



→ *What do you think it would have been like to be a follower of Jesus in the height of His earthly ministry? What would a typical day look like? What would you have seen? How would you have felt? How would it have changed your view of life?*

**JESUS' MANDATE:** The Gospels show Jesus lived out ISAIAH 61 and told STORIES that explained what the Kingdom would / should be like.

- \* He spent 3½ years systematically preparing the SOIL, setting an ATMOSPHERE, creating an EXPECTATION, defining a new NORMAL & crafting a significant, different, upside-down CULTURE.

### **TRANSITIONING FROM JESUS TO THE EARLY CHURCH**

- \* Take the SUPERNATURAL out of the Book of Acts and there's NOT MUCH LEFT.
- \* Challenging Question: If you take the SUPERNATURAL out of the Barn, WHAT'S LEFT?
- *What was so different about the ministry of the Early Church as recorded in the Book of Acts? What sorts of things took place and should we, too, expect to see more of that?*
- *What's left if you remove all supernatural elements from our C21<sup>st</sup> church? What 'less desirable elements' might we find on the rise instead?*

**THE POINT:** SUPERNATURAL to us should be NATURAL, because Jesus redefined NORMAL.

- *What would 'naturally supernatural' look like in our lives / churches / connect groups? What would it change? How do we get there?*
- *"Jesus redefined normal!" Discuss.*
- \* We're not going to change the world with NATURAL CHURCH, however NICE we are, ORGANISED and well-INTENTIONED.
- \* Jesus said, "I will BUILD my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." ... What are we going to LET HIM BUILD?
- *What should we be letting Him build? What are we letting Him build? What's currently stopping Him from building what He wants? What might we be doing that's getting in the way?*
- \* Warren Wiersbe: "The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not a LUXURY; it is an absolute NECESSITY." (1 Corinthians 4:20, 1 Thessalonians 1:5)

### **THE HALLMARKS OF A NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL CULTURE**

1. MIRACLES (Mark 16:15-20, Luke 4:18-21)

- \* If it's in the BIBLE, it should be in the CHURCH.
- *If He's the 'God of miracles,' what miracles could / should / might we expect to see?*

→ *What's in the Bible that you'd like to see more of in the church?*

2. PROPHETIC (Acts 2:17-21, Jeremiah 33:3)

- \* The PROPHETIC eye can SEE and is LOOKING.
- \* God uses the prophetic gifts to help us SEE CLEARER, DEEPER & FURTHER.
- *What does it mean to be 'prophetic?' What might we 'see' and how do we 'look?'*

3. THE ANOINTING (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

- \* A supernatural culture ATTENDS TO, STIRS, HONOURS, RELEASES & MAKES ROOM FOR the gift.
- \* God uses those gifts as 'CAN-OPENERS.'
- *How do we 'attend' or 'make room' for the anointing? How does God use gifts / anointings as 'can-openers?'*

4. BE PRESENT & ATTENTIVE (Proverbs 4:20, Revelation 2:7)

- \* Be on the LOOK-OUT for what God is already doing and ready to 'JUMP ON BOARD.'
- \* We'll only HEAR if we're LISTENING. What's the WORD of God saying? What's the COMPASSION of God stirring?
- *"God is at work all around us, in our day-to-day lives, in big ways & small." Do you agree? What sorts of things is He up to? How do we recognise God at work and what should we do when He is?*

5. OBEDIENT to the LEADING of the SPIRIT (John 10:2-4, Galatians 5:25)

- \* There are TREMENDOUS RESULTS available every time we LISTEN to and OBEY the Holy Spirit.
- \* Our DEFAULT POSITION should be OBEDIENCE: WILLING, QUICK & ACCURATE.
- *Is this the missing ingredient? Should we be on the look-out for / more open to / inviting of 'Holy Spirit seed?' Are we ever guilty of expecting supernatural fruit from natural seed? Does it work like that?*
- *What's your default position? Would you describe yourself as willing, quick to obey and accurate when you do?*

6. INVITES GOD IN (Psalm 24:7-9, 100:1-4)

- \* We open the door through WORSHIP & PRAYER.
- \* He so desperately WANTS to come in ... But, do we LET HIM? ... Does He really have our INVITATION? ... And when He comes, do we YIELD?
- *"Worship is crucial because it sets the atmosphere, opens the door and lets Him in. We won't have revival without it." Do you agree?*
- *Have fun for a minute: What would last Sunday's service have been like if Jesus had walked through the doors in the flesh? Should it, actually, be more like that anyway?*