

# Living the Supernatural Life – Part 7: Using Our Spiritual Eyes and Ears

## 1. Review

- a. **The Supernatural life is normal** – because we are no longer “natural” people.
  - i. We have had a supernatural encounter with God. Our supernatural God has invaded the natural realm by filling us with His Spirit – and **whatever we touch is changed by God because of His Presence within us.**
  - ii. Beware of saying that “I’m only human.” Jesus rebuked Peter because Peter’s mind was filled with the things of man. Mt. 16:23 *“Get behind me Satan! You are an offense to Me for you are not mindful of the things of God but the things of men.”*
  - iii. I have heard it said that the devil is empowered by human agreement with his schemes.
  - iv. You and I have the Holy Spirit, we are not “ONLY” human. We are partakers in the divine nature!
  - v. We have the mind of Christ, the outlook of heaven, and the perspective of the Kingdom of God. We must operate in it!
  - vi. We don’t want to agree with this world and its natural outlook. We want to agree with God’s purposes.
  - vii. God says the supernatural life is His plan for Christians to operate in.
  - viii. Won’t you agree to trust and operate in this wonderful truth?
- b. **God wants to work through you.** You cannot remain a spectator to the Kingdom.
  - i. In fact, last week we talked about how the “gospel of getting to heaven” has led many to be spectators, because they have believed a false gospel. They “get in and wait” instead of enter to conquer.
  - ii. The true gospel is the gospel of the Kingdom of God, come to earth, set up in men’s and women’s hearts, taking back one person at a time to live by the power, love and rule of God.
  - iii. Our heart cry must be “use me to change my world!” Is it your heart cry as well?
- c. **Every need you encounter is an opportunity for God to work supernaturally through you.** When you come across a need you cannot meet, that is all the more reason to step out in faith to minister to it. Why? Because you will be in a position where God alone can meet the need! You move out of the realm of the natural (reason) and into the realm of the supernatural (faith).
  - i. **I missed an opportunity this week. At Walmart this week, I was in the automotive section and an elderly man asked me if I would help him find a certain type of oil because his eyesight was so bad. What need do you think God might have been at work looking to meet? Getting his oil or having someone minister prayers of healing for his eyesight? I missed it, until when he was saying thanks...and realized I had been operating in the natural realm.**

## 2. Today, we need to talk about Supernatural Vision and Hearing.

- a. What does it mean to have supernatural vision or supernatural hearing? I believe that every Christian has supernatural ears and eyes, but that we need to learn how to use them. When you were born again by the Spirit of God, your senses to the supernatural were opened to be able to see and hear from the Spirit of God.
  - i. Let me preface this by saying that as human beings, we are spiritual beings, clothed in an earth-suit. The earth suit we wear is designed to function in the realm of the natural world, in the place where you can use physical senses to see, hear, feel, taste and smell.
  - ii. When we are born into this world, we are born with a body (to interact with the physical world), a soul (which is comprised of your mind, will and emotions), and a spirit, through which we interact with the spiritual world.
  - iii. The bible says that when we enter this world, our spirits are “dead toward God.” This doesn’t mean that our spirits don’t exist, but that they are in opposition to God. In the

very core of our being, we had no use for God, we were enemies toward Him. When Jesus Christ enters our lives, we experience a brand new rebirth, we become new creations because our spirits become “alive toward God” – that is, because we are forgiven, we desire and are now open to God.

