
Follow Me, Pt. 4

Supernatural

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“Follow Me” definition: To be on the same road with Jesus, to learn from Him, imitate Him, and multiply Him in others.

Cost of Discipleship —

- **Matthew 16:24-25**

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

So far — Following Jesus into the places of Prayer and Holiness

Today — Following Jesus into the Life of the Spirit/Supernatural

Two quick observations

- **2 Timothy 3:1,5**

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: people will have a form of godliness but denying its power.

- Form without substance; deny/resist

- **Philippians 2:6-7**

Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. (NLT)

Application — *We mustn’t think Jesus did what He did because He was gifted in ways that are unavailable to us. If we do, we will cease learning and imitating the supernatural. Everything Jesus did, He did as a Spirit-filled human being.*

Notice Jesus’ connection to the Holy Spirit

- **Matthew 1:18,20**

- child is “of the Holy Spirit” “conceived by Holy Spirit”

- **Matthew 3:16**

- Spirit descended and landed on Him at baptism... THEN...

- **Luke 4:1**
Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness...
 - filled and led... THEN...
- **Luke 4:14**
Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region...
 - THEN...
- **Luke 4:16-19**
So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED; TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

So Important — Jesus' entire life is marked by Holy Spirit. He clearly states that the Spirit was upon Him to do the supernatural! Everything He did was in relationship to the Holy Spirit's power on His life. We need to learn, imitate, and duplicate that as we follow Him!

Supernatural Wisdom

- **Isaiah 11:2**
The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

The supernatural Spirit of wisdom was upon Jesus...

- **Matthew 13:54**
When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

Application — Jesus shared the truth in such a wise way that it was life-changing for the hearer!

- **Luke 24:32 — Road to Emmaus**
And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

Available to us —

- **1 Corinthians 12:8**
...to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit...

Supernatural Discernment

After forgiving/healing paralytic —

- **Mark 2:6-8**

And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "**Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?**"

He perceived the thoughts of hearts, knew peoples' thoughts — Luke 9:47, Luke 11:17

- **John 2:23-25**

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

**His discernment kept Him from committing to,
yielding to, trusting everyone.**

Available to us —

- **1 Corinthians 12:10**

... to another discerning of spirits...

- **is not suspicion/paranoia**

- **Miracles** — too many and too varied to look at all of them — water to wine, catches of fish, fishes and loaves, calming storms, walking on water, exorcisms, healings, common fever to resurrections from the dead

Available to us —

- **1 Corinthians 12:10**

... to another the working of miracles...

**Jesus was a man of the Spirit, doing the works of the Spirit —
but it didn't stop with Him!**

The Holy Spirit at Work through Believers

- sent 70 to do what He was doing, preaching, healing, declaring, etc.
- this was not only the 12 disciples — but also the expanded group of 70 “regular believers”

- **Luke 10:17-21**

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

**Regular believers, babes,
operating in supernatural power and gifting —
*Jesus jumped up and down in the Spirit.***

“The power ministry of the promised Holy Spirit was transferable to ordinary disciples”¹
~ Richard J. Foster

- **John 20:21-22 — *after the resurrection***

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

- to the first disciples — *and to everyone since*

Ultimate fulfillment of Spirit's power in the church — at Pentecost— they obeyed, prayed, and received!

Benefits of Following Jesus into the Supernatural

- It corrects our tendency to put God in a box.
 - Confronts our control issues, dispels neat and tidy God.
 - When we imprison the Holy Spirit, we incarcerate ourselves.
- It overthrows our lifeless religious activity.
 - Challenges our boring, predictable, business-as-usual life.
- It produces spiritual growth.
 - When we discover, develop, and deploy gifts — growth happens!
- It empowers us to be kingdom-expanders.
 - Signs, wonders, dreams, visions, miracles, healing, Words of Wisdom, Words of Knowledge....

**The church and the world need Believers
operating in the power of the supernatural
to bring people into deeper encounters with God!**

¹ Richard J. Foster, *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christ* (Harper Collins, Oct 12, 2010)

Dangers Associated with Following Jesus into the Supernatural

- We can obsess on the gifts, and not the Giver of the gifts.
 - Gifts aren't end-all, the Giver is our heart's desire.
- We can de-value the rational and intellectual.
 - Irrational and ignorant aren't the marks of the supernatural life.
 - Emotion and reason are supernatural — it is both/and — not either/or.
- We can unknowingly separate the gifts from the virtues of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Corinthian problem — gifts without love are offensive, obnoxious; gifts without holiness are a train wreck; gifts without fear are a circus act.
- We can allow the gifts to be our identity.
 - Gifts become our calling card, merit badge, platform.

How should I begin my journey following Jesus into the supernatural?

- Get discipled by a mature Believer. Take a class, study.
- Earnestly desire the supernatural.
 - **1 Corinthians 12:31**
But earnestly desire the best gifts.
- Don't let fear of failure paralyze you.
 - **Romans 12:6-8**
Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Jesus has called us to follow Him into a supernatural life — let's do it!

Discussion Questions

1. What happens when you attempt to do things when you are not in right relation to the Holy Spirit?
2. Define supernatural discernment. How is it able to operate in your life daily?
3. What happens when you try to ignore or squelch this aspect of your spiritual life?
4. Read Richard Foster's quote. Do you really believe this?
5. Are you aware of a specific gift (or more) that you have been given, and currently exercise?
6. What next step do you need to take to continue your journey in the supernatural?

For more in-depth teaching on the Supernatural —

Purchase the following Studies in the Resource Center:

Flow

or

Pneuma

Watch online:

www.gracechapel.net/flow

www.gracechapel.net/pneuma