waters—ABIDE Ministries!** These leaders have learned what it means to live in the Supernatural and now are giving this away to others—who are learning to live in the supernatural; and it is exponentially multiplying. Thank you all:

These leaders are:

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LIFE IN THE SUPERNATURAL Christ's Ministry Through Us!



INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION



"God bears witness to the great salvation by doing signs and wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit."

Welcome to our course, "Life in the Supernatural." This is an interesting but very difficult area for most people, as it tends to fall into one of two extremes:

1. People have observed groups that have been supposedly experiencing the supernatural and they look at it as kind of hokey, a lot of times phony, and even kind of strange. Because of these, they tend to ignore it completely.
2. Contrarily, because most believers have never really experienced the supernatural, and because our church and our theology don't seem to promote it, we just live without it.

This course is going to take us into a Biblical explanation of the supernatural and then show you how to practice it. John says in his book (John 20:30) that Jesus did many, many miracles that weren't even written in the book. And then he says the ones that were written in his book are intended for us to learn to believe it. This course will help you get into the Word where we can learn the truth of the supernatural, and where we will see that life in the supernatural should be normal because God wants to perform supernatural things in our life every day.

The sessions are going to help us understand the truth of the supernatural, how it works, why it doesn't work, and where it works. We do this for the purpose of having you begin practicing it, living it out, and ultimately start experiencing His miraculous life in your life. Then, as you begin experiencing it, you'll glorify Him as others will want to experience it as well. Once you are able to give away this knowledge to others, you'll see a wonderful change in your Christian life.

If you'd like to know more about
Abide Ministries,
please see our pages
at the back of the workbook

INTRODUCTION

Read Hebrews 2:1-4:

Warning Against Neglecting Salvation

² Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

What does God say about our great salvation? What is salvation?

We read here a very clear instruction. He says, don't neglect such a great salvation. Let's define that: First of all, the word *salvation* is the word "wholeness," and the root word, interestingly enough, is "healing" or "deliverance," which gives you the life of God. He says, don't neglect it. But what would it mean not to neglect something? It means we must pay attention to it. Not to pay attention to it, not to experience it is basically a heart that just does not care about it. And he says it's important not to neglect the fullness of salvation, the fullness of all that God wants to do. Thus, the first step in understanding the supernatural life is to pay attention to it and make it a significant part of your Christian life.

What is the reason, the purpose for the supernatural (the miraculous)?

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God bears witness to the great salvation by doing signs and wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. And in the Greek, it basically says: God does miracles; and miracles; and miracles. But, for what purpose? To bear witness that the life that He is giving you is experienced by miracles. That's what God wants to do, and that is real, and true in everyday life. So, it's not just talk about God and the potential of the supernatural, but it is the life of God that is to be full of the supernatural. This is why He says this is critical to your Christian life, why you can't neglect it, and why you must pay attention to it.

Word Definitions: **neglect:** careless, negligent
honor: dignity, riches, abundance
wonders: miracles
miracles: same word as power (dunamis)
gifts: distributions to us

Read John 14:12-14:

¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[a] anything in my name, I will do it.

What does God say regarding our participation in these miracles? Who is to be included in this?

We believers are going to be doing these works and even greater works.

To be clear, though, God is not talking about greater in nature because, quite frankly, we can't do anything greater than the resurrection. So, we may not be able to do magnificent works, but we have the opportunity to do a greater number of these works. Why? Because there'll be more of us, and all of us together are to be experiencing and participating in these miraculous works all the time.

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We believers all have the Holy Spirit and so we all will be doing and participating in supernatural works—and they are going to be a normal part of our lives. Because He was limited, finite at that moment, He understood that the supernatural works that were being performed were limited. He stated that He was going to go to the Father and leave us with Himself, through the Holy Spirit, by living in all of us. Thus, there will be so many more of us, that the greater number of works will be done—through and by us!

Word Definitions: **believe:** think to be true

ask: beg, crave for

Name: the name is used for everything, which the name covers, everything the thought or feeling of which is aroused in the mind by mentioning, hearing, remembering the name, (i.e., for one's rank, authority, interests, pleasure, command, excellences, deeds, etc.)

do: cause to make happen

glory: honor, splendor, majesty

So, He sets it up. Don't neglect so great a salvation, as He is going to bear witness to the Christian life with supernatural things, all the time. This course is going to teach us how to live this out and how to be involved.

LESSON 1: REGARDING THE SUPERNATURAL: WE HAVE QUESTIONS FOR JESUS, AND JESUS HAS QUESTIONS FOR US



"Where there is no forgiveness, there is no trace of anything resembling a forgiven life, a forgiven person, the evidence of forgiveness, or the evidence of Christ."

As we start to understand the supernatural, we're going to engage in an interesting exercise that will help clarify these two points:

1. What are our legitimate, heart-felt questions that we wonder about with regard to this area of the supernatural?
2. Interestingly enough, Jesus has questions right back to us. He asks, "Where are we regarding the truth of the supernatural?"

Let's begin with our questions to Jesus:

WHAT ARE OUR QUESTIONS TO JESUS?

For each of the following verses, write out what the questions were to Jesus about the supernatural (which are still our questions today):

Read Matthew 8:2:

² And behold, a leper^[a] came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."

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Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.

The first question we have for God is real and personal to our lives: Are you going to do the supernatural for me?

If we are honest, we know that we usually would answer this question with:

I don't really think you're going to do it for me. You can, but are you truly willing to do that for me? I doubt it.

Word Definitions: **to will:** have in mind, intend, to be resolved or determined, to purpose, to desire, to wish, to love, to like to do a thing, be fond of doing, to take delight in, have pleasure
can (dunamis): to be able, have power whether by virtue of one's own ability and resources, or of a state of mind, or through favorable circumstances, or by permission of law or custom; to be able to do something, to be capable, strong and powerful

Read Matthew 12:10:

¹⁰ And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" — so that they might accuse him.

Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath (so that they may accuse Him)? Is there a certain, specific protocol to this that I must follow? (Can I blame Him if it does not happen?)

This is profound and even tricky. "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" Let's take that deeper. We can't help but wonder if there are rules, if there is a protocol or a system that I must follow to live a life in the supernatural. There's got to be a system, and I have to learn that system; and I better do that system correctly. And by the way, if my life doesn't include the supernatural, is it because I don't do the system right? Either I don't know it, or I don't do it right. So, is there a system? And, if it doesn't work because of this, what's my conclusion? Well, then, I might as well stop bothering because I can't get there.

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Word Definition: **heal:** cure, restore to health

Read Matthew 14:28:

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. If this is truly you, then can you involve me personally?

I can see that something is going on. If so, then get me personally involved so I can have this be part of my life.

Involve me in this. Can you involve me in this? Christ said: yeah, sure, go ahead. Go out there and start walking on water (which we will explore further later). My view of the supernatural is that I know God can do it, but I wonder if it will happen personally in my life. That's the question.

Word Definitions: **command:** to order
come: from one place to another

Read Mark 5:35:

³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

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Your daughter is dead, why trouble the teacher any further? Isn't the conclusion already made? So why bother?

This is a big one. Can you come and heal my daughter? Yes, He comes, but the daughter has died. Their response is, since the daughter is dead, why bother? That's a big question and response for us. As far as I can tell, this circumstance isn't going to change. So, your conclusion, your question back to God is: Why even bother, the supernatural isn't going to matter; isn't this already determined? As far as I can see, it's already concluded. Why bother?

Word Definition: **trouble:** annoy

Read Mark 9:22:

²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Is this really possible?

The father knows that the disciples couldn't help his problem, so he goes to Jesus and asks: In any way, is there anything you can do to help me? I've got a problem. And that's our question: I can't solve this problem. So, is there anything you can do to help me, since I can't solve this problem? I'm not sure. I wonder.

Word Definitions: **can (dunamis):** to be able, have power whether by virtue of one's own ability and resources, or of a state of mind, or through favorable circumstances, or by permission of law or custom; to be able to do something, to be capable, strong, and powerful
compassion: moved at the emotional level with a will to do; help, succor, bring aid

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These are real and honest, legitimate questions. Well, interestingly enough, Jesus asks us questions right back.

Now, let's consider those questions Jesus might have for us.

WHAT ARE JESUS' QUESTIONS TO US?

Read Matthew 8:26:

²⁶ And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Why are you so fearful, O you of little faith?

His question back to His disciples, who are facing this particular issue, was what? Why are you so fearful? Why do you have such little faith? Yeah, I know you've got a problem. And, you know you can't solve this on your own. You are My children, and I am available to deliver answers and solutions supernaturally, but you tend to go to fear instead of coming to Me. Why are you going in a direction that has no solution?

Word Definitions: **fearful:** timid
little faith: trusting too little

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Read Matthew 9:28:

²⁸ When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."

Do you believe that I am able to do this?

Jesus says: "I can solve your personal problems. Do you believe that I can do this for you?" When we have a problem and need some help, He doesn't just say, "Okay, fine, it is automatically My will for the problem to go away." Instead, He asks a question back to us. "Do you believe I can do this? Let's have a discussion about this; what does your heart say about going further into the supernatural? Do you actually believe I can do this now?" Our Christian walk is not generic. It's about you. The first question to answer is if you believe God can do this for you.

Then He goes on and says: "According to your faith, let it be done for you." (We'll look at that later.)

Word Definition: **able (dunamis):** to be able, have power whether by virtue of one's own ability and resources, or of a state of mind, or through favorable circumstances, or by permission of law or custom; to be able to do something, to be capable, strong, and powerful; **do:** to carry out, to execute

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Read Matthew 20:32:

³² And stopping, Jesus called them and said, "What do you want me to do for you?"

What do you want me to do for you?

This is rather simple. These guys are struggling, and He asks a very direct question: "What exactly do you want Me to do for you?" He is getting to specifics because we tend to be generic in our prayer, simply asking God to solve our problem.

He retorts by saying: "What exactly are you talking about?" Do you even understand what is at the root of the issue? What do you want Me to do? He is going to go into the solutions that are specific, and He is asking if you are clear on this specific request. "So, what exactly do you want Me to do for you?"

Word Definition: **do:** to carry out, to execute

Read Mark 3:4:

⁴ And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent.

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Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil? To save life or to kill (not bring life)? Isn't this normal?

Now, we come back to the question, "Is there a protocol, is there a system to it? Should I even be looking to the supernatural to resolve my issue?" And His question back is, "Isn't it just normal? You are looking at this in a far too sophisticated way. It is way simpler than that: Isn't it normal to solve your issue?"

Word Definition: **to do good:** do something which profits others; to be a good help to someone; to do someone a favor; to benefit

Read Mark 5:30:

³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?"

Who touched My clothes (hem of My garment)? Who accessed My power?

Jesus immediately knew that power had gone out from Him, so He turned around in the crowd and said: "Who touched Me and accessed My power?"

In this case, there was somebody who went after the power, and Jesus's question was what? Who did that? Who came after this power, which implies something deeper that we'll get into, but He knew immediately the power went out. And He said, who did that? Who is the one who sought My power? Who accessed Me; meaning who is willing to go after this? We'll look at the importance of this later.

Word Definition: **evil:** do wrong

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Read Mark 6:38:

38 And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish."

How many loaves do you have? Go and see.

We've got a big problem; we've got all these people we need to feed and don't know what to do. And His first question back to them was: "What have you got? Go see what you have; we'll start there."

Because I can multiply, I can build, I can do something miraculous, but let's see what you have to start with, and we'll go from there. Are you willing to go?

Read Mark 8:12:

¹² And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation."

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Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation. Why do you seek the miracle over what specifically I desire to do for you? Why are you seeking the miracle over the miracle giver?

He says that your heart has drifted off from the work of God to proving out the work of God. In other words, in this generation, we've gone from seeking the solution to your issue, to just wanting to see a miracle to prove that it actually happens. "I just want to see miracles. I'm not looking for it to be a resolution to anything personal or any of my issues. I just want to be part of the miraculous, as the miraculous is exciting. To which He replies: "Why do you seek this, the miracle over the miracle giver? Why are you doing that?" You're losing the essence of the purpose of the supernatural. And He said that's where it starts to get weird. Why are you seeking the miracle over the giver of the miracle? And, by the way, this is all personal, but you've lost the personal nature of it. And now you want to just get excited about the miracle. Why do you do that?

Word Definition: **sign:** prodigy, portent, i.e., an unusual occurrence, transcending the common course of nature

Read John 5:6:

⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?"

Do you want to be made well?

Jesus knows that we have problems and are tending to live with these problems as normal, so He asks, "Do you really want to be made well?" Interestingly enough, the answer to that question much of the time is, "Not really. I actually enjoy this state of affairs. I've learned to live with being a victim. I am living in this infirmity because it's really defined my life, and I enjoy the attention I get from this. I actually don't want to be made well. And since I've learned to accept what my life is now, I don't really want to move out of that life." So, one of the questions He is asking is for us to get to the root of where our heart is, "Do you want to be made well?"

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Word Definitions: **made:** become (i.e., to come to pass, happen)
whole: restore him to health, restored completely

Read John 9:35:

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"^[a]

Do you believe in the Son of God?

Ultimately, the question is going to be: "Do you believe in Me who is doing this work?" He is carrying you to that depth of faith so that you get to know God personally and the power of God personally—that His desire to perform the miracles bear witness to and glorify Himself.

Word Definition: **believe:** think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in

Read John 11:40:

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

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Did I not say to you that if you would believe, you would see the glory of God?

The question to all of us is: Do you believe, in your heart, all that God is ready to do? If you do, do you understand that you're going to see the glory of God? Do you understand that through the process itself Jesus will bring about God's glory? This all will happen through the simple act of believing. As you share your belief with others, they, too, will be drawn to God. Together, we get to participate in this as we enjoy its benefits—both personally and in God's bigger story.

We will testify about that which only He could do. We will share that nothing happened in our own strength or will. Instead, we will testify that the good came through the supernatural. Everyone will recognize that the good is so far beyond what you can do on your own, that you couldn't begin to take credit for it. Often, we do not offer God the glory because we live so much in the natural, the everyday, the expected. You often can't explain or discuss anything that God is doing because you simply lack belief and don't give God a chance to show His strength. And, while you may mention God or even talk about Him, that conversation is usually relegated to the fact that you get to be with Him in heaven. But those talks rarely get people excited about all that God can do now, as this would mean we were a part of supernatural work. This is difficult for us to prove, so we often don't mention it at all. But the supernatural IS the proof. When you recognize it, that is the first step in glorifying God.

Word Definition: **believe:** think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in

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3. WHAT IS IT REALLY?

Read Matthew 8:5-9:

The Faith of a Centurion

⁵When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶“Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” ⁷And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” ⁸But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.” ⁹For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ^[a]‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

What did the Centurion understand regarding how the supernatural works?
On what basis does this work? Why?

The centurion is a Roman soldier, so he's not someone who would have any training or prior experience in religious matters (except perhaps Roman myths) or even any exposure to the stories of God's supernatural work from the Old Testament. He is not Jewish and lives in Capernaum. But he goes to Jesus and says: “My servant is dreadfully tormented, please come and heal him.” He has seen Christ do other miracles and asks Him to do the same for his servant—to come and heal his servant. And then the centurion goes one step farther and says something remarkable: “You don't even need to come—just speak it.”