- iv. But before we are “born again” through Jesus Christ, our spirits still can access the spiritual realm.
  1. Folks, **mediums and witches are real**. They do in fact, access the spiritual realm...but their point of contact is not God.
  2. This is why God warns us against mediums, witchcraft, and other spiritual touch points – because **their source is not in God** but in the demonic.
  3. Not only that...but **they are vastly inferior** to the supernatural spiritual power and insight that a believer has with the Holy Spirit.
  4. You should keep this in mind during this **Halloween season**...demons are not “fun” – they are dangerous and harmful. As light, we have nothing in common with darkness. We cannot serve two masters.
3. I can look around this room and see that most folks here have encountered Christ by faith and have entrusted Him with their eternal future and are following Him as disciples, so this passage should make sense to most of us here:
  - a. Isaiah 30:20-21 *“He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher. Your ears will hear a word behind you, “This is the way, walk in it,” whenever you turn to the right or to the left.”* (NAS)
    - i. Some would say that having spiritual vision simply means to “understand the Scriptures” in a spiritual, eternal way. I would agree. But I would extend it further, because the bible speaks of spiritual sight and spiritual hearing as being able to hear and see what God is doing.
    - ii. This passage in Isaiah strikes even closer to the truth. It is saying that God, your “Teacher” will tell you which way to turn!
      1. Do you think that Jesus referenced this when he said, in John 14:26 *“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*
      2. In Luke 12:12 *“for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”*
      3. I believe that the Holy Spirit is interested in the details of your life, in guiding, in leading, in instructing, and even what you say and what you hear. I believe the Holy Spirit is constantly whispering instructions to those in whom He lives.
      4. So why aren’t we hearing Him? And what is He saying?
        - a. Is it because...we aren’t listening? Are we too busy, distracted, preoccupied with this world? Or do we simply not know how to hear God?
    - iii. 1 Cor. 2:12-14 *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. v14: But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*
      1. I think that God wants us to hear and see what He is doing and to join Him.
      2. I think that God is busy establishing His kingdom on this earth and desires your participation in His activity!
  - b. Now there is a term that we use to describe this activity of God that a lot of Baptists are uncomfortable with, it is the term “Revelation.” When God speaks to your heart, that is a revelation of God’s Spirit to your spirit that has to be interpreted through your mind, will and emotions.

4. There are a lot of levels that we can look at this concept:
- a. **The facts of revelation.**
    - i. There are two kinds of revelation, and it is important that we distinguish them apart so that we can remove any confusion. There is “**Logos**” – **the written kind of revelation** that is often associated with the bible. And there is “**Rhema**” – which literally means to speak. The “**rhema**” **kind of revelation is simply our hearts hearing the Holy Spirit speak.**
    - ii. Keep in mind, God doesn’t contradict Himself, so the Holy Spirit won’t contradict the written scriptures. If you hear a voice telling you to go rob a bank, you aren’t hearing God!
      1. I know some Christians who have told me that they have never heard God speak to them before. (of course, I want to ask them, then how did you realize you were a sinner in need of Jesus?) God had to speak to your heart! You’ve heard God at least once! (Rhema). (I want to then say, why haven’t you heard Him since?)
      2. I know a pastor who never says ‘God showed him’ something or other. Yet at our pastor’s meetings, when he says stuff, you can tell its right from the heart of God.
      3. Perhaps it seems a bit “presumptuous” to say, “I feel like God is telling me to do this or that...”
      4. Perhaps it seems a bit frightening to say it, because we aren’t always sure that it is the voice of God.
      5. Sometimes it is easier to reflect on a situation and say, “that was God” than it is to take that step of faith during the situation and boldly proclaim, “I think God is in this...”
    - iii. I say all of these things because we have folks from a whole variety of experiences with God. I don’t want to fit you into a religious box any more that I want to put God into a box. But the truth of the matter is, you are here at this church for a reason. God is clearly drawing people of diverse backgrounds together to join Him in His purposes in our community.
  - b. The interpretation of divine revelation.
    - i. Because God speaks through your spirit, it has to be filtered through our mind, will and emotions.
    - ii. It is really no different than when God speaks to you through your circumstances...you have to filter it and interpret it for your life. I think every prophet and every person in the bible had to apply their faith and understanding filter to every word of God spoken to them.
    - iii. The problem comes out when we don’t apply faith to the whisper in our hearts, but we write it off as our own thoughts. When we do that, we turn the volume down on the Holy Spirit and end up shutting our ears.
  - c. I would like you to close your eyes for a second. Did you know that there are invisible broadcasts traveling through this room, some with people’s voices, others with images attached to them? You can’t see them and you can’t hear them, can you? Open your eyes. Do you know why? Because you don’t have a receiver that can translate them. Hidden in the spectrum of sound and light, there are television signals and radio broadcasts shooting through this room, but we cannot see or hear them. But go to your car and turn on your radio, and you can dial in and listen to just about any broadcast out there.
    - i. Why does it sound so preposterous that God is speaking all the time?
    - ii. *v14 of our passage v14: But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness (gibberish, static, meaningless) to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*” This says that the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit because he doesn’t have a spiritual receiver! He needs

Jesus Christ to enter his heart and life and bring life to his spirit, & tune his spirit into God.

