

Living supernaturally natural | JOHN 14:8-14

I. DOING THE STUFF

A. We are doing a series called: **Doing The Stuff**

1. ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”*** John 14:12-13

B. Our series theme is: Jesus isn't only someone we admire, He's someone we imitate.

1. If you admire Jesus, you'll do the stuff He did. What stuff?:
 - a. ***Sharing the joy of the kingdom***
 - b. ***Walking in supernatural signs and wonders***
 - c. ***Being an instrument of justice and mercy.***
 - d. ***Making space in our lives for people; Biblical hospitality***

II. LIVING SUPERNATURALLY NATURAL | JOHN 14:8-14

A. Philip asks Jesus ***“show us the Father”***. Jesus responds and says the Father is in him and if you've seen him, you've seen the Father. Jesus says to Philip ***the works*** He has done testify of this.

1. Which, Jesus then pauses and says (in reference to Him not being here) that when He's gone, His spirit will be in us like the father is in Him. Our works (signs and wonders, mercy and humility) will be ***our testimony*** that ***Jesus is real.***

2. Our theme: ***We have to build our lives around the presence of God not the absence of God.***

- a. When **we live like God isn't around** we have to settle with ourselves and others as the solution to the issues and challenges of our world. But when **we live like God is real**, He becomes the solution to the issues around us. **Our goal then is to join Him**
- b. On this point of the supernatural, this is where **our faith in God** is truly tested.

III. WHY DOES THE SUPERNATURAL STUFF MATTER?

- A. **What are signs and wonders?:** They are the expression of God's reality in our world. They are God manifesting His presence in front of us.
 1. Signs and wonders are supernatural and natural.
 - a. **Supernatural** (read 1Cor 12:4-11)
 - b. **Natural** : Love, mercy, humility, and acts of justice. These are supernatural as God does something in our hearts to feel what He feels for those He wants us to serve.
- B. **What are signs and wonders for?**
 1. **To testify of Jesus.** They are meant to be the "sign" that **our message isn't man made**. The only reason why the Bible and Christianity has endured this long is because when one actually comes to God, they are actually transformed. Many, if not most, times signs and wonders were the catalyst.
 - a. The primary way He has chosen to declare the good news of His kingdom is through us.
 2. **To testify to us.** They are meant to remind us that we really aren't alone. That Christianity isn't just encouraging words and positive music. But about a God who is living and active in our lives, **and we can see his activity daily.**
 3. **To express to us God's love for us.** He loves us. Wants to be near us. He comes because as much as want to be with God, **He wants to be with us.**
- C. **Are there rules?**

1. **Signs and wonders are done by God not us.** We aren't magicians or conjurers.
 - a. For instance healing: We pray for healing every time. Will God heal every time? We don't know. But we always want to ask.
 - b. Jesus said I only do what I see my father doing: the "**will of Him who sent me.**" Same with us. It's God's will not ours. We are partnering with Him by stepping out in faith.
 - c. **We pray and ask**, but God has a plan much bigger than we can see. This is why **prayer and prophecy** are important.
 - d. **Prayer isn't talking to God but with God**. We pray so we live in alignment with His will.

2. **Our foundation is the Word of God.** God has spoken all He's going to speak to us on this side of eternity. Prophecy exists to either call us back to something he's already said. Or to encourage us and strengthen us in our pursuit of His word.
 - a. No prophetic word, impression, idea **should or can contradict scripture**.

(1) God isn't going to make you His special exception and let you off from something the Word says. ☺

3. **Signs and wonders should be submitted to leadership** or a covering of leadership of some kind.
 - a. **"be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."** 1 Peter 5:5-6 **See also:** 1 Corinthians 14.
 - b. This means. Both in services and in general. Never trust someone saying they hear from God who is not accountable to anyone.

IV. HOW DOES IT WORK? LIVING SUPERNATURALLY NATURAL

- A. Three principles to living supernaturally natural:

1. **Resist the temptation to be spectacular.** Signs and wonders are meant to draw attention to Jesus. This means we want to prophecy, heal, be God's hands and feet in ways that serve the person getting close to Jesus.
 - a. Resist the "Thus says the Lord" culture. We want to be careful about always saying "God told me". We want to prophecy naturally.
 - b. I hear God speak often. But I don't always say "God is speaking". I instead encourage or direct based on what I think I heard. For instance, If God wants someone to know they are loved, then I find ways to reach out or find others to reach out and make sure they know they are loved. Etc
2. **Resist the temptation to be relevant.** We are vessels for God who need God and his power as much as those he's asking us to minister to. The goal of signs and wonders is to **Make much of Jesus.**
 - a. Feel free to be skeptical of ministers who draw attention to themselves as the "man or woman of God" because they prophecy or walk in signs and wonders. We honor and submit to leaders over us (your pastors, ones God places in authority in your life). But every message, every prophecy, every sign and wonder, pray and ask God if this is indeed His move.
3. **Expect and reach for the supernatural every day.** Have fun with it. See what God does.
 - a. Be eager. Expect God to do amazing things. Pray and ask God to heal everyone. Pray and ask God to speak at all times. Pray for miracles. You are a beloved child of God. **Pray to your father who loves to give good gifts to His children.**

V. IS YOUR LIFE BUILT AROUND THE PRESENCE OF GOD OR THE ABSENCE OF GOD?