

Living the Supernatural Life Part Twelve – Live by Sight or by Faith.

1. Review of what God has done and said recently. We have been learning to live the supernatural life together...and I hope you have been seeing signs of supernatural life in your own life this week.
 - a. We know that prayer, fasting and listening to God are central to living the supernatural life.
 - b. But how many of us fall short or fail because our faith falters when we let what we see influence what we do? Most of us!
 - c. The only thing that really should influence what we do should be what we know and believe to be true about God.
2. In our study of Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby points out that every Christian travels a journey with God that leads him through repeated invitations to join God in what He is doing. In the midst of that journey, there inevitably will come a crisis of belief, which will test what we SAY we believe about God.
 - a. Blackaby says, “Anytime God leads you to do something that has God-sized dimensions, you will face a crisis of belief. At that point what you do next reveals what you believe about God.”
 - i. For example, when a person comes to us in a crisis, and we look at their circumstances, and our own resources, we say, “I don’t know how we can do this!”
 1. That is the result of us looking at ourselves instead of at God.
 2. Faith on the other hand, looks at what God is doing and depends upon God’s resources to meet it. It presumes that if God is doing something, then God will make a way to meet this need.
 - ii. What we do in response to God’s invitation to join Him always boils down to what we believe about God.
 1. Think about the situation when the disciples were confronted with 5000 people who had listened to Jesus all day who were hungry, they responded like most folks would... “tell them to go home and eat.” But God’s ways are different than ours. If they had the view of God that Jesus did, they would have seen that God had created a divine appointment **for His power and His nature to be made known** through the multiplication of loaves and fishes.
 - a. No doubt, the disciples thought Jesus was out of his mind when he asked them for 5 loaves and 2 fishes and proceeded to feed the crowd out of that meager supply. From their perspective, there was no way, because what they believed about God was limited and in the box. Jesus knew the Father and that He could do anything, from create a world from nothing to make 5 loaves and 2 fishes feed 5000 plus people.
 2. From time to time, we will all come to a place where we are confronted with the reality that God has led us to a certain place to do a certain thing. It is in this time and place that our beliefs about God are tested and we either press forward or we pull back.
 - a. When we press forward, we say that we believe that God has told us to do this and that He must provide where He leads.
 - b. Or we could pull back, either acknowledging our work came from us, or that we don’t really believe or desire to follow Him after all.
 - b. 2 Cor 5:7 says it well, “*We live by faith, not by sight.*” (opposite of faith – sight)
 - i. **Faith is confidence resulting in action, that what God said He would do will come to pass.**
 - ii. Sight is the opposite, it relies upon what it sees, not what is promised. Sight requires little or no faith.
 1. Hebrews 11:1 “*What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.*”
 2. Our faith relies not on an idea but a person. God.

3. God can't be seen. He can't be felt. Yet, we act in faith upon the words of His book and upon what and where He leads us, and we see His supernatural power at work.
- iii. Faith isn't dreaming up a big idea and asking God to bless it.
 1. **Faith requires hearing from God and acting upon what you have heard.** And that requires relationship.
 2. We believe so that we will see...while the world demands to see before it will believe.
 3. Do you know how we help them to see? By allowing the supernatural life of God to flow through us.
- c. How many of us here would say, **"God has never given me a task that was impossible?"**
 - i. The truth is, if it were possible for you to do it on your own, it most likely wasn't God telling you to do it. (ouch).
 - ii. **Every assignment in the bible that God gave people was God-sized.** (impossible).
 1. It was impossible to do under their own strength and power.
 2. They required dependence upon God's resources and intervention to bring them to pass.
 3. Why? Because God is in the business of revealing who He is to us. He wants us to know His power, love, provision strength, providence and more!
 4. We can list so many...
 - a. God told Abraham he would father a child well past his ability
 - b. God had Noah build a boat...a big boat and gave him specific plans for it and that it would be his salvation from a flood (which they had never seen).
 - c. God had Moses lead Israel out of captivity and to pronounce 10 miraculous judgments against Pharaoh. (after Moses had tried to do it in his own strength 40 years before).
 - d. God had Joshua lead Israel across a river in flood stage so He could show him His power to stop a river.
 - e. David conquered a giant by the power of God.
 - f. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego defied a king and survived a 2000 degree furnace.
 - g. Peter and John healed a crippled beggar in the name of Jesus.
 - iii. If you look at your bible, you will see ordinary people being used in supernatural ways.
 - iv. None of this is possible without faith, without trusting in a God who has told you what to do!

3. **Unbelief can be costly.**

- a. Sarah, Abraham's wife heard that God was going to give them a son in their old age. Sarah knew she was past child bearing years. So, based upon what she SAW and based upon her own human reasoning, she gave her slave (Hagar) to Abraham to have a child through her. This act of unbelief was extremely costly because Ishmael caused them great grief as well as his descendents have been in opposition to Abraham's descendents (Israel) for the past 4000 years.
- b. Luke 6:46 Jesus tells his disciples, *"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say?"*
 - i. If you lack faith, you will not do what God is telling you to do. You probably won't even listen! When God speaks, He reveals what He is going to do. We join Him so He can work through us. We don't have to be able to do that task in our own ability or resources...rather, we can confidently obey Him knowing He is going to bring to pass what He purposes.

4. **Why is our world not attracted to the Christ we serve?** Because they don't see Him at work supernaturally in our lives! Why is that so? Because we aren't living by faith!
- a. (possibly use and expound upon) 1 Cor 2:4-5 *“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.”*
 - b. A faithful servant is one who does what God tells him to do.
 - c. *I read that Mother Theresa was asked if she thought her ministry to the poor of Calcutta was a success. She replied, God didn't call me to success, but to faithfulness.*
 - d. God calls you and I to action, to act upon His prompting and to obedience when He gives us an opportunity to minister. When we refuse, delay or miss it, it is because we really don't believe He is up to the task.
 - e. Jn 14:12 *“Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the father.”* (potential of faith)
 - i. God is doing something remarkable in this church. He has determined to use us to minister to needy people...and not just to meet their physical needs, but to make Him known to them.
 - ii. When God first started to talk to us about this...the few men and women with a vision to minister, knew this was too big for them, but by faith, they prayed and asked God to touch hearts to give...and God has opened hearts up wide all across our church and even our community (Taco Bell youth?) to help minister to families in need.
 - iii. I can tell you though, God will lay bigger and bigger things before us, which will require us to trust Him even more. If you get involved, your life will be forever changed as you let the supernatural power of God flow through you to help someone in need.