The centurion is able to speak this truth about the supernatural because he had observed something with his own eyes. That he, too, was under authority, so he understood that Jesus' authority came from what He spoke; and when He spoke to the problem, the healing, the miracle would happen.

So, what is the authority? Supernatural things occur based on Christ speaking His Word—that which He says. The authority is based upon what God says. The supernatural is based upon His speaking His spiritual Word to this situation. And the centurion says, “I know and understand that because I've observed it: When

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you healed somebody, you didn't even have to be there physically. It wasn't you laying on hands. It wasn't you doing this or that. It was you speaking it." Then he said, "I understand this because when I say something to my men, they do it." He said, "I get it, so you know what, you don't even need to come. Please just say the words." This is the essence of the supernatural—it is based upon Him speaking the words. When He says His Word from the spiritual, it is then executed in the natural. He can say, "Be healed," even though He is not physically with us, the supernatural happens because the authority is from His Word.

Since this authority is what He commands, what does His spiritual Word have rulership over? It has rulership over the natural circumstances of our life. God created the world by speaking, so His spiritual Words have rulership over the natural. That means that the supernatural is based upon Him speaking His spiritual Word over my circumstances because they're superior to my circumstances. He rules over my circumstances, so it's a matter of whether or not I'm going to hear what He has to speak. His Word is the "authority" that is supernatural to the natural that brings healing and resolution to my situation. My question is always: "What, then, do you have to say about this? How will you address this? What word of authority are you going to speak to perform the supernatural?" I am then called to believe this because of the truth about the authority of His Word.

Just as He spoke the material world into being, He can speak things into existence regarding my circumstances. He can change our very circumstances just by speaking, He could bring healing to the centurion's servant who was dreadfully tormented and couldn't be healed by earthly physicians. How? Not by natural means, but by supernatural means—by speaking the Word.

Word Definitions: **worthy:** sufficient

word (Logos): decree, mandate, or order

heal: cure, to make whole

authority: physical and mental power, the ability or strength with which one is endowed, which he either possesses or exercises, the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege), the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to and obeyed by others)

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Read Matthew 12:9-14:

A Man with a Withered Hand

⁹ He went on from there and entered their synagogue. ¹⁰ And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse him. ¹¹ He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." ¹³ Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

What is the key to how we look at the supernatural? How does Christ want us to think about issues and problems we have?

Jesus explains that when we have a problem, an issue that needs resolution, we are to think of the answer, the solution, in a normal and simple way. "What do you do when a sheep falls into a hole?" He asks. You just take care of it. He can do the same. Just as you immediately and naturally help a sheep that falls in a hole, remember God can do the same. You simply have to change your thinking and remember to come to God in the same way—immediately and naturally.

Instead of you saying, "Oh, my gosh, I have a problem and I can't fix it (I guess the sheep is just going to be stuck in the hole forever, what a shame)," come to God first. Remember and think how this should normally and always be the first line of attack, not an afterthought or your last line of attack.

Word Definition: **do well:** beautifully, finely, excellently, well, rightly, so that there shall be no room for blame, well, truly, excellently, nobly, commendably

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Read Matthew 13:53-54:

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

⁵³ And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, ⁵⁴ and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

How does wisdom and receiving truth play into experiencing the supernatural? Why?

The people interacting with Christ were astonished; they said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and truth? These had clearly led to His mighty works." Here we see Jesus adding another dimension to experiencing the supernatural: receiving wisdom and understanding truth. How else can we explain what is going on in His mighty works? He isn't simply going to "take care of it, and that's it." Rather, to experience this in our everyday lives, He often is going to first say: "I need to help you understand some things—the dynamics—about this," or "I need to help you understand your heart about this. There might be a block, there might be wickedness going on, there might be something else that I must do first before that." Wisdom is going to be a key part of understanding and receiving the supernatural.

Word Definitions: **teach:** to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, deliver didactic discourses

astonished: amazed

wisdom: the varied knowledge of things human and divine, acquired by acuteness and experience, and summed up in maxims and proverbs, the science and learning, the act of interpreting dreams and always giving the sagest advice, the intelligence evinced in discovering the meaning of some mysterious number or vision, skill in the management of affairs

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Read Mark 7:33-37:

³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ And Jesus^[a] charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

How did those experiencing the miraculous describe the nature of the miraculous? What does this mean?

As He performed this miracle, they understood that it was coming from His place of authority, and that everything He was doing was done well, with excellence. What He does is the best. Meaning, when He does a supernatural work, it is going to be the highest and best, fulfilling His will, which is always best and none better.

It transcends any puny view that you can create as a solution. He wants us to come to Him first and to believe that anything He is to do will bring our amazement. He is going to resolve any problem and lead you to the next step in your life. He is wanting us to pursue Him and "allow me to act. You then will be overwhelmed by what I'm about ready to do next." He reminds us, "Do not accept things less than they can be. Never stop short and say, 'that's good enough' because God only wants to perform that which is great." God is ready to perform that which is great, because anything He does is superb, indeed, over the top. We need to realize that His excellence is amazing.

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Word Definitions: **do:** to make, with the names of things made, to produce, construct, form, fashion, etc., to be the authors of, the cause, to make ready, to prepare, to produce, bear, shoot forth, to acquire, to provide a thing for one's self, to make a thing out of something
things: real
well: beautifully, finely, excellently, well, rightly, so that there shall be no room for blame, well, truly, excellently, nobly, commendably

Read Luke 9:1:

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

⁹And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,

To whom did He give His supernatural power to exercise in their lives? Why is this important?

Christ sends out His disciples and gave them miraculous power and authority over everything. And He says: "I'm giving this to you to operate in the Kingdom of God (so we must be living in the Kingdom of God and thus, surrendering our will to the King and letting Him guide and lead us). Now go out and exercise it." So, with the authority comes the power. And the power is supernatural things, and you're going to be involved in these supernatural things because He is going to deliver that to you to participate in it. It is not independent of us or for us to sit on the sideline and ask God to perform it. Instead, we are going to be actively involved in the exercising of the power in all our situations. We will learn more on the application of this later.

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Word Definitions: **power:** (dunamis): strength power, ability, inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth, power for performing miracles

authority (exousia): physical and mental power, the ability or strength with which one is endowed, which he either possesses or exercises, the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege), the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed)

over: on, at, across, against, above

Read Luke 17:11-14:

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers,^[a] who stood at a distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

What was required for those with leprosy to experience the supernatural? Why is this important?

There was a group of 10 that had a problem. Leprosy was one of those things where you're completely separated because there was no cure for the disease. And, because it's highly contagious, you have to be separated and live a life of separation for the rest of your life.

Then they hear of Jesus, who is known to be a healer, and ask for His help. Jesus agrees and tells them to go show themselves to the priest. Now, in those times, the priest would have rejected them, so that seemed like a worthless instruction. It is the one thing that didn't make any sense to them at all, since

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they knew that the priest was going to reject them just as everybody else did. Lepers were unclean and could not be touched by anyone, and thus would be told to leave, to get away. In the natural world, they would wonder why they should bother.

But what does Jesus say? To go to them. Period. No other explanation. With that instruction, they then had to decide if they were going to follow or not. They said: "Yes, okay. All right. We don't get it, but we will go." Why? Not because it made any sense but because Christ asked them to. And, while they went, having followed the instruction, what happened to them? They were healed. They were healed by following in obedience something that did not make any sense.

Here He introduces an important element to our understanding of the supernatural: that there may be times when God is going to ask you to do something that's completely contrary to what you want or understand. A lot of our view of the supernatural is that we have a problem and want God to take care of it. We want Him to be our genie in the sky.

In certain situations, there will be an element of having to follow an instruction to receive the supernatural. Often, it may not make sense to us, or it might even be contrary to what we would think was logical.

Word Definition: **show:** furnish to be looked at, produce what may be looked at, to display something belonging to one's self

Read John 2:1-11:

The Wedding at Cana

² On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

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⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.^{[a]7} Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it.⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

How did this miracle happen? What did Jesus do to perform this miracle? Why is this important for us?

This miracle happened as the first of His ministry. He goes to a wedding, which is a multi-day affair. All the guests bring food as their gift, so that all who come can have food to eat during this time. The guests also typically slept under the stars, which is why weddings were in the late spring, summer, and early fall. The groom's father is the one who provides the wine for all. Their wine was like drinking water for us. It was not as potent as we currently have today, but it was actually healthy to drink, and there would have been plenty for all the guests for the whole week.

But what happens? They run out of wine. So, what does Jesus' mother say to Jesus? Take care of it, take care of it. It is important to understand the reason behind this request. At age 12, Jesus knew who He was. He's growing into a supernatural power. Mary had experienced in her home Jesus turning water into wine. Because she just said, we'll just take care of it. They need wine; make it happen now. Jesus responds with: "It is not My hour. It is not My time. No, I'm not doing this miracle as My first public miracle." Now we know because of His statements that He makes in John 5 and 8: "I did nothing except what the Father told me to do." So, the Father hadn't given Him this instruction, and He hadn't woken up that day with the Father telling Him, "Today, you're going to do a miracle

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of making wine.” Jesus is just enjoying the wedding. And His mother said to take care of it, and to the servants she says: “Whatever He tells you, go ahead and do.” In other words, she said to Jesus, “Yes, it is your time.” Now, we know He did nothing except what was told to Him by the Father. He then went to the Father. Had the Father said that the time wasn’t yet right, He would have said to His mother that He wasn’t going to do it. But the Father said that it indeed was His time and that He should proceed.

What does Jesus tell the servants? To fill up the pots, 60 gallons at a time, and then start drawing it out. He spoke water into wine and, as we discussed before, it was the best, most outstanding wine, as noticed by the groom’s father.

Who else first realized and appreciated that Jesus had performed a miracle? It was those who served.

Those who understood this miracle (not all did since it had not been dramatized publicly) were the servants (after all, they, themselves, had poured the water into those pots; they saw instantly that water had changed into the finest of wines). At the same time, Jesus’ disciples are beginning to see His supernatural power. It says they began to believe it. “Oh, my gosh, look at this, He’s got the authority. He can speak and miraculous things happen. He didn’t do this by mixing something natural together. He just spoke it into existence.”

Mary understood who He was. And she was responding to the need of the moment. This is what He is wanting us to understand—to have the same view as Mary—that when there is a need, Jesus has the power to solve that need supernaturally. Instead of immediately going to the natural, where there is no way of solving the problem, instead go to the supernatural as our first thought because it happens by His authority. He speaks that which is superior to all our circumstances.

Word Definitions: **said:** speak, teach, to exhort, advise, to command, direct
now: at this time, the present – following instructions

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Read John 6:15-21:

¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Jesus Walks on Water

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles,^[a] they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

What does this story demonstrate God has power/authority over? Why is this important to us?

In this story, Jesus demonstrated He had power over the elements, over nature. How fast can that happen? Immediately, because His spiritual power supersedes anything natural on Earth. If He speaks to it, nothing in our life is too difficult for Him.

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Read John 11:25-26:

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[a] Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

What does Christ speak to about the source of the supernatural? Why is this important to us?

Christ shows us through what He says and what He does with Lazarus, that: "I am the resurrection and the life. The power is resident within Me; and because I'm going to be in you, you will be able to do and participate in the greater works." We will begin to recognize that we are to come to Him, to seek His power knowing that He speaks to my situation as He resides within us. It's not abstract, it's with Him as He is the resurrection and the life and will deliver to you the supernatural.

Word Definition: **resurrection:** rising from the dead, life from death; life of the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God, and through him both to the hypostatic "logos" and to Christ in whom the "logos" put on human nature, life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ.

There are many elements to the supernatural. This is not a system but instead a relationship. "Be with Me; don't look to Me as someone who just 'gives me the miracle that I want right now.' But stay in relationship and then let Me show you all the elements of it as you begin to seek Me, what I have to say about this, what wisdom and instruction I will give, etc. Begin to normally look to Me first and then let Me play it out."

He wants to bring us along into greater and greater experience of the supernatural. We just have to have a heart to learn this and let Him bring us along this path so that it becomes normal for us to experience this in all parts of our life.

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"His supernatural is based upon His authority, which is superior to our everyday circumstances."

We're in session two of our study on life in the supernatural. As we look at the supernatural, He wants us to remember that He is to bear witness to innumerable miracles in our everyday life. John, too, in his Book of John, wrote that God invites us to miracles. As we learned in Session One, He basically asks us if we are willing to believe in the supernatural and understand what that looks like? The key we must understand is that this is about authority. His supernatural is based upon His authority, which is superior to our everyday circumstances. And He wants to have that play out in our everyday life so that His authority begins to deliver supernatural answers to our everyday issues. In this session, we will look at the important features of what this authority is over and what it is not over.

UNDERSTANDING IMPORTANT FEATURES OF HIS AUTHORITY:

In each of these sets of verses, write out what He has authority over:

A) Matthew 8:3; 5-7, 13; 14; 16-17; 23-27; 28-34:

³ And Jesus^[a] stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

⁵ When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶"Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and heal him."

¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

¹⁴ And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever.

¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

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²³ And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵ And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." ²⁶ And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷ And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

Jesus Heals Two Men with Demons

²⁸ And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, ^[a]two demon-possessed^[b] men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. ²⁹ And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" ³⁰ Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. ³¹ And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs." ³² And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. ³³ The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴ And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

He has authority over sickness, disease, paralysis, demonic nature, winds and waves, demon possession. How fast did He handle it? He did it immediately. Yes, immediately. Was it a set of natural solutions? No. That's why it's called supernatural. He doesn't just do something in the natural to solve something in the natural. All these situations involved His authority based upon Him speaking. In these situations, why was it solved immediately? Because He spoke it, which is the source of His power. His power is spiritual, greater than the natural, so the natural is subordinated to the spiritual. This goes to the essence of everything: How was the world created? He spoke it out of nothing. He proves that He has authority over the

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things in the world that are problems or difficulties in the world—sickness, disease, paralysis, wind and waves that are causing trouble, and demonic possession. These are problems for the people who are experiencing them. And so, Jesus says: “I can fix this. When? Right now, by My supernatural work, because I have authority over those things.”

B) Matthew 10:1-15:

The Twelve Apostles

10 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;^[a] ⁴ Simon the Zealot,^[b] and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’^[c] ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers,^[d] cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹ Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics[e] or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it.¹³ And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

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He sends out the disciples, and they experience having authority over the demonic, the evil, unclean spirits, demonic healers, all kinds of diseases. So, it doesn't say there's certain things you can do, certain ones you can't—all things are possible for the supernatural to operate. This includes sickness: short-term physical malady and disease or some systemic problem that can affect us for months and years. Or something doctors haven't been able to deal with. His authority includes all kinds of unclean spirits, all kinds of sicknesses, diseases, demonic.

Another key element is that the disciples were involved. They did not just sit back and pray and ask God to handle this work. Why? Because Christ gave them the authority to do this, to participate in this activity. This reveals something very important: The supernatural is about authority, and this authority comes from God, but we, ourselves, will be exercising it along the way because His authority is over these things. Why it is so important for us to have a heart to learn it? So, we can fulfill the fantastic life He has planned, and we will be a part of His grand purposes for us and others.

