

# Holy Spirit is God 4

## ***TEAR DOWN THAT WALL!***

### ***Supernatural is Normal***

(preached 1/30/22)

Please turn to *1 Corinthians 12:1*.

#### **Sermon #3: He Leads, We Follow**

- Romans 8:14: those led by the Spirit of God are His sons and daughters.
- Our discipleship is to look like Him, act like Him, talk like Him, believe like He does, go where He goes, and be holy as He is holy.
- Our flesh is at war with the Spirit because their desires are not compatible...at all.
- Our flesh interprets the Scriptures, twisting the meanings to suit and accommodate it's desires.
- We choose either to follow the Holy Spirit or the desires of our flesh.
- Let us follow Him into greater realms of glory!

NEXT WEEK I'm going to preach to you about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and how all believers are meant to receive this wonderful and beautiful gift from God. At the end of that service there will be an altar call for any who wish to have this imparted to them. If it's already happened to you and you just want a reignition, you can come forward too!

**IF YOU'RE FEELING LED TO HAVE THAT IMPARTATION TODAY, JUST COME UP AFTER THE SERMON AND WE'LL GET 'ER DONE!**

***If you decide to wait, I would like to prepare you for the supernatural.***

WESTERN RATIONALITY. ***Western rationality dominates our culture which includes the church.*** An American Christian will profess all manner of supernatural beliefs: Jesus walked on water, cast out demons, raised Lazarus from the dead and people saw him shamble out of his tomb after being there 4 days, Jesus Himself walked alive out of His tomb after 3 days, then ascended from the Mt. of Olives—just like Superman—40 days later.

RED SEA, ETC. American Christians believe Moses parted the Red Sea, Samson had super strength, that the sun stopped moving for Joshua, and fire rained down from the sky upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

RAPTURE. We believe that someday Jesus will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, at the last trump, and that we'll all be transformed into an immortal body and then fly up into the air like Superman to meet Jesus in the air.

***Yet when supernatural things begin to happen in church, some begin to freak out.***

AMAZING SUNDAY. Years back we an amazing Sunday here at Gateway as far as the supernatural is concerned. After the sermon we began laying on hands and people were falling down under the influence of God's Spirit. People began to prophesy, there was some healing, and a couple people came forward in deep conviction & repentance for secret sins. The fruit of the Spirit was abundant! The gifts were flowing! It was simply amazing and God was glorified!

LEFT. Yet several people left our church and never came back. One lady started to cry and literally ran out of the church in fear, believing what we were doing was coming from the devil.

DEMON POSSESSION. We read about demons possessing and manifesting in people in the Gospels and Acts and I've actually seen it happen 3 times in my own walk with Christ. 2 of the 3 times, us western Christians went into shock & fear, and didn't want to deal with it.

CURSING. Western Christians will hear others curse and swear and watch movies, TV, and videos where the same happens, and allow it to roll off their backs. They might even indulge in a bit of it themselves. Yet someone in church speaks in tongues and suddenly it's the devil? It's weird, we're afraid, and not sure if we want to stay?!

GIFT FROM GOD. Even though both Jesus and Paul tell us speaking in tongues is righteous and comes from the Holy Spirit, that's less tolerable and causes more fear than people dropping f-bombs or doing it ourselves? I've had Christians tell me cursing is OK, not a big deal, and can even be used to advance God's Kingdom...yet they hear tongue talking and suddenly get all righteous.

***WALL. There's a spiritual wall between what western Christians read in the Bible and our personal experience:***

**BECAUSE MANY HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED THE SUPERNATURAL CONSISTENTLY, ESPECIALLY IN CHURCH, IT REMAINS IN THE CATEGORY OF "THE UNKNOWN" WHICH ALWAYS BREEDS FEAR.**

So I'm going to go Ronald Reagan on you today: *"Church, tear down that wall!"*

# **You don't need to experience the supernatural to start the process of tearing down this wall...all you need is Holy Spirit inspired, Bible-based expectation.**

GIFTS OPERATE. The official stance of Gateway is that we believe in the modern day operation of the Gifts of the Spirit:

## **1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (ESV)**

- <sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.
- <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.
- <sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
- <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;
- <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.
- <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- <sup>8</sup> For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,
- <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
- <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
- <sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

OPPOSITION. Before I begin to exposit these verses please understand there are Christians, Pastors, churches, and denominations who deny that these gifts are still active in the modern world. They're called Cessationists and believe these things passed away after the 1<sup>st</sup> century and among them are heavy hitters like John MacArthur.

