

Living the Supernatural Life – Recap #1 (Part Thirteen)

1. About 3 months ago, when I began this sermon series, I spoke about the tendency for us as Christians to switch on the “AutoPilot” of our Christian life. We compared it to being in a rut, to living comfortably instead of living on the cutting edge of the Spirit’s leadership.
 - a. That first week I said to you, “if you rarely have a powerful testimony of God supernaturally at work in your life, then seek God more intimately so that He can produce one in and through you.”
 - b. In the past 3 months, we have seen God at work in so many of our lives! Each week brings powerful testimonies from your lips. As your pastor, I can see many of you experiencing the supernatural life on a regular basis, and I rejoice with you as you claim your birthright in Christ.
 - c. Yet some of you still look or feel a bit like spectators, and you are wondering why you haven’t got to see God at work this way in your life.
 - i. **Evangelistic Appeal. –If you are not already a follower of Jesus Christ and would like to become one...I have asked Roger Jewell to explain how and why you might want to.**
2. Transition from evangelistic appeal to the rest of the sermon.
3. When you became a follower of Jesus Christ, God chose you to be His partner in His Kingdom work. He has also chosen to limit much of His activity upon earth to the prayers of His people. This reveals the awesome responsibility we have been given. **Your prayers do matter to God...because it is how His will in heaven gets moved to earth.**
 - a. Ephesians 6:18 *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”*
 - i. This short passage is out of context, so let me clue you in on the context. It is the verse immediately following the exhortation to take up the armor of God to do spiritual warfare. You might be familiar with it.
 1. Ephesians 6:13-18 *“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. v18: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions (perfect timing) with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert (be attentive and watchful) and always keep on praying for all the saints.”*
 - b. Our enemy, Satan’s, is determined to thwart you from your role in God’s work by convincing you...
 - i. ...not to pray (because it won’t do any good),
 - ii. ...not to ask (because God knows you need it already),
 - iii. ...not to act (because God is in control),
 - iv. ...or to ask but not to receive (take) the answer from God’s hands.
 - v. George Mueller said of Satan’s temptation “not to pray” as :”It is a common temptation of Satan to make us give up the reading of the Word and prayer when our enjoyment is gone; as if it were of no use to read the Scriptures when we do not enjoy them, and as if it were no use to pray when we have no spirit of prayer. The truth is that in order to enjoy the Word, we ought to continue to read it, and the way to obtain a spirit of prayer is to continue praying. The less we read the Word of God, the less we desire to read it, and the less we pray, the less we desire to pray.”

- c. Not only is there a loss to the Kingdom of God when we don't pray, but we forfeit the personal experience of God that He desires us for us.
- d. **When we fail to pray...**
 - i. **We miss out on the relational experience** of God.
 - 1. All prayer is relational, it isn't a religious exercise. It is about a relationship, talking to and listening to God. Do you prefer not to do so? Why is that?
 - ii. **We miss out on the revelational experience** of God.
 - 1. God speaks when we pray. It is an encounter with Him and we get to know His character more deeply when we spend time with Him.
 - iii. **We miss out on the revitalizational experience** of God.
 - 1. Do you know what happens when you spend quality time with God? You come out refreshed, renewed and reenergized. Why, I wonder, do we avoid it...when it is so gooooooood for us?
 - 2. Corporate prayer is another vital tool to becoming revitalized church.
 - a. How? -
 - b. Why don't we like to pray together?
 - i. Because we don't know how.
 - ii. Because we neglect our personal prayer life, so we feel unworthy to pray together with others.
 - iii. Because we are embarrassed that our prayers won't sound good to others.
 - iv. Because we are lazy and self-absorbed.
 - c. – About a dozen men gather to pray each Wednesday evening at a local home. See Dave Griffith or Pat Bush, or Bill Hill for more info.
 - d. Women...you can gather some ladies to intercede as well.
 - e. And don't forget the 5 or 6 faithful warriors who gather each Sunday morning at 8:30 am to pray for the services.

4. **Prayer is vital to your church family's spiritual health.**

- a. Do you watch your health? Of course. Do you watch your children's health? Most of us overdo so. We are very watchful.
 - i. Eph. 6:18 Amplified: *"In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out."*
 - ii. You have a family here as well. We need one another's prayers. I need your prayers. You need mine. Won't you take a directory home and pray for your brothers and sisters each day? Write on their page what you are praying for. There is a list in your bulletin so you can pray for the entire congregation in a week. Pray they might be empowered to do God's work and to hear His voice!

5. Closing:

- a. My heart's desire is that you experience the supernatural life God has promised to you.
- b. It is God's desire as well. It all begins with walking with Jesus Christ and spending time with Him. The word Prayer shouldn't scare us, or make us feel guilty, but should remind us that our Father in Heaven is longing to spend some time with His children. With you. He thinks so much of you that He wants to spend eternity with you. Won't you begin now?
- c. Maybe we have some trouble trusting God with our burdens, so we carry them ourselves, until we are worn out. You can give them to Him today. Trust Him...do you?

Things to Pray for

We should ask God to make the gospel message clear (Col. 4:4).

Pray for boldness in the one doing the evangelism (Acts 4:29; Eph. 6:19).

Pray that the individual believes the Word of God (Rom. 10:17; 1 Thess. 2:13).

Pray that Satan is bound from blinding them from the truth (2 Thess. 2:13).

Pray for the safety of the messengers (2 Thess. 3:2).

Pray for the success of the gospel and that they will believe in Christ as their Savior (John 1:12, 5:24, 6:27-29; 2 Thess. 3:1).

Pray that the one who receives Christ as Savior may grow spiritually and bear fruit (Matt. 13:23; John 15:16; Col. 1:6, 2:6, 7).