C) Luke 8:22-56:

Jesus Calms a Storm

²² One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out, ²³ and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. ²⁴ And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

Jesus Heals a Man with a Demon

²⁶ Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes,^[a] which is opposite Galilee.²⁷ When Jesus^[b] had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me."²⁹ For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons

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had entered him.³¹ And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.³² Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

³⁴ When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ³⁶ And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed^[c] man had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Jesus Heals a Woman and Jairus's Daughter

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. ⁴¹ And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, ⁴² for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. ⁴³ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians,^[d] she could not be healed by anyone. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. ⁴⁵ And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter^[e] said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" ⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me." ⁴⁷ And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

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⁴⁹ While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher anymore."⁵⁰ But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well."⁵¹ And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child.⁵² And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping."⁵³ And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.⁵⁴ But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise."⁵⁵ And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat.⁵⁶ And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Here, He has authority over nature, demons, death (through resurrection), long-term infirmity, sickness—all issues that were subordinate to His power.

As we consider all this, there is an important issue to understand. He has authority over all these various things in our life. But there is something that He does not take authority over. What do you think this is and why?

As we work through all the Gospels, we see that Christ has authority over many things; circumstances that He can easily change because of His superior authority. But there's one thing we have not seen: He doesn't take authority over a person's free will. We haven't seen Him take authority over making a person respond.

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People have to be willing to receive it and if not, God will not overrule it. Why not? They have free will. God does not violate that element of people's nature. Everything involved in His created beings is in His image (which includes, and has as a basis, free will) but is done by invitation and not by force and not by taking authority over their ability to choose. If He did, all people in the world would become believers, and all believers would walk in the Spirit, completely following Him and following only what He has set out as His will.

However, over everything else that we have reviewed, He takes and has authority—and everything else responds immediately. Why the difference? Because of the spiritual truth. Why do they respond immediately? Sickness, disease, nature, demonic, death, etc. respond immediately because they have no choice.

All these have to respond to the command. Why? Because the authority of the spiritual is superior to the physical. And, since there is no choice, the superior power overrules the physical issue, and does so automatically. There's nothing in the way to give it the chance to not respond. It must and does.

With individuals, there's an issue. And that is that they can choose whether they want to participate in this or not. And because of His profound nature of free will, He does not force us to respond but invites us to respond (which, by the way, is the depth and beauty of His deep love for us. It is not a robotic response, but instead voluntary). If He forced relationship, there actually would be no relationship. If I would force you to be in relationship with me, then actually we have no relationship. This is a very profound truth of the nature and life with God. And so, He doesn't take authority over people's will. "I don't force you to do something; I don't force you to respond to something; I don't force you to get involved with My perfect, beautiful will for you. That's the one thing I do not take authority over."

So, as we participate in that, then, do you have the authority over somebody else's will? No, and that has great impact on your prayer life. We tend to pray: "God, change that person, make them do this. God force them to choose this, God force them to do X. You know they've hurt me, force them to say they're sorry."

God refuses to step into that place. He can present truth and give them the opportunity. And He'll even help you deal with that as well, but you must pray with understanding. Because that's the one thing God won't participate in: the commanding and taking authority over people's will.

The immediate significance of this to me is that it speaks to my participation in the supernatural. I have free will and thus can choose to either learn this or ignore it. He will not force it upon us, and it is not automatic. He invites us to receive and experience this; and live out the great salvation that He promises where He will bear witness in our everyday life with miracles, miracles, and more miracles. All that is needed is to have a heart to learn that which He is willing to give to all of

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us, all the time. Just like the disciples. He said to His disciples: "Come and follow me." Did they know anything about the supernatural? No, they had no clue. So, He starts performing the supernatural. He turns water to wine. In their three years of walking with Him, having seen hundreds of supernatural things, He still made a comment about how little faith they had. They were still in learning mode. But He understood their struggle and continued to offer them a choice: whether or not to stay with Him to learn it. We are in that same place. We could be saying that it seems to be extreme craziness and it feels phony, or simply say that we've never seen it in anyone we know (especially me!), or that my church says it doesn't even exist. So, you are faced with the choice before you: either you are not willing to pursue it or you would like to learn it and will walk with God to learn it. Remember, He will not force it upon us but instead will invite us to the opportunity to experience it as normal. It's a choice and one only you can make.

There is another aspect of this that I wrestled with. Christ actually kept telling people after He did supernatural miracles for them NOT to tell anybody. But they went out and told everybody. And He didn't come back and rebuke them. With the demonic, though, they would say: "You're the Christ." And He would say to them, "Do not tell anybody." And they never did.

So, I had a question about this: Christ told these people for whom He had just performed this miracle not to tell anybody; and they told everybody, but He never rebuked them. But when He told the demonic also not to tell anybody, they never did. Why the same instruction? Why the actual difference in response, and what was His purpose in these instructions. What I received about all this is:

1. For the people to whom He did these wonderful miracles, Christ never wanted the miraculous to become a burden to them. "Now that this happened to you, I don't want this to now become a burden or duty to share." Rather, He wanted it to be a beautiful expression of just sharing what happened. It had to be natural, never a duty. You couldn't help but share the thing that happened to you because people would notice it. When someone asked what had happened to you, you wanted to share: This amazing thing happened because God performed this supernatural thing, and you would just share it out of the beauty of your life. Then, Christ would be glorified. You don't have to tell anybody. But you will, because people will notice God's work, even though He never wanted it to become a duty or a burden. That's the reason He never came back and rebuked them because it was natural. It was beautiful.

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- Regarding the demonic, the reason He told them not to tell anybody was that the first statement they made was that He is the Christ. Every statement after that was going to be a lie and deception (their very nature and way of operating). So, if He sanctioned what they said that was true, that He is the Christ, followed up by their standard lies and trickery, then they would confuse and deceive the listeners. They would wonder if what the demons said first was true, so is everything they say true? And the answer is no, because everything else they were going to say was deception and lies. So, he said, I don't want them saying anything at all about me because they're full of deception and lies. I don't want them giving any statements about me at all. And they could not and did not because they had no will about this.

Let's look at the purpose behind the supernatural:

WHY: GLORY TO GOD FIRST AND ONLY

Read Mark 9:38-41:

Anyone Not Against Us Is for Us

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name,^[a] and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me."⁴⁰ For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

What is the main point of this story regarding experiencing the supernatural?
Why is this so significant?

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The disciples were concerned when they came across another group doing supernatural things; so, they asked them to stop it—this was theirs to be doing. Jesus replied: “It's not about you, boys. This is about who is with Me or not, and it's really simple. The key question is: Are you for Me or against Me? And if you're for Me, you will be experiencing supernatural.” And you shouldn't care about anything beyond that. It's not about the system, it's not about doing it the right way. It's not about doing it with a different group in a different way. It's about whether or not you are experiencing the supernatural as you walk with God, and if are you giving glory to God. If you're taking any glory for yourself, then you are missing it and will thus diminish it. He wants us to be excited that we and others reflect the glory of God. And we are to rejoice together as He demonstrates the supernatural in us and others. Let's do this together and let's expand this across religious denomination, across religious groups. He does not want us to say, “But my group does it this way, and you've got to do it this way.” He wants us simply to have a heart for the supernatural and giving glory to the Father. It is really quite simple: Are we with Him or not? Do we fully understand it is experienced because it is in relationship with Him and not a system? Are we excited about others who join Him and experience the supernatural, about those who always give glory to God?

Word Definition: **miracle/power (dunamis):** strength power, ability, inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth, power for performing miracles

Read John 2:11:

¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

In His first miracle, what did Jesus say was the purpose behind it? Why?

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In this very first miracle, it is stated that the purpose of the miracle was to manifest His glory. What this did was stimulate belief, which led to more of the miraculous, which brings Him glory. As we experience it, we will bring glory to God and lead others who will respond with belief and then a heart to learn the supernatural as well. "Can I participate in that and see more of that?" It will grow stronger and stronger and stronger all the time, glorifying God, which stimulates more belief, which then stimulates more miracles—and then it gets stronger and stronger. He doesn't want us to turn to doubt and skepticism, as though we are never going to participate in it or are never going to get to see any of it, so why bother? Rather, He wants us to let Him demonstrate the supernatural to bring glory to the Father, to get us and others to say: "I can hardly wait to see the next one." And it will get stronger and stronger.

Word Definitions: **miracles:** sign, mark, token, that by which a person or a thing is distinguished from others and is known, a sign, prodigy, portent, i.e., an unusual occurrence, transcending the common course of nature
manifest: to make manifest or visible or known what has been hidden or unknown, to manifest, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way, make actual and visible, realized
glory (Doxa): splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace, majesty, a thing belonging to God, the kingly majesty which belongs to Him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity

Read John 5:30-47:

Witnesses to Jesus

³⁰"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³¹ If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. ³³ You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴ Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵ He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶ But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, ³⁸ and you do not have his word

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abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. ⁴¹ I do not receive glory from people. ⁴² But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. ⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

In this argument that Jesus sets forth, what does Jesus state as the reason for the supernatural? Why is this so important to learn?

Christ states that what's written about Him would glorify Him but will not stimulate by itself much interest in following Him. What glorifies Him is His supernatural works, which will stimulate people to follow Him, and that is the real purpose. This honors the truth of what has been written, of who He is. Beyond what is written about Him (and a lot of people teach about what is written about Jesus, but that alone does not fully glorify God), He wants to bear witness to it with reality. This will then answer our basic question: If this is true, does any of this manifest itself into my life? Can I testify that this actually matters? Christ answers this for us, saying that indeed the supernatural works. It becomes real when the supernatural actually happens; then we can bear witness to God (His being and power are beyond us; it glorifies Him). People will recognize who God is, which is supernatural above the natural. With Him, we are not dealing with just another human, we're dealing with God Himself, who has the power to deliver the supernatural in our everyday lives. He does this so as to bear witness to Him, which then brings glory to Him. In essence, because supernatural things by definition are

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beyond us and we automatically will share that anything supernatural was from God, we inevitably bring glory to God. Others know that there's no possible way you could have done this without Him.

Word Definitions: **bear witness:** to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because he was taught by divine revelation or inspiration
works: business, employment, that which any one is occupied, that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking
finish: to make perfect, complete, to carry through completely, to accomplish, finish, bring to an end
honor (same as glory): splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace, majesty, a thing belonging to God, the kingly majesty which belongs to Him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity
Word (rhema): what God has said to me personally, application of the written word to me personally

Read John 8:48-59:

Before Abraham Was, I Am

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'" ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'^[a] ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"^[b] ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

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What point does Jesus make about His nature? If we are to believe this, what must we experience, and what does it do to reinforce who He is and what His nature is?

Jesus states that before Abraham was, I am. I am. I'm the I am. I'm everything. And He says the honor and the glory are brought to Him as being eternal and all powerful. We will see this not by Himself only, but through the works that He does. These works are brought to Him by the Father with a purpose of bringing honor. If you're going to participate in this, what are you seeking? You are seeking God and how He can bring honor to Himself. He wants us to enjoy it, to experience it, and bring honor to God, never taking credit or getting so enamored by it that all we seek is just the miraculous. It is to be normal, as we experience Him and bring honor to Him.

- Word Definitions:**
- honor:** to estimate, fix the value, for the value of something belonging to one's self
 - glory (Doxa):** splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace, majesty, a thing belonging to God, the kingly majesty which belongs to Him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity
 - glad:** to rejoice, be glad, to rejoice exceedingly, to be well, thrive

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Read John 11:4; 40-42:

⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

What did Christ say was the purpose of this sickness and then the purpose of the miracle that He performs? Why is this important to our understanding of the purpose of Him doing miracles in our lives?

Jesus states that this sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God. So, Mary and Martha are thrilled since they know about His power for healing, they are expecting Him to come and heal Lazarus from the sickness.

By the way, He's not that far away. But He doesn't go right away, and Lazarus dies. Not only dies, but they spend the proper time preparing his body and putting him in a tomb where he lay for several days. He's already buried by the time Jesus shows up. Remember the story of Mary and Martha? Martha was the one who was busy, busy, busy, and Mary was the one sitting at His feet. For this Martha was rebuked, and Mary was commended. Here, though, Mary's mad, really mad. She doesn't even go out to meet Him. Martha goes out and says, if you would have shown up like you said you were going to, he would have been healed, but you didn't. And Jesus says, "I'm the resurrection and the life. Do you believe this?" In verse four, He had told her that Lazarus was going to be alive. "Yeah, but as far as we can tell, this is over. He is now dead and there is nothing more You can do." Jesus shares that they're going "to see the glory of God." We see here the circumstances worsening to the point that seemingly nothing can be done. But Jesus demonstrates how this was for the glory of God.

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Even before coming to heal him, Jesus actually let it get worse (as bad as it could possibly be); knowing He was going to use the situation to glorify the Father and show that He has the power to reverse Lazarus' situation. This is something in which we get to be part. As this stimulates belief, it will in turn stimulate more supernatural things to bring glory to God.

The purpose of the supernatural is to keep drawing people to God. We'd all like to participate in that; to learn more about what it means to walk with God.

Word Definition: glory (Doxa): splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace, majesty, a thing belonging to God, the kingly majesty which belongs to Him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity

And now, as you finish the session, take the time to go back and understand all that He has taught us:

1. We have authority over those things that must immediately respond because they have no will. They have no choice. This includes all physical things and circumstantial things that may be causing us difficulty in life. These are all subject to His power and His authority because all things in the natural world (the material) are subordinate to the spiritual Word of authority—as He created this natural world (the material) by speaking His spiritual Word of authority.
2. We don't have power over people's free will—and neither does God, since He does not violate people's will, their choices.
3. Our experience of the supernatural is not automatic but requires wisdom and truth.
4. This is about our relationship with Him (not a system), and He wants us to enjoy sharing with others freely the supernatural things He does in our life so that we can glorify Him.

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"John tells us that he wrote about the miracles so that we might believe it and begin to experience them in our everyday lives. This is what we're learning."

The life of the supernatural is to understand that God wants to bear witness with miracles, miracles, miracles; and not neglect so great a salvation. So that's what we're trying to understand. John tells us that he wrote about the miracles so that we might believe it and begin to experience them in our everyday lives. This is what we're learning. We've understood the essence of it is authority. We have authority over the issues of sickness, disease, demonic, wind and waves, natural things, circumstances. We have complete authority over those. We're going to join Him in those, as long as they are not related to people's free will. So, we have to have wisdom about that which we're going to learn. And then as we begin to experience this, it's all for His glory so that we can continue to reflect and share. It's all about what God does, and we get to experience that and enjoy that continually.

For this session, we will explore the keys to experiencing the supernatural. First, we will look at it from the perspective of the person receiving it. What are some of the actions that these people took to put them in a position to experience the supernatural? We will look at the verbs that describe this.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR EXPERIENCING THE SUPERNATURAL?

For each of the following verses, write down the actions (the verbs) that each receiver of the supernatural took to be in a position to receive Christ's supernatural work for them:

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Matthew 8:1-4:

Jesus Cleanses a Leper

8 When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ² And behold, a leper^[a] came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."³ And Jesus^[b] stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.⁴ And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

He came to Him; then he worshiped Him, acknowledging that Christ has the power, and that he was coming under His authority in humility. Then he asked Christ if He would resolve his particular issue, indeed he asked Jesus for the help.

Come, worship (give worth to), ask for His willingness to perform the supernatural for us.