HEADS UP. I'm only saying this to give you a heads up that you may run into this when interacting with other Christians. The ones who believe this way will have different levels of reaction if you claim to be seeking and/or operating in these gifts.

DIFFERENT REACTIONS. Some will shrug it off with a "you do you" reaction whereas others will say it's from the devil and that you need to stop immediately. I've been preaching, seeking, and operating in the Gifts of the Spirit for a couple decades now and the devil isn't using me. I haven't lost my Salvation and am still adhering to the Scriptures. If you're ever

confronted by another Christian or Pastor about this again: please don't go into shock and fear. You don't need to start doubting your Salvation or standing with God.

EXPOSITION. Now let's begin our exposition of these verses:

**Verses 1-7:** one can only flow in these gifts if they've been granted by the Holy Spirit. He's the One Who invented them and He's the One Who gives them, period. He has complete sovereignty in whom He chooses to give what. He may only give brother Johnny 1 gift, sister Jane 2 gifts, and brother Ralph gets 5—whatever the case, He gets to decide these things (Parable of the Talents). They come from Him and not the Devil. He is the Lord over the gifts.

**Verse 5:** the purpose of these gifts is service. Not to draw attention to ourselves, not looking for others to admire us, but to serve. We prophesy to serve. We lay hands to heal to serve. We speak in tongues and interpret to serve. Who are we serving? We are serving God and the Church. The purpose of the manifestation of the gifts is to add to/build up the church.

**Verse 6:** the gifts are empowered by the Holy Spirit alone. If you operate in one or more of them, He is doing the empowering.

SIDE NOTE: PAGANISM. Having been neck deep in the pagan/esoteric/New Age community for 10 years including astrology, mediums, psychics, witchcraft, clairvoyants, etc. I can also say that the Devil grants a certain level of supernatural power to people.

DISCERN? How you discern between the two is easy: ***anyone claiming to flow in a supernatural power must be born again for said gift to be coming from the Holy Spirit.***

**ONLY A BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVING INSIDE THEM AND IT'S THE HS WHO INVENTS, CARRIES, AND DISPENSES THE GIFTS LISTED IN THESE VERSES.**

BORN AGAIN. Anyone operating in the supernatural who isn't born again isn't getting their empowerment from Him, but from another source and you need to stay away from them. Christians should have nothing to do with psychics, mediums, astrologers, or witchcraft of any kind unless you're preaching the Gospel to them and calling upon them to repent.

CEDED TERRITORY. Unfortunately, the rational western church hasn't pursued the supernatural and have reduced the faith down to things we understand and are comfortable with. We've ceded this territory over to paganism who openly embraces the same, and now some dishonestly call all supernatural things to be the devil.

**Jesus is the One Who gave us Himself, the Holy Spirit, and the Gifts all of which are supernatural and it's time to retake this ground in His name!**