## 5. Acting on revelation:

- a. I believe that **revelation enlarges the arena in which our faith can operate in.**
- b. The opposite is true as well: **Deception shrinks the arena of our faith's operation.**
- c. Let me give you an example. You are reading Matthew 10 and as you see Jesus sending out his disciples two by two to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out devils...and the words become alive to you as you realize that Jesus is calling you to live the same lifestyle of the kingdom. This is an occasion of revelation, and it means that the boundaries in which your faith operates has just expanded! If you act upon a revelation, you and your faith and the world it operates in expands and grows!

## 6. Seeking revelation:

- a. Jeremiah 33:3 says, "*Call to Me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know.*"
- b. We cannot get revelation by simply reading books. We don't just snap our fingers and get it. This passage tells us to call or cry out to God. Can you picture someone desperate enough to open his heart and cry out to God from the depths of their spirit? This is the picture here. And the principle is that **Casual prayer leads to casual revelation.** Deep and hungry prayer leads to deep and meaningful revelation. This is why we called the church to fast and pray. I encourage you to take regular times of fasting and prayer, where you seek God in such a way as to desire to hear and encounter Him above all else!
- c. Most people I know that get meaningful insights from the Lord do so because they seek Him tirelessly. They seek God above all else. They hunger and thirst for God. And they are often rewarded for their hunger with substantial insights for their lives and the lives of others.
- d. Kings feared the Old Testament prophets because they knew that God knew their secrets:
  - i. 2 Kings 6:12 "*One of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."*
  - ii. God knows your secrets. In Acts, two people tried to deceive the church with a sale of some property that they claimed they gave money to the church...but in fact had held back some, because they wanted to look good in people's eyes. Peter got a word of knowledge and called them out on it.
  - iii. God knows your secrets too. I know men and women of God who when they pray for someone, God sometimes gives them an insight into that person's life. When your secrets are exposed, you are ready to let go and let God have His way.
  - iv. Sometimes that gives an impetus for faith. The woman at the well encountered Jesus who spoke into her life when he read her mail (you have had 6 husbands and the one you live with now is not your husband). This supernatural insight had profound and eternal effects upon her and her entire village.
  - v. Do you believe God can do the same for you?
7. The bottom line is that we can't sit back and wait for God to use someone else. **God desires to use you,** to speak supernaturally to you and sometimes even through you. Are you hungry enough to hear from Him?
  - a. When I get together with a group of godly men a couple of times a month, I get so much revelation just from our conversations that sometimes I have to write it down on a notepad! The fascinating part is that they aren't even trying to speak into my life, but I can hear God through their words and actions.
  - b. Sometimes when our worship leader Debbie and I meet to talk about worship, God gives me an amazing insight. She will attest that I start writing it down right then and there.
  - c. God wants to share gems about Himself with you! Do you treat them casually or do you write them down?

8. Prayer/Ministry –

- a. Are you hungering to operate/live in the supernatural realm? Do you desire to hear a word from God? Are you willing to pay the price for that search? Maybe you need prayer that your eyes/ears be opened, or maybe you hear God calling you to be come a child of God!

- i.
  - ii. *Isaiah 32:1-3 “Look, a righteous king is coming! And honest princes will rule under him. 2 He will shelter Israel from the storm and the wind. He will refresh her as a river in the desert and as the cool shadow of a large rock in a hot and weary land. 3 Then everyone who can see will be looking for God, and those who can hear will listen to his voice. (NLT)*
  - iii.
  - iv. When we are born again, the indwelling Holy Spirit gives us understanding of the "deep things of God" (1 Cor. 2:10).
9. Illustrations and examples
- a. Robert Schuller was a young farm boy who had a heart for God and a Christian upbringing, but he had no idea what he wanted to be when he grew up. One day Robert's preacher-uncle was supposed to visit his parents. Anxiously awaiting his arrival, Robert bounded from his window to meet his uncle as he drove onto the farm. As his uncle greeted him, he said, "Robert, God is going to raise you up to be a powerful preacher." From that moment forward, it was settled in Robert's heart what his destiny was. The rest is history.
10. Revelation and Application
- a. Revelation by itself, that is “hearing from God” is not enough. Just as the bible tells us not to be “hearers of the word, but doers” so also must we apply what God shows us. Until we do, our revelation will only be a source of pride and not a source of life.