Word Definitions: **came:** to come from one place to another
worship: expression of profound reverence
said: to speak out, speak of, mention

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Matthew 8:5-10:

The Faith of a Centurion

⁵When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶“Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.”⁷ And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.”⁸ But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.”⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant,^[a] ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel ^{b]} have I found such faith.

He comes to Jesus. He has a conversation asking if Christ would come and heal. And then what? He acknowledges Jesus's authority. The centurion says, just speak it, you don't even have to come because I'm not worthy of you to come to my place. And he says, you know, if you just speak it (because he understood authority as he was a man in an authoritative position), it'll be done. So, Jesus then said, “I haven't found anybody with so much faith.” What does that mean? It means it's going to happen because the centurion expected it to happen. He now understood it completely.

Come, speak to the issue, believe, understand completely about authority (hear His Word, believe, expect results).

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Word Definitions: **came; said; understand authority:** physical and mental power, the ability or strength with which one is endued, which he either possesses or exercises, the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege), the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed)

faith: conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the New Testament of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship with God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it

Matthew 9:27-31:

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

²⁷ And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David."²⁸ When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."²⁹ Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, "See that no one knows about it."³¹ But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

They followed Him, and they cried out. We ask for mercy. We have a big problem. Would you please help us?

And then, Jesus had a question. Do you believe I can do this for you? And they said yes, they did believe and also had the expectation that it would be done. Pursue Him, state exactly what you want, and then respond to His question to us, "Do you believe I will do this for you?" With a yes, we answer in faith and expectation.

Come, ask for mercy, respond to His question of belief with "Yes!"

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Word Definitions: **follow:** one who precedes, join him as his attendant, accompany him
cry out aloud: speak with a loud voice
say (answer yes!): verily, truly, assuredly, even so
faith: conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the New Testament of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship with God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it

Matthew 14:22-29:

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way^[a] from the land,^[b] beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night^[c] he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

Jesus Himself is supernaturally walking on the water. Peter asked Christ, "Can you involve me personally? Can I participate in this as well?" And, of course, Jesus invited Peter to get out of the boat. Then, at that moment, what did Peter have to do? He had to, with great faith, step out and be obedient to the supernatural. Christ is saying: If you really received what I just said, take the step. When did the miracle occur? When he stepped out. Peter could not put any conditions to this in order to take the step. He couldn't ask for conditions (Jesus, hold my hand. Jesus, send a rock for me to step on.). He simply had to take the step. Christ was saying to Peter, "You asked to be involved. I am involving you, so you must take the step."

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Connect with Him personally, obey His instruction.

Word Definition: **answer:** to a question proposed, to answer, to begin to speak, but always where something has preceded (either said or done) to which the remarks refer; speak, say, obey

Matthew 20:29-34:

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

²⁹ And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed him. ³⁰ And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Lord,^[a] have mercy on us, Son of David!" ³¹ The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" ³² And stopping, Jesus called them and said, "What do you want me to do for you?" ³³ They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened."³⁴ And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.

These guys cried out to Jesus, asking for mercy, and when other people tried to discourage them, they were not dissuaded, and they continued to cry out to Jesus. Jesus then asked them, "What do you want me to do?" They asked for the specific thing that they needed in their life right then.

It is important to learn to overcome people around us who are discouraging our participation in the supernatural. Much of the time, they say God doesn't work, or the supernatural doesn't work that way anymore. Instead, you need to go to a doctor. Or you need to try this cure. Or you need to pursue this or put up with it or just live with it because you're supposed to suffer. That's God's will. In essence, people are telling us to be quiet, be quiet, be quiet.

It is at those times that we are to press in even more. Do not let others shut us down. We are going to the one who can do this because we know that He can do this. And I'm not going to be silenced because of your skepticism. I'm not

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going to let it impact my desire to get some help. And this is what, again, the issue is. We can't let others, or even the church, dissuade us when we would like it to be done. We can't be passive. The blind men could have said, "I guess we shouldn't really pursue this and just put up with the fact that this is our life." But, instead, they decided to go to Him. Jesus then stops and asks exactly what they want Him to do. They ask for their eyesight. And He agrees. They had a specific request. They went from a general cry for mercy to a very specific request. Jesus asked what they needed. They didn't say that they needed money because they couldn't work or that they needed better living conditions. The real problem was that they couldn't see. Right then, Jesus agreed to fix the problem.

Notice He is here now, ask for mercy, persist through skepticism, respond with a specific request.

Word Definitions: **hear:** to attend to, consider what is or has been said, to understand, perceive the sense of what is said
cry out: say; overcome other's skepticism; cry out again; answer with specifics

Mark 2:1-5:

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

2 And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

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This group of friends demonstrated serious persistence. Yes, they were going to make a hole in the roof so they could get him to Jesus, the healer. There was an obstacle—a difficulty—so what did they do? They were going to get to Jesus and would do whatever it took to get there. In this case, they went through the roof. And who were they doing this for? Their friend. We can imagine how difficult it must have been to get a paralyzed man onto the roof and then down through the hole they made in the roof. This was no easy task. And they just worked and worked and worked and worked to get him there (which would take cooperation and faith on the friend's part to let them do that; he had to be willing to do it, to trust them, and to trust Jesus).

Jesus then makes a statement, saying the paralytic is healed because of his friends, their work, and their persistence. This is an example of intercession, where we can have a role in other people's need for supernatural work. It needs not be just the person's faith alone. It can be your faith or your group's faith, but you have to be willing, too. He could have said, "I don't want you to do that. I'm not going. It is too much effort or too much pain for me. He could have argued against it or convinced his friends not to do it if he didn't have faith.

But there's more to the story. Not only was the paralytic healed, but now his sins were forgiven, too, which became part of the healing. Christ took it further to lift the purpose of the healing into another dimension, to heal the sin. Jesus asks, "Are you willing now to take the beautiful supernatural thing I've done physically and go deeper into the spiritual healing that I wish also to do?" This is some of what it means not to neglect so great a salvation—wholeness. Healing isn't only about fixing our little problems, rather it is meant to work together with Christ as He walks you into the wholeness of life, which will be supernatural. And it may be something that you are bothered by in your own heart. He will want to heal that, too. And that can be a supernatural thing.

He is taking it into a bigger, bigger story.

Come, bring others who need healing (bear their burdens), intercede, go after it, persist through obstacles—have faith for another.

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Mark 2:10-12:

¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹ “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

This person has been sitting there a long time, lying on his bed, hoping someday to get healed but living in resignation that it would never happen for him. Jesus comes and tells him to get up, take up the bed, and walk. He just asked this person to do the exact thing that he can't do. In other words, are you willing to begin taking the step of the very thing you can't do? He tries to do that which he has never done before, and it was difficult. Jesus told him to do the very thing he couldn't. But he goes ahead and makes the attempt.

It's a heart and mind decision to agree to try. All of a sudden, he sees that he actually can do what Jesus told him to do. It's a really interesting thing. The very thing you can't do, but acting in obedience to Jesus, is the requirement for you to get healed.

Have obedience to His instruction even when it's the very thing we cannot do!

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Mark 9:21-26:

²¹ And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood." ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³ And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out^[a] and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead."

In this case, the father came and asked for help, if it were possible at all. Jesus said that if the father believed, then all things are possible. So, the father says, "I believe, help my unbelief." In other words, this means, "I believe up to a point, but I don't completely believe. I know this is your requirement, so please help the part I do not believe yet. I've reached the end of what I believe, but I'm willing to let you finish what I don't believe. I do understand that You are the only One who can give me faith. I don't believe but I am not going to quit like the disciples did, I am willing to let you give me faith." This is an important point to understand, and we will learn about this further. God is the finisher and author of faith. We can go to Him and be authentic about what we believe. If you say that you can only go so far, He will help you finish it.

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This is another beautiful thing about the Father. He helps our unbelief. Ask for more faith instead of going the opposite direction and giving up when you think that something isn't going to happen. You have that choice to make during any struggle. Are you going to quit, or are you going to say, "I'm willing to go farther, and I know that you can help me get there? So, I'm staying with you (which, by the way, is ultimately what the disciples did the entire three years with Christ, even though they kept failing). Jesus said, stay with me, stay with me, stay with me, and I'm going to give you more and more understanding so that my strength helps you overcome your disbelief.

Ask for more faith, to be completed.

Word Definition: cry out, cry aloud, vociferate: ask for more faith

Mark 11:20-25:

The Lesson from the Withered Fig Tree

²⁰ As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.²¹ And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered."²² And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God.²³ Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received^[a] it, and it will be yours.²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."^[b]

This is the story of the fig tree that Christ had cursed. As they were walking back out of the city the next day, they noticed it had withered, as He had spoken to it. Peter drew attention to its current state, and Jesus said, "You must understand this process well":

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1. Have faith in God. The Greek says to have the faith of God. Jesus will give you His faith again based on His authority, and on what He spoke. What had happened to the fig tree? Jesus spoke to it, and His Word, His authority was fulfilled because He spoke it. Understand this: Everything starts with Him speaking His Word, which is His authority, because what He says will happen (the physical is subordinate the spiritual).
2. Then, speak what you hear and don't doubt what you hear. Get to the essence that you believe it and will happen.
3. Believe you already have received it, and it will happen. He says when He speaks it, it's already done. Why? Because He doesn't see time. He wants us to join Him in that place where the very thing you are asking for is already done. Why? Because He said it and you speak it. You will see it already being done, too. You're going to see this supernatural happen all the time.

And then He throws in a *by the way*. If you have unforgiveness in your heart, you need to get your heart right with Me first. The supernatural operates in the Kingdom of God, while you're walking in Me. And if you have unforgiveness, by definition, My nature is not operating in you. It's an indicator that something's not right. And before we can go any farther, even though you are a spiritual person doing great work, you have to stop and recognize your unforgiveness. My nature is no longer working because you've gone to the flesh. So, we have to get that resolved because your prayers are no longer going to be effective as My authority cannot operate when your heart isn't right. Remember, it is important to understand that forgiveness is not reconciliation. It means your heart is right toward a particular person. Reconciliation will be a different discussion altogether, because you can even live without being reconciled. So, it doesn't say you have to be reconciled. It just says your heart has to go to forgiveness, which God will give you toward that other person on the same basis He forgave you. This is not what we deserved, but it is because of His nature of love and forgiveness, all of which is entirely His work. Then, we can go back to praying the authority. Again, keep in mind, that we don't have authority over other people's will, so we have no ability to make or force anyone to reconcile, and thus may have an unreconciled relationship while still having powerful prayers.

You cannot have unforgiveness and have powerful prayers because forgiveness is between you and God and not between you and the person who is the source of your unforgiveness. Our hearts must operate in the Kingdom of God with His nature in you, which helps bring you to forgiveness.

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Hear, understand, receive His faith, speak, believe—forgiveness (no unforgiveness).

Word Definitions: **hear what the Father speaks; have His faith:** conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the New Testament of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship with God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it
speak it; do not doubt: waver, dispute about it
believe: think to be true
desire: ask
receive: take to one's self, to own, to possess
have: shall come about in reality

Luke 8:40-44:

Jesus Heals a Woman and Jairus's Daughter

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. ⁴¹ And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, ⁴² for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. ⁴³ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians,^[a] she could not be healed by anyone. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.

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Jairus went to Jesus and told Him that he had a problem. He asked Jesus to come to his house to heal an ailing woman. Jesus agrees. While on His way, He's amongst a throng of people but takes notice of one woman. What does this certain, unclean woman do? She reaches out to grab hold of Christ's power. This woman hasn't been healed of her issue of blood for 12 years; and she has tried everything, including all the medical remedies she could find. And she just pushes and pushes and pushes through until she reaches Jesus and touches the hem of His garment (she understood this was where His power resides (we will look at this in detail later). She persists until she receives His power and her healing, letting nothing get in her way.

Consider this: She said, "I'm not letting up until I get an answer. I'm going to get a resolution. I will persist and persist and persist until finally, I get a resolution from God."

Come, worship (be in His presence), ask, go after it to draw power.

Word Definitions: **receive:** to accept what is offered

came: worshipped

begged: ask

entreat: persist to touch the hem of His garment (where there is power)

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Luke 18:35-41:

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

³⁵ As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. ³⁷ They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." ³⁸ And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹ And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰ And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight."

Word Definitions: **ask:** inquire what is God doing

cry out: overcome other's cynicism, resist going to resignation; tell Him specifically what you wish to have Him do

Here is another story of persistence. The beggar called out for mercy and was told to be quiet. Instead, he persisted, got louder, cried out all the more, and then Christ stopped and asked him what he wanted, what he was asking for specifically. The blind man replied and did not let natural reasoning prevent him from getting to Christ to have his need met. Keep going. Keep going. Keep going. Looking for the specific. Communicate the issue. Ask for it to be resolved.

Hear Him (abide in His presence), ask, persist through doubt, and others working against it through reasoning in the natural, answer with a specific request for His power.

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So, as we look at the different processes, note that there is no single pattern. Why? Because it's relationship and uniqueness to what God would have, it's the way He processes it with you, and it can't be put in a box. It is about authority and what He has to say. We have to get to Christ, who has the authority. We have to inquire. We have to talk to Him and process this with Him. We have to get to the specific, be persistent, and go after this.

In our petitions, we may not know how He'll respond or what He will ask of us. Maybe He asks a question; or He might ask us to do something that involves other people. We need to remember that He has a different way to do things depending on His relationship with us. We are not put in a box or plugged into a system. As you look at all of the examples, the common feature or key is that everyone went to the One who could provide what they needed. And what was the expectation? They all expected an answer and some resolution. They all were excited about what He said and did and wanted to be part of it. So, while there was a commonality in all of the requests, how He handled each was unique. It's interesting that in every situation, did you ever hear Him say that He didn't want to do it? No, He was always willing.

It's also interesting to note that each went to Jesus with a heart of humility. They never let those who were sophisticated prevent them with shoulds and should nots. They persisted with heart and did not let anything prevent them in any way. Humility and persistence worked together. All came in humility, without pride or demand, but were not going to let others shut them down. They pushed through with confidence.

So, as you have now gone through Session Three, go back through the Scriptures and start looking at the process and the elements of them. There is no system. What would God have you do in your life? Maybe it's time to take some of the issues you have to Him, noting that these are problems in your life that you would like to start resolving. You need to go to Him with specific requests and ask Him to act on your behalf. And as you start to see Him move in your life, maybe this will set the stage for you to always seek Him, crying out for mercy. Get specific and let Him speak to you with authority of how He might show you the supernatural. May this next period of time prove to be His true work in your life.

We look forward to that in Christ's name. Amen.

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HOW DO WE LIMIT HIS SUPERNATURAL WORK?



"...remember that it's about God's willingness to bear witness to our great salvation, which He tells us not to neglect."

As we now move into how we can limit God's supernatural work, remember that it's about God's willingness to bear witness to our great salvation, which He tells us not to neglect. Don't ignore this important work of Him doing miracles, miracles to bear witness to His life. Also remember, as John wrote, that these works of miracles are shared with us so that we might believe, learn, and experience the supernatural ourselves. Again, this is about His authority that He speaks into each of our situations. We're learning to come to Him and receive this, to begin to understand that these works glorify Him; and to then practice this as we go through it. In this next section, we are going to focus on what can prevent or diminish God's supernatural work.