**Verse 7:** the manifestation of these gifts are for the common good, both within and without the church.

**Verses 8-10 list the 9 gifts as follows:**

- **Word of Wisdom:** the righteous application of knowledge—you've been given the truth and here is how to live/apply it.
- **Word of Knowledge:** a practical truth about the Bible, another person, or an event. Ex: knowing something about someone they haven't told, knowing something that's happening elsewhere without seeing or hearing, etc.
- **Faith:** the supernatural ability to make what's in Heaven come here. Faith is granted when we actually believe what God says. If we believed that Jesus' work on the Cross paid for our sins and declare the same, the HS grants faith to become born again.
- **Healing:** the ability to heal disease and injury supernaturally.
- **Miracles** are more creative in nature and can manifest in many different ways. Jesus walking on water, casting out demons, reproducing loaves and fishes, and appearing in the house despite doors being shut and locked, and Phillip being translated after Baptizing are examples of miracles. My personal belief is that miracles are not limited only to examples we see in the Bible, whereas other Christians disagree.
- **Prophecy:** accurately predicting the future of a person, events, area, people, nation, etc.
- **Discerning of Spirits.** Whether an actual spirit or a human being: is this being of God or not? Telling the truth or lying?
- **Tongues** is ability to speak in your language and someone else hears what you're saying in *their* language. *Not to be confused with the private prayer language I will discuss at another time.*
- **Interpretation of Tongues** is when someone is talking in a foreign language that you don't speak, yet you understand them anyway.

**Verse 11:** all these come from the Holy Spirit. He alone empowers us to operate in them. He gets to decide who gets what and how many.

**When the church—whether local or global—doesn't pursue these gifts we are far lesser for it.**

***What is the supernatural?*** How is it defined? I'm going to ignore Webster and Wikipedia and give you a different definition: **it's when the spiritual world intersects with, touches, and even invades the physical world.**

**QUANTUM PHYSICS.** When Quantum physics was first introduced to the world, the average person was having a hard time understanding what the scientists were saying because their explanations seemed quite...spiritual. Something you would hear from a man living alone on a mountaintop and not a lab-coated Einstein. They were talking about things called “dimensions” and saying we lived in “the first 3.” They went onto say there were dimensions beyond the first 3—like 4 or 5—but that we would never see or detect them like, ever. They said it was possible that other beings lived in these dimensions.

**SUPERSTRING.** Modern Day Superstring Theory and other such things have us up to 12 dimensions, perhaps more.

**EXPLANATION.** Such saying causes people brains to go into shock, so they came up with the explanation for the likes of you and I.

**2 DIMENSION BEINGS.** We live in the 3 dimensions of length, width, and height. Suppose a race of beings lived in only the first 2 dimensions of length and width: they could not perceive height. That means that “up” and “down” don’t exist for them. They would not build roofs or ceilings and would always look straight ahead no matter what.

***Listen carefully to the next parts of their explanation and decide for yourself if this sounds like something you might read in the Bible vs. a Quantum Physics textbook:***

- The 2 dimensional beings would never be able to see us because we live in the 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension of height.
- We would be able to see them...from above. They could hide nothing from us, despite any walls they built.
- They could not interact with us no matter what.
- We could interact with them and, if we did, it would TO THEM appear like a supernatural miracle.
- Suppose we stuck our finger down into their village, their 2 dimensional brains would strive to shape what they were seeing into a form their could understand...a 2 dimensional form.
- Since our finger is above those limitations, their brains would do their best but whatever it came up with still be “supernatural.”

**SPIRIT IS FIRST.** As I’ve taught you before, the spiritual world was first and the physical world is a copy of it. God is Spirit and He created a spirit-world first, then the physical world came into being. Jesus and the Apostles referred to “the heavnlies/worlds” which contained more than just the high Heaven where God lives, but all aspects of the spiritual dimensions including the ones Satan lives in.

## **WHENEVER a BEING FROM ONE OF THESE HEAVENLIES WHETHER GOD, a GOOD ANGEL, OR a DEMONIC SPIRIT INTERACTS WITH THIS WORLD WE SEE SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL.**

GOD ACTING HERE. The miracles, visitations, and manifestations in the Bible are mostly (not all) God Himself acting in the physical realm. Sometimes it was something on a grand scale like fire raining down on Sodom or Elijah ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot. Other times it was something smaller like making Gideons fleece wet then dry upon demand. There were times when angels came to earth in a physical form and even God Himself a few times.

KEYS TO KINGDOM. Jesus made exactly this promise to Peter and the rest of the church in this famous verse:

### **Matthew 16:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

DREAM/IMPACT WRENCH. Years ago I had this dream where I was assembled in a church with lots of other Christians. There were tables full of weapons of all kinds from medieval swords and clubs to machine guns, and I saw every person in the room were wielding different ones. Mine was an impact wrench and I recall thinking that my weapon was more powerful than all the others, even the machine gun. Why? Because impact wrenches bind and loose.

