

Pastor Dave Patterson
"Pursuing the Supernatural"

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

I just need to see more Holy Spirit activity in my life.

[1 Corinthians 2.1-5]

*When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, **so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.***

Supernatural = *that which exists outside the natural realm and above and beyond the human realm*

Miraculous = *God's divine nature and power bringing heaven to invade earth / that which only God can accomplish*

[1 Corinthians 4.20]

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

Three Keys for Pursuing the Supernatural:

1. Believe Correctly (Supernatural power is for the church today.)

Raise your level of expectancy to the God described in The Bible.

[Acts 1.8]

...And you will receive power (dunamis = miracle power) when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

[Mark 16.17]

These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name...They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.

[James 5.14]

Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet.

[Acts 10.38]

And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

[Hebrews 13.8]

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

[John 20.21]

...As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.

2. Pursue Diligently (The Supernatural must be pursued.)

[Luke 11.1-13, NLT/NIV]

*Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "**Lord, teach us to pray...**"*

*He said to them, "When you pray, say: " **'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. ' "***

Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family

*and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' But I tell you this— though he won't do it for friendship's sake, **if you keep knocking long enough**, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. “You fathers —if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”*

Resilient faith is the currency of heaven.

[Hebrews 11.6]

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a **rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

[1 Corinthians 12.31]

Eagerly desire the spiritual gifts...

[1 Corinthians 14.1]

*Pursue love, **and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts...***

Love is not the gift; love is the way.

[1 Corinthians 14.1, AMP]

Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire this; make it your aim, your great quest; earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual gifts...

We are not casual about The Holy Spirit!

3. Partner willingly (The Supernatural requires partnership.)

It's your move! To see God move in our lives, we take initiative.

[Mark 16.20]

*And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and **The Lord worked through them**, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.*

[Romans 10.13-14]

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?

[John 4.39]

*Many of the Samaritans from that town **believed in him because** of the woman's testimony.*

[John 10.38, 42]

*But if I do his work, **believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done...** And **many who were there believed in Jesus.***

[Acts 9.33-35]

*There he met a man named Aeneas, who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up, and roll up your sleeping mat!" And he was healed instantly. Then the whole population of Lydda and Sharon saw Aeneas walking around, **and they turned to The Lord.***

[1 Corinthians 4.20]

For the kingdom of God is not matter of talk but of power.

God calls His people to do the ridiculous to see the miraculous.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What was your understanding of the gifts of the Spirit, growing up? What were some of the views held in your church, in your family, or in the lack thereof?**
- 2. Have you, or someone you've known, ever superimposed your belief in God's working power, based on what you have experienced in the past? What did the situation and results look like?**
- 3. Why is the Word of God the ultimate standard for what we**
- 4. How is shameless persistence the "behavior of faith?"**

5. What are some supernatural things that you are praying for and waiting expectantly on? What do you need to do, in this partnership with Jesus, to see some progress or results?