WHAT PREVENTS OR DIMINISHES IT?

For each of these verses, write out what the aspects are of our view/response to the supernatural that actually prevents/diminishes/limits God from performing His desired supernatural acts in our life. Also, why does this affect Him working so much?

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Matthew 11:20-24:

Woe to Unrepentant Cities

²⁰ Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. ²¹ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes." ²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

Christ states here that what limits Him is our unbelief and refusal to discover the supernatural experience, the power of the miracles. First, He says that since you are not willing to consider My life of the miraculous for you, then I'm not going to perform the miracles that I had a heart to give. Secondly, it's actually going to be a woe to you. Now, think about the essence of that. Why would it be a woe to you? You're not going to get the miracles He had planned for you that would have dramatically changed your experience of life. It is both sad and oppressive, as things are going to go poorly for you, and life will have consequences that will affect you in a negative way.

Our response is also problematic: "Well, that's where most people live anyway." But what you don't understand, interestingly enough, is that it's actually worse than that. Why? Because when you respond this way, you never get to experience the super-abundant life that God wants to give you. That's not a good place to be. He wants us to understand further the deeper consequences of rejecting the possibility of a supernatural life. When you're having difficulty, things are troubling, things are difficult, or you have a sickness, a disease, or the enemy is coming against you, are you really not willing to receive any of God's supernatural works? When you have circumstances that aren't good, you need God's power. Why

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keep going into the pain of the negative consequence? This is what He calls a woe. Why? You refuse to consider that He has a better way. Still, He cannot act because the essence of what your heart says is that you're not even willing to consider the possibility that things could actually be better. He then says that things are going to get worse for you because you won't repent, which means He has had a change of heart. It will not go well for you.

If you do not repent and do not turn to Him to discover that He is the giver of power or if you do not understand that the Kingdom is the place of the supernatural, it will not go well for you.

Word Definition: **not repent having experienced His miracles:** to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence

Matthew 13:53-58:

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

⁵³ And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, ⁵⁴ and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" ⁵⁷ And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." ⁵⁸ And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

Word Definitions: **unbelief:** unwilling to believe, faithless

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In this story, He did not do the miraculous works there because of their unbelief. They refused to believe that He would do what He promised to do. Because of their unwillingness to believe, He then could not do His works there. It actually prevented Him from working because the heart was not willing to consider it possible.

In unbelief, you cannot respond to His teaching.

Mark 3:20-27:

²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." ²³ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Christ makes a pretty strong statement that a house divided cannot stand. Where there's division, the fullness, the action of God cannot work. For us, it specifically means that where there is not unity or agreement, you're going be in a position of powerlessness, because you're not willing to go to unity together. So, this is where, as a couple, as a group of leaders, as a small group, as a family, when you're debating and you're not willing to seek God's will, you are now living in division. He says it's absolute that He cannot work in division. For a house divided,

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the Word is clear—it cannot stand. There's no power available when you're in division. Now, does this imply you can't disagree? No, it doesn't imply that at all. It just says in your disagreements, in your differences of opinion, in your different viewpoints, that you must work together toward seeking unity and stay with it until you get to unity. As He brings His answers that you together reach in unity (remember unity is not negotiation but confirming together what is His perfect will), so then He will bring you His supernatural work.

Division (not in unity, agreement) must not stand as we are then overcome by the enemy and thus powerless (so, either we stand against or are overcome. There is no neutral on this).

Word Definitions: **be divided (not in unity):** divide into parties, i.e., be split into factions
cannot: not able to do something, to be incapable
stand: uphold or sustain the authority or force of anything

Mark 5:35-40:

³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶ But overhearing^[a] what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus^[b] saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping."⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.

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As Christ is coming to heal the child, the people's response to Him was not to bother because she was already dead. The outcome had been decided and was already concluded. Nothing's going to change from here on out, as far as we can see. In the natural, would that be true? Yes, it would be done. As far as we can see, based on the natural course of events, nothing can change. And that's where we get stuck: I do have an issue, but I'm stuck in the conclusion of these circumstances. I don't see any way out of it. I don't see it changing. I don't see anything being able to solve this problem. I've had this issue for a long time, and quite frankly, I don't see how it's ever going to be resolved. Since there's no solution to it, why bother? The only solution is to put up with it, let it go, lose it, have a loss, suffer whatever the natural conclusion is. And that's it.

With this attitude, God is prevented from acting. We've basically walked away and said, I'm not even going to pursue you giving us a supernatural solution, because as far as I'm concerned, it's done. He says: "Well, you stopped too short, and I can't do anything more because you already have given up on it. So, it is done." We can, through our resignation, prevent what could have been done for us.

With our resignation, the outcome has already been concluded.

Word Definitions: **tumult:** uproar
scorn: deride, cynicism

Mark 6:1-6:

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

6 He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.² And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?"³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with

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us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." ⁵ And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And he marveled because of their unbelief.

And he went about among the villages teaching.

This is a repeat of the story where He could not do the works there because of their refusal to believe. The same story, for the same reason. But notice something different: Jesus's response here was amazement. He was amazed. He marveled. Indeed, He was dumbfounded, not believing that they weren't willing to let Him do these works. It made no sense to Him.

Why would Jesus marvel at that? Because He's offering supernatural solutions to these problems, but we are not even willing to consider them. Many of us have come to this same point because we are unwilling to believe. He's offering you the grand life, the things that only He can do to make your life beautiful and fantastic. And you're telling Him you aren't interested. Jesus says: "Could you explain that to me? I don't get it. I don't understand that. Why would you do that?"

Often our answer is: I don't think you can do that. I've been taught you don't do that. My church says you don't do that. I've never seen you do that. And by the way, when I thought I had seen it, it's never actually true or real.

He then reiterates His offer: Stay with Me. Let Me persuade you more. Do not immediately refuse what I offer. Come with Me and learn this. If you don't, I won't be able to give you all I have planned. Why would you do this?

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Offended by the thought of the supernatural, we disapprove, refuse to acknowledge His authority, and become entangled in the world of distrust and unbelief.

Word Definition: **Jesus marvels (is amazed and in wonder) at our unbelief:** unwilling to believe, faithless

Mark 6:51-52:

⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Here, Jesus says, "You will prevent Me from working because of hardheartedness." Why did their hearts become hardhearted? They refused to see His work. They went right back to human reasoning. Even though God had already performed the supernatural for them in a similar situation, they went to natural thinking never considering that they had already seen Him do similar works. Just as then, He can do them now. They went back to reasoning and immediately decided that the supernatural would not happen. And He said, "I just did this. Why do you go immediately to that kind of thinking?" It is far better to say: Help us to consider that maybe you could do something different. When you go to hardheartedness, you're preventing Christ from acting because you leave no room or opportunity for the supernatural.

When you are hardhearted, you lack understanding.

Word Definitions: **not understand:** not perceive, not put things together
heart hardened: to grow hard, callous, become dull, lose the power of understanding

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Mark 8:1-4:

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

8 In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, ²“I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. ³ And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.”⁴ And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?”

Again, the disciples are faced with a situation where Jesus had already performed the supernatural to bring about His solution to the problem. Their response is back to the natural: We have all these people, and we can't feed them because there's nothing here to do that, so we should send them home. Jesus says, “You take care of them.” But that doesn't make sense to the disciples because they don't have money to feed them. Even though they experienced the supernatural solution previously, they immediately go back to logic and natural thinking.

What prevents the supernatural is the unbelief that there could possibly be another way. We have a problem and the only solution we can see is limited by our logic. It doesn't even occur to us that we should go to God and start asking Him: What would you say about this? What would you want me to do about this? Instead, we are already off working on the solution without even a discussion or thought of letting Him act. And yet He is standing here waiting and saying: I can help you, why won't you let Me? But, we are so far down the path of trying to solve the problem ourselves that we aren't even available to talk to Him. This thinking, we must learn, diminishes His ability because we don't include Him in the process.

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When you think only in the natural or in your own logic, you won't even think of or remember the supernatural.

Mark 8:11-12:

The Pharisees Demand a Sign

¹¹ The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. ¹² And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation."

As we struggle with the miraculous, we actually go to an interesting place. Basically, we are offering God an ultimatum saying that once He proves his abilities to us, then we will believe. This approach severely limits His ability to perform the supernatural because it is clearly stated that we cannot test Him. You cannot put yourself in the place of God and test Him by requiring Him to prove to you that His supernatural is real. Rather we must walk with Him in His Kingdom, surrendered to Him as the King. You're going to have to come with Him and learn it from Him as He wants to give it to you. But He will not be put in a test of proving it to you. It'll be proven, but only when you first have a heart to follow Him. He will not be following you. If you put Him to the test, it prevents Him from acting.

When you seek a sign to prove Him real, you are testing Him.

Word Definitions: **testing:** tempt, asking Him to prove to us whether He has real power or not
to seek: (in order to find out) by thinking, meditating, reasoning, to enquire into
sign: portending remarkable events soon to happen, of miracles and wonders by which God authenticates

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Mark 8:13-21:

¹³ And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Herod

¹⁴ Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵ And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."^[a]¹⁶ And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. ¹⁷ And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸ Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve."²⁰ "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven."²¹ And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

In this story, Jesus asks why they are trying to apply reasoning when He was sharing something important about experiencing the supernatural. They were resigned to their situation because they were only reasoning in the natural. They had no bread. Jesus quickly responds, "Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened? Do you not see or hear in the spiritual?"

He asks, "Do you remember us feeding the five thousand? How many baskets full of fragments did you collect?" They said 12. "And, when we fed the four thousand? How many large baskets full of fragments did you collect?" And they said seven. So, He said to them, "How is it that you do not understand?" Jesus is trying to take them further. He's trying to draw them into a deeper understanding of something really important about the supernatural.

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We have a strong tendency to go to natural thinking. Why? Because our hearts are hard, and we are used to this limited way of thinking. Our perception is way off. Based upon His statement of being aware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod, He expected them to have hearts that wanted to dig deeper to learn and understand what He was saying versus automatically going to reasoning and having no regard for what He was teaching. He wanted them to sit and think, and then ask what He meant in His teaching. Because they knew about this experience they'd just had with the supernatural, He wanted them to see He was trying to teach them something deeper. He wanted them to ask for help in understanding and to quit trying to figure it out on their own. They weren't going to get it. They needed to see what the supernatural looked like, and He was trying to show them. Had they asked, He would have told them two things. But they didn't ask. So, He never told them.

Let's look at that. Why did He not tell them? They never asked Him. He is not going to force you into something if you don't have a heart to learn it.

The meaning of what He was speaking is important for us to understand: Beware of leaven—the small thing that is introduced into the whole and, over time, permeates and takes over the whole. This leaven symbolizes two things that can greatly affect the working of the supernatural:

1. Leaven of the Pharisees: Beware of law. Be careful as you're experiencing the supernatural not to let it become a system and become law. You try to force it into a pattern and you then are focused on the way it works—through your law, your system, which then prevents it from being experienced because it is neither of those things.
2. Leaven of Herod: Beware of the nature of Herod, which is characterized by extreme self-centeredness. This is when you start to apply the supernatural to anything you want to do for yourself. And that's all you care about. This is not about you, but about the glory of God. This is about His will, not yours. He will not work and let you drift into "a name it and claim it" just for yourself.

We must be willing to open our hearts to what He is teaching us about the supernatural, and not go to our own logic and reasoning. As He does, be very careful not to go to this operating as a system or based upon what we want or think should happen.

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Do not allow for the leaven of Pharisees (law), leaven of Herod (flesh, self), natural reasoning or worldly thinking.

Word Definitions: **reason:** in our own mind, think of worldly, only natural alternatives
leaven: metaphor of inveterate mental and moral corruption, viewed in its tendency to infect others
Pharisees: law
Herod: Flesh/self, narcissism
not understand: to put (as it were) the perception with the thing perceived
hearts hardened: to grow hard, callous, become dull, lose the power of understanding; let reason dominate over Spirit (our privilege)
not remember: to call to mind

WHAT ARE THE KEYS TO EXPERIENCING THE SUPERNATURAL?

As we conclude this session, we will begin looking at the keys to experiencing the supernatural (we also will continue this exploration into the next session). Now that we have learned what prevents or diminishes the supernatural, we can pursue how to experience this in our lives.

What does this story reveal as the primary basis of the supernatural? How does it really work? What must we fully understand about this if we are going to experience it as a normal part of our lives?

Matthew 8:5-13:

The Faith of a Centurion

⁵ When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶ "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed." ⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, ^[a] 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel ^[b] have I found such faith. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown

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into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

The centurion came to Him, appealing to Him to heal his servant who was paralyzed and suffering terribly at home. Jesus agreed to come and heal. But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word. I understand this completely. I command soldiers who are subject to my authority. I say for one to go and he goes; and to another to come and he comes. They respond to this authority completely, and they do exactly as I command; and I see that true with you regarding the supernatural, it is about your authority which is based upon you speaking your word.”

Jesus marveled and said to those who followed: “Truly, I tell you, I have not found in all of Israel one with such faith” (meaning one who sees this so clearly). The story is one of complete faith and about one who understands authority. The centurion believed that if Jesus were to speak it, it would be done. He understood it and received it. He expected it and had faith. He believed it. Based on what? For him it was based on the authority that comes from God and what He speaks—His rhema word to us personally about our personal situation.

When you have an issue, a problem, a decision, Christ tells us to come to Him and ask: What do you have to say to me about this particular thing? Christ responds, “I will speak it. And when you hear it, you are to have faith that it is so and that it will be done.” Remember, there are two parts to this supernatural equation.

1. As you have a problem, an issue, or a circumstance that is troubling, or something is going on that’s not healthy, we are to seek Him first and ask Him a simple question: “What do you have to say about this?” From there, you process it together with God and also with your husband, with your wife, with friends, or with your group until you receive understanding and clarity and know exactly what His Word is to you about this.

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2. Then, He will ask us: “Do you believe it? Do you have faith now?” Usually, the answer is “not really.” So, how do we get to faith? Let’s explore this.

How do the following verses define faith? What is the importance of this definition as established? In verse 3, on what basis was the material (the world) created? What does that mean about your circumstances for which you are seeking supernatural answers?

Hebrews 11:1-3:

By Faith

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

He states that the world, the physical, and the material were created by Him speaking it into existence—through His authority. He also spoke into the spiritual world, which is superior to the physical, so nothing is too difficult for Him. He has authority of power spiritually through Him speaking over physical, material things. Then, He defines faith precisely: Faith is the certainty of things not seen. Based upon what? That we are certain of what He speaks. And we are absolutely certain it will be done. The definition is certainty. It's not kind of, or maybe, or perhaps, or I'm not sure. If it is any of that, is it certain? No, certainty means that you believe it to the certain level, no matter what's going on circumstantially that may cause me doubt. No matter what, you believe and are certain that what He speaks is going to happen. This is faith.

Since faith is required to go to certainty, how do I get to the faith that leads to certainty? From the following verses, what is the process to have faith? How does it work for us?

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Hebrews 12:1-2:

Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

The race is marked out for us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith. This is our personal race—no one can give us faith—it is ours to receive. Christ is the author. He authors as an originator by speaking His rhema word to us. Then, He finishes it by taking us to faith, to certainty. It is His work, and thus we are to learn how He can complete this work, which means Him taking us to faith.