BIND. The term “bind” as it’s used here is a legal one—He’s making a binding covenant with us where He’s going to keep His end of the deal. Which is what? Look at the verse: He’s empowering us to bring what’s in God’s Heavenly dimension to this one.

## ***What does that look like? It looks like this:***

### **Matthew 10:7-8 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

<sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

***It looks like operating in the 9 gifts*** we went over in the beginning of this sermon. Jesus and the Apostles flowed in the gifts in the midst of evangelizing unbelievers far more so than among fellow believers, though not exclusively. As Jesus pointed out in Matthew 10:7, God’s Kingdom being “at hand” (which means really really close) accompanies specific miracles to indicate the same. Miracles that were named by Isaiah centuries earlier which signified that both Messiah and the Kingdom had arrived.

### **Isaiah 35:4-6 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

MIRACLES SPOKE. Jesus and the Apostles did all these things and these miracles told their Jewish receivers that 1) Jesus was their Messiah and 2) the Kingdom had come.

MIRACLES were the proof Jesus used for both His Lordship and His Kingdom. Listen to this snippet of Peter's sermon right after he was Baptized in the Holy Spirit:

### **Acts 2:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--

PHILLIP. Phillip was led to some of the toughest people around—the Samaritans who didn't like the Jews—to share the Gospel with them, and look what happened and WHY:

### **Acts 8:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

SIMON THE SORCEROR. I told you earlier to avoid pagan/new age practices and powers because they come from the devil and not God. The same Phillip causes just such a man to repent and come to Jesus instead:

### **Acts 8:9-13 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great,

<sup>10</sup> to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God."

<sup>11</sup> And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.

<sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

<sup>13</sup> Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.



NOT A MAGICIAN. Please don't westernize this as some have, saying Simon was merely an illusionist like a modern day magician using smoke and mirrors. The 2 priests who withstood Moses were sorcerers successfully turned their staffs into snakes...it wasn't a trick. As a sorcerer, it was far more likely Simon operated with some authentic supernatural power that came from the devil. When he sees the miracles Phillip is doing in the Name of Jesus, however, Simon realizes there's Someone far greater than the false gods he worships.

PAUL. Look what the Holy Spirit did through Paul:

**Acts 19:11-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul,

<sup>12</sup> so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

HANKEY. People got healed and delivered from demons just by touching hankey's that Paul came in contact with!

WEIRD THING. The supernatural gifts through Paul and Barnabas were so prevalent that this weird thing happens:

**Acts 14:8-15 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked.

<sup>9</sup> He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well,

<sup>10</sup> said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking.

<sup>11</sup> And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"

<sup>12</sup> Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

<sup>13</sup> And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.

<sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out,

<sup>15</sup> "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

TRIED TO WORSHIP. Such was the power of the Holy Spirit that the pagan people of Lystra thought there were the gods! Tried to make sacrifices to them! Look at verses 14-15 though: Paul & Barnabas go Hulk Hogan "tear their clothes" (an ancient Jewish tradition of offense) and tell everyone this is the power of Christ and not them!

JUST MEN. Look at verse 15 and apply it to YOU: they are just men. With a nature like other men. What sets them apart from the people at Lystra is the Holy Spirit.

- We were meant to operate in the spiritual gifts. We were meant to show others a slice of the Kingdom, a piece of Heaven.
- In Heaven there is no sickness only eternal life...therefore when we lay hands on the sick and they're healed, it's a piece of Heaven.
- In Heaven there is no ignorance therefore when we pass on a word of knowledge, wisdom, and prophecy people are seeing what its going to be like when the Kingdom fully comes.
- In Heaven there's not multiple languages, which was a curse laid upon humanity because of disobedience back in Genesis 11. Everyone understand each other in Heaven, and thus tongue and interpretation shows us a slice of the Kingdom.

BAPTIZED IN SPIRIT. We must be immersed—Baptized—in the Holy Spirit for this to happen, though. Next week I will preach on that exclusively and we will lay hands upon anyone who wishes to receive it!