What is the process for Him to finish His work of taking us (me) to faith? What is our (my) responsibility in this and why?

Romans 10:17:

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

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Jesus has spoken (authored the process) to us, and we have worked to receive clarity about that. We do now know what He has spoken to us. So that He can complete His work of taking each of us to faith, to certainty, we are simply to stay in His word to us. Process His word. Use it to help with our doubt.

Determine what you struggle with and then go back to what He has said. Is there a time limit to that? No. So you don't have to worry—we cannot fail, as it is His work to complete. When He finishes it, it will be certain.

In order for us to stay with it, He will test us (James 1:2-8). Count it all joy, brothers, when you have trials of many kinds, because those trials are a test of your faith. He needs to move us to certainty, so His question is always: Do you believe what I have spoken with certainty? He tests us to verify that we can say yes, it is now complete, or no, we did not pass His test. He just says, "That's okay. I'm just showing you that you're not done yet. Stay with Me, stay with Me, stay with Me. Stay with Me until you believe it so that you can stand like the centurion who believed that when I say it, it's going to happen."

Understand the two keys, which is where we should spend our time and energy:

1. Did I hear right? Do I have clarity? Did I spend time with my spouse, friend, or group working toward clarity? What did we hear? When we need help, it is good to have others around that can assist you hearing and receiving confirmation. This is not guessing but receiving. What is God saying?
2. And then move toward certainty and stay with the process. Do not quit or give up but let Him complete the process. Do you believe what He has spoken with certainty?

Really understand authority, believe what He speaks (hear what He speaks).

What was the key for the woman with a long-term infirmity receiving her healing? What did she do to receive it, and why is that so important for us to receive the supernatural?

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Matthew 9:18-26:

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."¹⁹ And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples.²⁰ And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment,²¹ for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well."²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly^[a] the woman was made well.²³ And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,²⁴ he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.²⁶ And the report of this went through all that district.

She was persistent. She was not deterred. She did not quit or go to resignation. She's going after it. And she said if only I can just touch the hem of His garment, I'm going to get healed. She knew something about the power in the hem of His garment, which is why Jesus commended her for her faith.

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With faith, persist to receive His power (even touching the hem of His garment), put out unbelief.

Word Definitions: **persist:** to touch the hem of His garment
touch: to fasten one's self to, adhere to, cling to
hem: in the New Testament, a little appendage hanging down from the edge of the mantle or cloak, made of twisted wool, a tassel, tuft; the Jews had such appendages attached to their mantles to remind them of the law
whole: (sozo – heal), to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction, one (from injury or peril), to save a suffering one from perishing (i.e., one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health)

What she knew was based upon a truth that she had received and believed. What do all of the following verses reveal about the power in the hem of His garment? What was the truth beneath this, and why was she so sure she would be healed if she could just touch it? Power did go out by faith, and Jesus commended her for this faith. What does this teach us about the process that is important for us?

Numbers 15:37-41:

Tassels on Garments

³⁷ The Lord said to Moses, ³⁸ "Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. ³⁹ And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the Lord, to do them, not to follow^[a] after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. ⁴⁰ So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God. ⁴¹ I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the Lord your God."

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In this instruction, God lays out an important truth to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments (hem of the garment) throughout their generations and to put a blue thread through these. You shall continually be tested with a remembrance that as you look upon the hem of these garments, it is to bring to your heart and mind that we are to keep all the commandments and not follow your own heart. Rather, follow God completely as He is the Holy Lord, your God.

He is stating that as the Lord, your God, He is putting all of the essence of His nature in the hem of your garment—in the blue line of the tassels—and to receive all that He will give you, to surrender your will to His will. Then, you will receive the fulfillment of His promises to you (through what He speaks) as you process this exchange of your will to His will.

Surrender our will to His.

Word Definitions: **fringe:** tassel, lock

remember: recall, call to mind, to be brought to remembrance

commandments: charge, give orders, lay charge, give charge to, order

What do the following verses reveal about the power in the hem of His garment? Why is this important for us to understand about His authority for us?

Malachi 4:2-3:

² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

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He states that there is “healing power” in His wings. The Hebrew here is: “Healing is in the hem of His garment.” And the righteousness is referring to Christ, and the power of Christ is in the hem of His garment, which as we learned is where you exchange your will for God’s. Then you’ll receive healing - wholeness and all of healing.

Understand He is healing, fear His name (receive His truth).

Word Definitions: **healing:** make healthful, to heal, of God, healer, of hurts, of nations involving restored favor, of individual distresses

wing: extremity, edge, winged, border, corner, extremity, skirt, corner (of garment)

Psalm 36:5-12:

⁵ Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶ Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
your judgments are like the great deep;
man and beast you save, O Lord.

⁷ How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹ For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.

¹⁰ Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your righteousness to the upright of heart!

¹¹ Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me,
nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.

¹² There the evildoers lie fallen;
they are thrust down, unable to rise.

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In His steadfast love: God will deliver the Covenant. He is going to bless you to make you a blessing. It is resident in your wings, which is the hem of your garment, and all the blessings are going to be delivered there as you exchange your will for His.

As we now understand what happened here with the woman, we see that she believed, fully understood that all the power was resident in Christ as the Messiah and that the power of healing was resident there in the hem of His garment. So, she knows that she just has to get there. And remember, it wasn't a magical thing. It was based on faith, a belief that she was willing to surrender her will to His will; and receive what He has to offer, which is covenant healing. She wanted that healing and wasn't going to be deterred.

What happens when she touches the hem of His garment? The power immediately goes out of Jesus and He says, "The power has gone out from Me, who touched Me?" In a way, it was a surprise to Him. But He knew it, He felt the power go out, the healing went out, the supernatural went out, but He didn't actually know who accessed it. Now, remember, it's not a magical thing. It was because of her belief of where the power was.

He then says to her, "Your faith—the depth of your faith—made you well. You believed the truth of all this. You put all this together and understood something and you received it."

Understand He is healing, put your trust under Him (submit to Him).

Word Definitions: **trust:** seek refuge

wing: extremity, edge, winged, border, corner, extremity, skirt, corner (of garment)

pleasures: luxury, dainty, delight, finery

fountain: spring, of source of life, joy, purification

life: revival, renewal

light: to shine; to become bright, to be illuminated

There is another important element in receiving His supernatural, as described at the end of the story. He goes to the father and mother's house, and the daughter is dead. Everybody is ridiculing him—saying: She's dead, don't bother Him.

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What does Jesus do? He says she is not dead; but it requires faith. So, He puts the unbelievers out, He makes them all leave. “Those of you who are skeptical, get out of here. The two parents, Peter, James, and John, you come in, you come with Me.” Why? Why did He let them in? Because they were willing to believe. In other words, the key element of experiencing supernatural is who you have joining you in the process. Do you have others who have a heart to believe or are the people around you skeptical, resisting – saying that’ll never happen, or we don’t teach that now, or we don’t agree with that. Jesus says you are required to get them out of the room – away from the process of going to faith. Because faith is required, you must separate yourself from those who lack in faith and have unbelief. Instead, surround yourself with people who are willing to go with you.

Also, put out anyone who brings unbelief, cynicism (thus, have those who are willing to grow in the supernatural join you)

As an exercise, go back and look at these things that diminish the aspect of supernatural in your life; Go to God with an authentic heart and ask God to help you through these. You likely will tell Him that you tend to go to the natural, that you tend to be skeptical or that you tend to doubt, or that you have a hard time being willing to receive the supernatural; or that you are influenced by the skeptical people around you. Open your heart up to go further and then take these the two steps:

1. Hear what He has to say, as He speaks His authority
2. Walk with Him until faith is certain

Get to the point where you believe it fully and are confident it will happen as spoken. Get people around you who will walk with you as you learn this. He wants to—and will—do His great supernatural work.



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God wants to bear witness to this great salvation, and He wants us to pay attention to it. He wants to bear witness with miracles, miracles, miracles, to demonstrate His glory, and He wants to do miracles in all of His children's lives. We've learned the miracles come when we submit to His authority and believe what He speaks. We hear what He has to say as He then takes us to faith, where He asks if we believe. It's His work, not ours. Are we willing to receive it and then are we willing to stay with Him as He gives us the faith to experience His supernatural work? This session continues our exploration of the keys to experiencing the supernatural.

WHAT ARE THE KEYS TO EXPERIENCING THE SUPERNATURAL (CONTINUED)?

From the following verses, write out the principle that Jesus is wanting us to understand about experiencing the supernatural. How does this apply to us personally?

"It's His work, not ours. Are we willing to receive it and then are we willing to stay with Him as He gives us the faith to experience His supernatural work?"

Matthew 12:9-14:

A Man with a Withered Hand

⁹ He went on from there and entered their synagogue. ¹⁰ And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse him. ¹¹ He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." ¹³ Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

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In this story, Jesus explains that in a particular scenario when one has a sheep and it falls into a hole, what does that person do? Jesus says it is simple and straightforward. We would get it out. We would immediately take care of the problem. This natural response is not complicated or difficult. He wants us to think of the supernatural in the same way: that it should be a natural first thought. In this story, we have a problem. What do you do when you have a problem? You want it taken care of; you have the need for the supernatural – so just go to Jesus and ask Him. He wants to take care of it. It is simple and straightforward for Him.

He wants us to elevate our thinking to a higher level of excellence and higher level of thought. Instead of us fixing it ourselves, why don't you go to Him and let that be more of a natural process, in the same way as if your sheep fell into a hole?

Why do we have such a hard time with going to Him first instead of trying to do it ourselves? There is a reason for that. Our big problem is that we want to know “how” this is going to be taken care of. And since He doesn't tell us how (because it is of the supernatural), we can't wrap our arms around it. Since we can't wrap our arms around it, we automatically want to go back to something we do understand. But the supernatural by definition is that we can't see the solution and can't wrap our arms around the “how.” This happens even when we believe because we still are interested in the “how.”

This is a problem with faith because His answer back to you is: I'm not telling you because it is not going to be a natural thing. You won't even understand what I'm about to do. We have to be ready to accept that and just simply go to Him and ask Him to supernaturally take care of this issue, which He will. And His solution will be way better than ours. It'll be grander than ours. Let Him do it.

Think of the supernatural as normal. Elevate your thinking to a higher level of excellence.

Word Definitions: **think it natural, normal, typical:** think
well: beautifully, finely, excellently, rightly, so that there shall be no room for blame, truly, excellently, nobly, commendably

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Matthew 12:22-30:

Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

²² Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?"²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons."²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.³⁰ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Christ makes it clear that we cannot move into the supernatural if we are a divided house, in a divided relationship, etc. So, our call is to go to unity, seeking His will (what He says which is the source of the authority) together with your spouse, friend, or group, as this will be the place of the supernatural. All it takes is a heart to go to the supernatural by the parties involved. It is His work to get us to unity. It's okay to disagree. He just says, "Both (all) of you go with Me. I'll get you to unity. When you get to unity, you'll hear what I have to say. And then when you hear it, I'll give you the faith to believe it. That's one of the beautiful ways we work toward faith." You have to be willing to go to God and hear what He has to say.

What then is the problem? Sometimes we're impatient with staying in the process. We want the answer or feel we need to act now, and either want to go our own way or push the timing of our way. It is problematic when we are not willing to walk with Him together to have Him lead us to unity (which is such a beautiful

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way that He confirms what He has spoken to us). The key is not to be impatient and also not to give in for the sake of perceived unity. Rather, it is healthy and critical to recognize when we aren't sure of His direction. We can say, I really don't have a peace about that. I don't have clarity about that. I'm not sure that's what He said yet. All this is expected. Let's keep going and stay with it. Stay with it. Stay with it. Remember, He promises that if you stay with Him, He will get you to unity because of the simplicity of the Holy Spirit, which is in us. If we have a heart to hear it, we'll hear it. This really is the fun of it.

Find agreement (be willing to go to unity).

Write out how we are to move past the point where we struggle with believing something bigger or different than we have experienced. Since He does not want us to quit, what is important at that moment when we tend to want to quit? How does this work in our personal situations?

Matthew 17:14-21:

Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon

¹⁴ And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him,¹⁵ said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures, and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. ¹⁶ And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the demon,^[a] and it^[b] came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly.^[c] ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰ He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."^[d] ²¹ ^[a] However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

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This is a very interesting story. The disciples had been successfully healing many people. But when they come to this child, they can't heal him. They are not successful. The father goes to Jesus and says, "Your disciples could not do it." And Jesus responds: "You faithless generation, how long am I going to put up with you boys? Bring the boy to me." And He states: If you can believe, then all things are possible." The father replies, "I believe, help my unbelief."

The disciples go to Jesus privately and ask Him why they could not heal this boy. Jesus plainly says, "Because of your unbelief." They were healing all kinds of things; they were growing in their faith; but now they had a problem as they could not help this particular situation. This is important to understand as you're growing in faith because even though you had faith last time, does that mean you have it this time? No. We will experience new things. This need was new. It was bigger. It was different. They'd never had this one before. When this happens, you run up against the limit of your faith. He says, "That's why you couldn't do it because you don't believe that this is going to happen even though you did it before." Again, is your faith permanent? No, it's episodic.

How come the disciples couldn't do it? Because of their unbelief. So, you need the faith of a mustard seed, which means you're going to have to let this grow. This kind of demon can come out except it supposedly won't come out except by prayer and fasting. Isn't that an interesting statement? There's been lots of things written about "this kind." It was a certain demon or certain strength of demon, and it requires prayer and fasting. Well, not so. Go back to the story. Did it actually require prayer and fasting? No. Jesus didn't go off and pray and fast. It didn't require Him to go off and pray and fast, so He never requires us to do something He didn't do. So that's not what He is teaching us here. It's not this kind of demon or this difficulty, or this strength of issue that is the problem. It's not what He's talking about. He's referring to unbelief. When you run up against your own level of unbelief, then you're going to be required to go spend some time and pray and fast, so that He can do what? Grow your mustard seed of faith. He asks us to go to prayer and fasting. He asks that we give some concentrated relationship time to Him by giving up food, television, or whatever else might be distracting you from Him. Spend some time with Him to process this until He gives you the faith to believe it. And we know that faith comes from hearing from the Word of God, so stay in the Word and let that mustard seed grow. He will give it to you.

Faith, even though small, will grow when we pray and fast to receive more, to go to belief.

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Write out the key from these verses that guarantees that we will receive what we pray. On what basis do we receive this? Why? How does this work practically in our everyday situations?

Matthew 18:18-20:

¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed^[a] in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Jesus says if we understand this fully, we will be exercising real spiritual power—the supernatural power to bind and loose: bind up the enemy so it cannot influence what we are involved with and loose the power of heaven into this situation. It's going to be supernatural. How do you do this exactly?

1. Gather in His name, and when you're gathering in His name, what are you seeking? His will: What do you have to say? “Father, I'm seeking you, I gather together. What do you have to say?”
2. When two of you (can be more, but at least two with hearts to receive) agree with Him in the Spirit that you've heard what He had to say and can declare it, you can ask for it, and it'll be done.

This confirms what we have learned: His authority will be fulfilled because you heard what He spoke (the source of His authority). You believe what He spoke so now you can declare what you heard. Our effort primarily in our prayer life is between the two of you (you and your spouse, you and a friend). Together, we need to hear what God has to say and realize that we need to invest time and energy into what He has said. What is He saying about this particular situation? It could be a decision, could be an issue, could be a problem. And then once you

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hear it, now take us to faith. And when you both get there; you can declare it. He said it will be done. And He said it is guaranteed because you have the power of unity that allowed you to clarify that you heard it and clarify that you have faith. In unity and agreement, it will happen.

In unity and agreement, seek His will. Together, go deeper into the available supernatural and tap into His spiritual power for us.

- Word Definitions:**
- bind:** fasten, tie, forbid, prohibit
 - loose:** unbind, release from bonds, set free
 - agree:** come to unity, firm agreement w/o doubt
 - ask:** inquire what God is doing
 - done:** come to pass, happen
 - gathered together:** joined together in unity
 - name:** authority

In the situation where we struggle believing (and as we learned, this will be happening all the time), what are we not to do and what are we to do? Why? What does He promise to do on our behalf to fulfill this request?

Mark 9:23-24:

²³ And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes."²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out^[a] and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

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Christ makes an important declaration that all things are possible to those who believe. So, that's why there are no limits, as all things are possible. There's no limit to that. There's no circumstance that is too difficult for God to resolve. He can handle anything and everything.

The father in these verses says "I kind of believe, but I do not fully believe, which I know is limiting what can be done. Please help what I do not believe." Did God help his unbelief at that moment? No, He actually didn't. He just makes a statement to say that this is what it's like when you run up against your limit. All I want you to do is ask Me to help you. I might just go ahead and perform your request. Why? So, I can help your unbelief.

Let's take the story further. He's trying to teach His disciples something. What did the disciples do? They gave up. This is something we can't do. They quit. They didn't even go to Jesus and say, we're bringing you the boy. He needs your healing. We've attempted it. We struggled with this. But he needs your help. Instead, they gave up. That's why the father is frustrated. He sees the disciples won't even go to Jesus, so he decides to go himself. He in essence says, "Hey, Jesus, your disciples have given up." This is why Jesus calls out the faithless generation. They won't even come to Him and ask Him to finish what they couldn't do. If you believe all things are possible, it can be done. The father properly says, I believe. Help my unbelief.

Privately, the disciples say, why could we not do this? They couldn't because they quit. Remember, the word is authority, and for authority, belief is required; but they refused to be persuaded that what Jesus had to say was true. They gave up. They needed to go further, and Jesus would have helped them go further had they asked. That is all it takes, a willing heart that says, "I believe, help my unbelief. I understand this limitation, so help me go further with you until you give me the faith to believe it fully."

Bring your faith and ask for more. Be willing to expand your limits.

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Mark 11:20-25:

The Lesson from the Withered Fig Tree

²⁰ As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.²¹ And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered."²² And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God.²³ Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received^[a] it, and it will be yours.²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."^[b]

Here He explains the process. We have to hear first what He has to speak (His authoring the process). Take the authority. Believe it. He says our role then is to speak it publicly. Speak to the mountain publicly. (This, of course, feels risky as we are foretelling the future.)

Did God speak it to you? If you aren't sure, then you can't believe anything because you haven't heard it yet. You can't pray it because you haven't heard it; and you don't believe it because you haven't heard it; and you can't believe until you hear it. So, we must go back to the very beginning and start the whole thing over. We are not to be in a position of wishful thinking. If you can speak it, then it's because you've heard it, and you believe it. And those are the two conditions. But then you are to speak it, and to speak it publicly. It is risky because it speaks to our confidence in the process. Have I really heard God, and do I believe what He has spoken? Or am I wondering about it and if, for whatever reason, it doesn't happen in a certain amount of time, am I going to be embarrassed or humiliated? He is saying that if you have heard Me and have allowed Me to take you to faith (certainty), then you are to speak it because it will happen, and it will demonstrate My glory. You

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Speak the whole story, which is that I have heard God say this, and He took me to believe it in faith. So now I say it. I'm not just wishful thinking in my praying, so as I share the entire story, it builds faith in everybody else, it helps explain the process so that others can receive the confidence that it will happen for them as well.

This is why testimonies are so important to the whole story. We are to tell how God spoke to us, how He took us to faith and how we could speak it publicly; and that it happened as He spoke, we believed, and we spoke it. This is available to all of us.

Receive, speak publicly, believe, and take risks.

Word Definitions: **hear what the Father speaks; have His faith:** conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the New Testament of a conviction or belief, respecting man's relationship with God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it: speak it
do not doubt: waver, dispute about it
believe: think to be true
desire: inquire what is God doing
receive: take to one's self, to own, to possess
have: shall come about in reality

Luke 9:1-2:

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

9 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

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Christ tells us that while we are experiencing God’s supernatural works in our lives, we are to be proclaiming the Kingdom of God. We should invite others to enter the Kingdom, experience what God is doing in this Kingdom, and join God in His work in the Kingdom—asking all: Do you want to be part of that?

Proclaim (herald with authenticity) the Kingdom of God.

Luke 11:14-23:

Jesus and Beelzebul

¹⁴ Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled.¹⁵ But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,”¹⁶ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven.¹⁷ But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls.¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul.¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe;²² but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.²³ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Christ states that as we proclaim the Kingdom, our role is to stay in the Kingdom through unity with Him. Do not seek a sign of the supernatural, but just enjoy the supernatural work of God, being done by His hand. We are to remember it's the work of God through you standing in unity in the Kingdom of God.

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Do not seek a sign but stay in the Kingdom through unity and experience the supernatural through the finger (the hand) of God.

Luke 17:11-19:

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers,[a] who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."^[b]

We have looked at this story in relation to the 10 lepers who were obedient to the instruction given, which was to go show themselves to the priest. This did not make sense to them per se; but they were all willing to follow Christ's instruction and were healed after doing so.

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The story continues. One returned to give thanks, to give glory to God, and Christ said, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." Here Christ introduces another key element: the issue of thanksgiving and giving glory to God, that this faith (this aspect of faith) has made you whole. There's a broader aspect of the healing, and that's your soul. As you are experiencing the supernatural, it is important to thank Him and glorify Him and celebrate it. Celebrate the work. Celebrate it together. Rejoice together. Christ says giving thanks will make you whole because you'll start to experience more and more and more of the fullness of it all, because of what you appreciate. The supernatural, the amazing work of God, is going to be shared with you as you do that more and more.

The leper who returned was able to experience more of Jesus. The other nine were made well, but they didn't get the fullness of the experience because they lost the relationship of it. They then were unable to continue in further supernatural work. They were not made whole. The supernatural is not a one-time event, but an ongoing relationship of God's work, thanksgiving, giving glory, and moving further into more and more supernatural work.

In obedience, pause, be thankful, give full glory to God.

John 5:16-23; 30:

¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

Jesus Is Equal with God

¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

The Authority of the Son

¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father^[a] does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. ²² For the Father judges no

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one, but has given all judgment to the Son,²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

Witnesses to Jesus

³⁰ "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

Christ tells us another important truth about us experiencing the supernatural: Christ Himself did not do this on His own. He only did the will of the Father. He did not just use His own power or His own thoughts on how this power should be exercised, but rather was always based on the action, the will of the Father.

He is saying the same thing to us: Do we have a heart to follow the will of the Father, to receive where He is at work? Are the conditions set up where God is at work, where there's a heart to do it? This work starts with your heart and then the hearts of those who are participating with you. God will show you that, yes, this is it. You go here, I'll command it. I'll do it. Yes, you have a willing heart or, no, there's not a willing heart. There's a block. There's a problem here. It is not My will that this is to be done because there's more to it than that. You must go where He's at work and do nothing on your own because you cannot claim the authority. But you should expect that He's going to take you to where He's at work because He wants to do it.

Go where God is at work. Do nothing on our own. Do only what He speaks and does.

Word Definition: realize we can do nothing (nil) of ourselves; join God in His work: do, work out, exercise, perform, commit; must hear, observe, understand and follow (perform the works through the process of speaking with authority

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John 14:7-14:

⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.[a] From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[b] anything in my name, I will do it.

Christ tells us that He has a heart to keep inviting us to the supernatural. He says, “If it is difficult for you to believe that I am going to do supernatural works in your life, then at least believe the works that I am doing in your life, so that these will bring you to believe that I want to do more!” So, if we have a heart to go, He’ll start demonstrating the works so that you can start believing the works themselves. This belief should carry you and prompt you to want to go further because you’re experiencing the works that He’s doing.

Once you start getting involved with more and more and more, you’ll start to see the authority comes from Him. He says, “Observe, see, experience. Let me do it. All you have to have is a heart to observe, see, and experience. When you see it, rejoice, record it, share it, and then you’ll want to have more because the works will stimulate your belief. They should prompt you to want to have more. And the more that you document it, the more that you share it, the more that you rejoice in it, the more that will happen because you’ll be prompted to it.”

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Believe the works, expect greater works, and build confidence along the way, which leads to experiencing more.

Word Definitions: **believe the works (build on what you have already experienced):** any product whatever, anything accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind; believe and ask in HIS name (under His authority).

John 15:5-8:

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Experiencing His works will be reinforced by abiding in the relationship (in the vine, in Christ) and having His words (what He speaks, what He authors) abide with us. Then, you can ask for that to be done, and it will be done. Go to faith and now pray it. And when you pray it, God says He'll do it. And by this you'll bear much fruit by way of changed circumstances. The supernatural will happen. And then our Father is glorified. You get to share it and other people will be excited and have a heart to pursue the supernatural as we are.

Then, He'll do the work, both on proving it along the way and leading you to have more faith. He'll get you involved. He'll help you experience it, and you'll start to expect it more and more and more. And then your natural thinking will flip. Instead of you doing it yourself or instead of resolving things on your own, or making your own decisions, you'll let God do it in His majesty and for His glory. Then you'll get excited about experiencing the supernatural and will share it with others in all kinds of ways.

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Abide and get His Word within us; bear fruit (supernatural); glorify God.

Word Definitions: **do nothing of ourselves, but abide:** His words, not concepts or ideas—camping out, memorization, chewing, eating

i) SO, WE HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE:

Matthew 9:27-31:

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

²⁷ And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David."²⁸ When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."²⁹ Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, "See that no one knows about it."³¹ But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

Christ has a simple, fundamental question for us to answer: Do you believe that I'm able to perform the supernatural for you? If you're going to experience it, your answer has to be Yes. If you say yes, what does that mean? It is simple: It means you are willing to go. You'll become a disciple who doesn't know much, who hasn't experienced much, but is willing to go. It's really a straight up question because a lot of people basically say that they are not willing to go. But we do not have to understand or have it all fully clear to start. We just have to be willing to go forward into this beautiful invitation. There's no limitation for anyone. It is not a matter of luck or arbitrary, but the invitation is for all of us, and it is up to all of us to answer.

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According to our faith (willing to go or not), start with YES!

Respond with a heartfelt yea: verily, truly, assuredly, even so

Matthew 15:21-28:

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

²¹ And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."²⁶ And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.^[a]

Christ reiterates again the key to experiencing the supernatural is persistence. A woman, who was not Jewish, came seeking healing for her daughter. Jesus says that He was not sent except for the lost sheep of the House of Israel. But she was not deterred. She came in worship to ask Him to help her anyway. He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yes. Even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered. He said to her, "Great is your faith, let it be done according to what you desire." Her daughter was healed in that very hour.

The message is: persist, persist, persist, go after it, go after it, go after it. Don't let anything get in the way. She said she would not give up until He helped her. And then He did.

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Jesus is demonstrating to His disciples: "Do you see, this is what it's like. This is what faith looks like. You guys quit. You guys quit all the time. You see her. She doesn't quit. Do not quit. Persistent faith made her daughter well. Hey, boys. See that. This is what it's like."

Word Definition: Persist, persist, persist.

Matthew 15:32-39:

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

³² Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."³³ And the disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?"³⁴ And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish."³⁵ And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground,³⁶ he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.³⁷ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over.³⁸ Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.³⁹ And after sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

In these verses the disciples asked Him, where they could get enough bread in the wilderness to feed such a great multitude? Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven and a few little fish." So, he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground, and He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to His disciples. And the disciples gave to the multitude. They took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left.

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He's flipping it on them and saying: Think supernatural things. If you have an issue, don't go to the natural things, but to the supernatural and get used to it. Keep practicing it. We're going to have all kinds of issues, all kinds of things, all kinds of stuff coming up. We've got decisions to make. We've all got unresolved issues in our life. The first thought God wants you to have is to go to Him and ask, "What do you have to say about this?"

He wants us to experience His supernatural answers. Start practicing thinking of the supernatural first, not the natural. And when you do, you'll start getting answers, you'll start seeing things happen, and the results will be amazing. Then, when you experience it, you'll want more.

Think supernaturally first. What is God going to do here?

Word Definition: **Believe:** choose to take the risk of what is being asked to do (obey)

God wants us to think supernaturally first—to continue to seek His will, to hear what He has to say, to go to faith and believe in it, and then take the risk of speaking it. We will then see more and more and more of the supernatural happening because we have a heart to go. We will begin saying yes to His question, "Are you willing?" We then thank Him for that.

So, as you have now finished the session and as you begin to prepare for the next one, would you go back and think of the process of what God has to say? Identify your issues, start writing them down, go to God together and say, what do you have to say about this? Do you hear with clarity? Are you willing to let Him persuade you that He wants to do supernatural things in your life? Are you willing to answer with a yes and then begin practicing and listening, hearing His answers? Will you then record and celebrate when He does these supernatural things along the way so that you can give glory to Him and start to see that is part of your normal living? This is a beautiful way to experience the supernatural and then help others experience it as well.

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL



As we go into our sixth and final session, we've learned about the life of the supernatural. God wants to bear witness to this great salvation, and we are not to neglect this by our unwillingness to come and learn it. Don't say *no* to it, but instead say *yes*. In that, as John wrote, we could experience the miracles, and believe in the miracles, and live out the miracles. We've learned a lot about authority, hearing what He has to say, believing what He has to say, declaring what He has to say, and then beginning to experience what He has to say, all of which prepare us to recognize what that looks like in our real, everyday life. As we experience it, we will start to teach others that experiencing the supernatural is possible for them, too. We are called to receive and give it away.

WE ARE CALLED TO RECEIVE AND GIVE IT AWAY. (COVENANT)

"The essence of the covenant is that God is going to bless you to make you a blessing, to receive it, and give it away."

Genesis 12:1-3:

The Call of Abram

12 Now the Lord said^[a] to Abram, "Go from your country^[b] and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."^[c]

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

The essence of the covenant is that God is going to bless you to make you a blessing, to receive it, and give it away. The life of the supernatural is to be handed on, which means that as we experience it, we are then to invite others into that same place that they may begin to experience it. And we know something about that. For them to experience the supernatural, what has to happen? They have to have a willing heart, and then, God will show them in their life and do in their life supernatural things. They will receive the same things you've learned—His authority, His word, our own belief, and our own faith. And He will persuade them. And all they have to do is say, "Yes, I'm willing to go and not resist it." Then you will walk alongside of them to show them these truths that you've learned and help them learn, just like Jesus did with His disciples. He told them to come and walk with Him so that He could show them—week by week, month by month. It took them three years to learn it.

Think about what they did. They started the church. Every day they shared the experience of the supernatural, and God brought people to them who wanted to learn that, too. And then they gave it away, having learned it from Jesus. They helped them learn it. And so, our role, too, is to keep giving it away.

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

Blessed to be a blessing—to receive and give it away.

Ephesians 1:15-21:

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love^[a] toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Our daily prayer is that we might receive wisdom, revelation with God disclosing to us the supernatural life, understanding the hope of our calling, “His invitation to the feast of all that I have for you and that you would understand and experience the supernatural power that is directed toward those who are willing to believe it. And you pray that for others: that you will help walk with others into that place where the supernatural is directed toward them and it's personal.”

Word Definitions: **wisdom:** manage affairs with God’s perspective, interpret things spiritual
revelation: disclosing things not known naturally, laying open, laying bare
knowledge: correct truth
understanding: thoughts and emotions (heart, soul) getting it
enlighten: give light, clarity

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

hope: confident and expectation

calling: invitation to feast

riches: wealth

honor: dignity, riches, abundance

glory: splendor, beauty

inheritance: possession

power: (dunamis) authority

toward: ours to have

power: external force, mighty, might, to do, mighty authority

power: (exousia) – governing power

Ephesians 3:15-21:

¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

This reinforces our praying that those to whom we are giving it away have strength in their inner man so that they have a heart to go and experience the depth of Christ's love and the fullness of God in them; that they will be experiencing the supernatural and the fullness of God's life in them in all respects; and that they would understand that God wants to exceed all that they could ever think or imagine.

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

His desires are far beyond what we can come up with on our own or do on our own. As you start working with people, one of the areas where you keep encouraging them is your understanding that what God wants to do is always greater than we can figure out on our own. In other words, don't settle. Don't settle for mediocrity because God says He wants to do immeasurably more than we could ever ask or think and imagine. He wants to deliver supernaturally grander things.

Pray for it—all the time; expect it—think big!

Word Definitions: **family:** lineage running back to some progenitor, ancestry

name: to bear the name of a person or thing

grant: to give something to someone, of one's own accord to give one something, to his advantage, to bestow a gift, to grant, give to one asking, let have, to supply, furnish, necessary things, to give over, deliver

riches: wealth

glory: majesty; a thing belonging to God, the kingly majesty which belongs to him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity

power: strength power, ability, inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth, power for performing miracles, moral power and excellence of soul, the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth

inner man: soul

dwell: settle, metaphor of divine powers, influences, etc., are said to dwell in his soul, to pervade, prompt, govern it, to dwell in, inhabit

rooted: to render firm, to fix, establish, cause a person or a thing to be thoroughly grounded

grounded: to make stable, establish

love: agape, brotherly love, affection, good will, benevolence, love feasts

comprehend: to lay hold of so as to make one's own, to obtain, attain to, to make one's own, to take into one's self, appropriate, to seize upon, take possession of

to know: understand, perceive, have knowledge of, to understand, Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman, to become acquainted with

surpass: to transcend, exceed, excel

filled: to make full, to fill up, i.e., to fill to the full, to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally, I abound, I am liberally supplied, to render full, i.e., to complete, to fill to the top; fill to the brim

exceedingly: beyond, more than more, beyond, over

abundantly: over and above, more than is necessary, superadded, exceedingly abundant, supremely, something further, more, much more than all, more plainly, superior, extraordinary, surpassing, uncommon

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

Matthew 10:5-8:

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'^[a] ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers,^[b] cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

Christ states you have received freely, now freely give away the Kingdom—the supernatural. Under what basis are you to give it? You received freely, which means without any cost to you other than just being with Jesus because He freely gave it to you. So now you freely do what? You give it away. And there's no system to it, there's no profit to be gained. Rather you freely give it away and experience the joy of others receiving it.

He says that now that you've experienced it, you're going to get a double experience when they receive it, because what happens to you when you see somebody else experience the supernatural? You rejoice with them and believe further that you will experience it more yourself. He is freely giving it you to freely give it away, so that you may freely receive it more, and by definition will freely give that away, and so on and so on. It is a wonderful process.

Freely receive, freely give (covenant). Blessed to be a blessing, receive and give it away, in the Kingdom.

Word Definitions: **freely (undeservedly) receive:** to take with the hand, lay hold of, any person or thing in order to use it, to take up a thing to be carried, to take upon one's self
freely give: give over, deliver, to reach out, extend, present

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

Matthew 10:24-31:

²⁴ "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant^[a] above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign^[b] those of his household.

Have No Fear

²⁶ "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^[c]²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?^[d] And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

He further states that as you learn this personally and privately, you should share it openly and publicly. As you experience this and thus to demonstrate your full belief, go to the rooftop and speak out publicly. Speak what? The story that Jesus has given to you even before the supernatural happens. Because that's what's going to encourage the people: not just what happened but the entire process of hearing what God spoke, that He took you to faith, that you believed it and spoke it, and then you experienced it—and that every one of His children are to experience this all the time.

This bears witness to the power of God in this amazing way. People get encouraged that they, too, can experience this as it is not just luck, fate, or some other mystery. This is available to us, too. Expect this to be normal in our everyday life.

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

Speak out openly about what we are receiving privately (hearing His Word and being willing to speak it before it happens.)

Matthew 14:13-21:

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is an interesting little truth about the process. In this story, Christ says to them, "What do you have?" They respond with five loaves and a couple of fish. Jesus then says, "Bring them here." He gives thanks and says, "Give it away. And do it at this moment."

They had to have this incredible faith to believe that in their giving it away it was going to happen, and that it wouldn't happen until they gave it away. It multiplied as they gave it away. And as they kept giving, as they kept giving it away, it kept multiplying.

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

We have to give it away, to receive from Christ and participate in the giving away. The supernatural happens as we give it away, not before.

Expect to personally experience the miracle AS we give it away (when we give it away and not before).

Luke 10:1-20:

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two^[a] others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Woe to Unrepentant Cities

¹³ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶ "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

The Return of the Seventy-Two

¹⁷ The seventy-two 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." ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

In this story, Christ gives us clarity about giving it away – and as He ended this story, He did say, "Don't get enamored alone with experiencing the supernatural. Rejoice that you are connected to Me, so keep remembering that it's about relationship, relationship, relationship. Rejoice in the relationship, and we will experience the supernatural, but do not drift away from Me to just seek the supernatural, it will then be lost, and you will lose the beauty of life and experiencing the supernatural.

As you go to offer it, offer your peace, your shalom, your willingness to demonstrate this to people. And they have to respond in the same way we have had to respond, they have to be willing to go and receive the life of the supernatural. If so, then stay with them and help them learn and receive this as we had to learn and receive it—by having a heart to learn and receive it. Remember, there is no system, just walk together into the work that Christ will perform and teach.

If not, if there is a resistance, an unwillingness to go, then we are to dust our feet off and not take on the burden of persuading them. Move on and give it away to those who have a heart to receive it. He does not want you wasting your time trying to persuade people who are hardhearted and stubborn, as this is not our burden and not our struggle to take on. There's plenty of people who will have a heart to receive it. And the more that you offer it to people, the more you will experience it. By the way, it'll spread faster because they all, by definition, will also be asked to give it away, and all because we were willing to start the process of giving it away.

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

Give it away now. Teach others. They'll be attracted to it. They'll want to know. People will ask, "How does that work?" Then show them. You then will start to practice it. People, because of the way you do it, will learn from it.

Exercise our authority. What are we sent to do? He gives it to us and asks us to give it to others. Go where others are willing to receive, move on from where they are not. Do not take responsibility, but be thankful and not enamored by the miraculous but instead that we have a privileged relationship with Christ.

Word Definitions: **give:** bestow, grant, deliver over

authority: rule, dominion

cure: heal

kingdom: rule, authority, dominion

heal: make whole, restore

subject: obey, yield, submit to

power: authority

all: each and every

power: dunamis

peace: Shalom – favor

receive: of the thing offered in speaking, teaching, instructing, to receive favorably, give ear to, embrace, make one's own, approve, not to reject

dust off feet: to wipe off one's self, to wipe off for one's self

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

CONCLUSION:

Remember we started our course with these verses:

Matthew 28:16-20:

The Great Commission

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Live out life in the authority and supernatural of God.

Word Definitions: **power:** authority

given: to grant, give to one asking, let have, to supply, furnish, necessary things to give over, deliver

Hebrews 2:1-4:

Warning Against Neglecting Salvation

2 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Do not neglect so great a salvation—God will bear witness with miracles, miracles, miracles.

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

Word Definitions: **neglect:** careless, negligent
honor: dignity, riches, abundance
wonders: miracles
miracles same word as power (dunamis)
gifts: distributions to us

John 14:12-14:

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[a] anything in my name, I will do it.

We will be doing these works.

Word Definitions: **believe:** think to be true
ask: beg, crave for
name: the name is used for everything which the name covers, everything the thought or feeling of which is aroused in the mind by mentioning, hearing, remembering, the name, i.e., for one's rank, authority, interests, pleasure, command, excellences, deeds, etc.
do: cause to make happen
glory: honor, splendor, majesty

As we have learned to exercise His authority in the supernatural, teach that to others. It's a discipling process. Bring them alongside, teach them what that looks like, what that feels like, an experience. And make sure we have not misunderstood discipling. It's not Bible study. It's learning the scriptures, and it's abiding in the Word, and it's learning the spirit of His Word. It's the power of the Word, and the authority of the Word, and the supernatural life of the Word. He says, when you've learned it, exercise it and teach others.

Hebrews 2:1-4: Don't neglect so great of salvation because God wants to bear witness with miracles, miracles, miracles. John 14:12-14 says you're going to do the greater works because I'm in you, all of you, and all of you will be doing supernatural things not on your own, but under my authority, under my leadership because you're doing My will not yours. They all will be natural, normal experiences.

LESSON 6:

AS WE EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL, WE ALSO ARE CALLED TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL

Now, as you finish the course, we encourage you to begin practicing it. Go back over the scriptures, go back into the depth of it, begin living it out. Don't be afraid of it. Say yes. Ask God to start to convince you, truth by truth. As you learn to hear what He has to say, begin to believe it and ask Him as you experience the supernatural to truly share it, live it out, teach others. And then believe it will expand.







History of **Abide Ministries**



In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit.

In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit. They had been believers for most of their lives and regularly attended church and Bible studies, but began to realize that, despite knowing the Bible intellectually, their personal experiences seemed disconnected from the promises and truths found in scripture. As they then learned these essential truths through their abiding and hearing God's voice – and began to see the grand life play out in their lives God called them to give that knowledge away. In 2001, God initiated the ABIDE ministry at a retreat with friends in Austria, and through their personal experience of this abiding life, their friends noticed the change in their lives and inquired if Rich and Linda could host a similar retreat the following year. This was repeated three years in a row, and then God called them to host weekend retreats in their home in Colorado.

Through the formal development of the truths revealed by God with Abiding and additional electives, they founded All for Jesus – Living Waters Ministries, now Abide Ministries – and have seen it grow exponentially since then, with 24+ retreat leaders all over the world, 29 online courses, eight books on various aspects of living life with Christ, and a daily podcast. Rich and Linda have also worked with various churches to strengthening them with the truths of an abiding life in Christ, and seeing Christ bring reconciliation and new vision to desperate situations.

Their heart is to bring the truths and promises of God to as many people as possible, showing everyone that when you abide in Christ and seek Him daily, your life can be completely and utterly transformed – enabling you to experience the grand life promised by God.



Vision

At our core, we believe in walking along God's path and connecting to the vine (abiding). As we walk in unity with others and understand God's Word as the truth, we are sure to experience His promised grand life and thus, willingly accept God's will as our chosen path.



Mission

1. Live out and invite everyone to experience the grand, spectacular, abundant life by hearing God's voice.
2. Share God's majesty, a close relationship with us as he yearns for our restoration.
3. God is majestic, grand and pure goodness, so that we can experience His nature in real life.
4. Communicate to everyone, irrespective of their condition, that all are meant to experience God's Divine Life (grand, majestic), by receiving His personal plan for us.
5. God delivers this life for us in a SUPERNATURAL way, transcending human comprehension, and thus, becoming normal in our life.
6. Teach that personal truths are revealed to us by God, grounded on His word – the embodiment of Truth.
7. Recognize that abiding in Christ changes our life in tangible, real ways, and is not just learning about or studying this life.
8. Teach that as we abide in Christ, we learn to understand and amp; follow God's will for our lives, as He leads us personally into His grand, Divine plan for us. His personal plan calls us into His bigger story with our best interest at heart (blessed to bless others).

Statement of Non-Profit Status

Abide Ministries is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that has been fully funded by our founders, leaders and retreat participants since its inception.

Tax-ID number: 27-1731819

Testimonies

“If I’m not abiding, I feel like I’m dying. Abiding is living...It’s powerful to know that you have God’s perspective on something.”



Steve

“This was the first time that I understood what people meant by God’s living Word. And I’ve been a Christian for a lot of years, but this was the first time it really came alive for me and I really could experience that.”



Dan

“It doesn’t matter where you are at in your walk. If you just got saved yesterday or if you’ve been a 20+ year believer like i have, learning how to hear God’s voice and learning His will is just as important in day one as it is in day 3,426. You wanna hear God’s will and this course has helped me hear Him more clearly.”



Bob

“Abiding turned out to be the most transformational thing I’ve ever had since salvation in my Christian walk and in our marriage, and it’s just been amazing. God has a path for us and He is there and He’s showing it to us.”



Heath

“Before, in my quiet time, it was more of a checklist thing for me to do in the morning, and, honestly, some mornings it was the thing that went if I was busy, and some days it didn’t even happen. Now, it’s become so personal to me and the time flies by in the morning and God speaks so directly to me and I just never felt that way on a daily basis before. That has been life-altering for me.”



Rebecca

“I heard about people living in peace, I heard about people living in joy, and realizing all kinds of things around them are happening. And then we realize, wait a minute, we’re there, we have peace beyond understanding.”



Brad

Giving to the Ministry

Have you experienced abundant blessing from your time with Abide Ministries?

Pay it forward by donating at abideministries.com/donate and help us support others in learning how to seek Christ and abide in Him! We appreciate your desire to help us share the Abundant Life with the rest of the world.



Learn More at abideministries.com

Podcast

Escape the chaos and uncertainty of the world with our podcast, ***“Come and See, Finding Truth in a World of Chaos,”*** available on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify.



CHANNEL



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Tune in five days a week as our hosts, Rich Case and Kathy Rocconi, dive into the scriptures and discuss what it looks like to live an abiding life with Christ. Join us as we seek God’s truth in a world of turmoil and darkness.

Online Courses



Abide Ministries online courses uncover life-changing biblical truths, with practical application and wisdom. Our courses are joyful and life-giving and are perfect for small groups as well as individuals.

Each course has an accompanying workbook. Join us as we learn about biblical topics like Hearing God's Voice, Discerning God's Will, the Covenant, Living in Forgiveness, Living in the Kingdom of God, Living in the Supernatural, Christ, Clutter and the Calendar, Living the Grand Life, and many, many more.



COURSES

Abide Retreats



Learn more at
abideministries.com

Do you have friends or a small group that you would like to experience what you just experienced?

Would you be interested in attending another retreat, which we call electives to go deeper in your walk with God?

See the various options on our website.
The topics for retreats and courses are the same.

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