



Supernatural perspective

By Sinoxolo Ganyaza on 25 November 2018 at King of Kings Am & Pm

Introduction

If you have been in church for the past couple of weeks you will know that we have been talking about what it looks like to walk in the supernatural. Neil spoke about the incredible supernatural women of the bible last week and the week before that Tristan spoke about what it means to walk in our supernatural calling. I encourage you to access any sermons you may have missed of our supernatural series on the church website. This morning I feel led to talk about supernatural perspective.

It goes without saying that we don't enjoy walking in a direction that may have too many unknowns or that threatens our control over our safety. Biologically our eyes are strategically placed in the higher frontal part of our body to guide us as we walk. I'm almost convinced that if our eyes were at the back of our heads we would find a way to project what is in front of us instead, our bodies are just not designed to walk backwards. As obvious as this is in the natural it is also true in the spiritual sense; we cannot walk clearly in the supernatural if we cannot see in the supernatural.

God wants us to look at everything through a supernatural lens and if we're not contending for this we have no chance of living the supernatural life he calls us to live.

With that being said, to walk in the supernatural and have our perspective renewed, we have to understand that there is a constant war between our spirit man and our flesh. God has redeemed us and given us heavenly citizenship and although we're still living on earth, he calls us to live according to heavenly principles. Jesus, in John 17: 15 prays for the disciples. He says *"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by your word, your word is truth"*

Jesus very clearly reminds us that earth is not our home, we're on a "long camp" if you like... journeying home. As a result, there is a tension that naturally presents itself because there are two kingdoms at play here, both with their own principles and rules. Allegiance to one might mean betrayal to the other.

Paul is a great picture of what it looks like to live with a heavenly perspective on earth. Let's look at some the things that make Paul's life a great example of what it means to live supernaturally in a seemingly natural world.

Scripture reading Acts 22: 6-8

"6 "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' 8 "Who are you, Lord?' I asked." 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. 9 My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.10 "What shall I do, Lord?' I asked." "Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.' 11 My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me. 12 "A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. 13 He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him. 14 "Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. 15 You will be his witness to all people of what you

have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”

- **Background**

Paul has had various successful missionary trips around the world. He has experienced extreme persecution and isolation as a result of what he was preaching. At the time of our reading, he has decided to go to Jerusalem to preach the gospel. He does this against the wishes of the believers he had been with in Ephesus. To make things worse, Agabus prophecies about what would happen to Paul in Jerusalem just before he sets off to Jerusalem. Acts 21:10 *“after we had been there (Caesarea at Philips house) a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, The Holy Spirit says, in this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles”.*

Paul arrives in Jerusalem, purifies himself according to the Jewish law in order to make his case stronger in response to the accusations that would be hurled against him by the Jews. A few days after arriving in Jerusalem Paul is circled by the crowds who are ready to kill him and is rescued by the local commander of the army and jailed. These are not an easy times for Paul but he is steadfast on what he has seen and heard and his his perspective is so different to what it used to be. I’d like to highlight a few things I see in Paul that could help us have the right perspective in this life.

1. **Paul had a revelation WHO Jesus is.**

Paul needed to have a clear revelation of who Jesus is in order for his life to change course. I believe Paul’s (Saul) utter hatred for Christians had no other remedy but to meet Jesus like he did on that Damascus road. This encounter actually became the reason he did all he did in his life and ministry. Verse 15 *“Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. 15 You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard.”*

Paul would be a witness of a true and living Jesus. In the same way nothing can supplement a true encounter with Jesus for us as well. I’ll say with absolute confidence that God’s heart for us is to have an encounter with him and to have our perspective aligned by this. Look at Jesus’ conversation with the disciples in the book of Mathew.

Mathew 16:13 – 18 *“13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not **revealed to you by flesh and blood**, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, [a] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades[b] will not overcome it.”*

How amazing is it that Jesus, in this moment, is not wasting time debating what other people say about him, he is primarily interested in the revelation the disciples have of him. Who is Jesus to you? This question is one that we should wrestle with daily as It has a huge bearing on how we live our lives and where we will end up after this life. Let it make you uncomfortable until you can say “I know you Jesus”.

2. Paul Knew God’s will.

Tracking through Paul’s life definitely confirms that Paul knew God’s will for his life and those around him. I won’t spend too much time on this as Pastor Tristan highlight this two weeks ago but I will as the question... How many of us can saying we love reading manuals? Are you the kind of person who buys a new product and spends hours examining the manual before you use it? I would imagine that the majority of us are not wired this way... God bless you if you are! Most of us just unpack and use the product because we feel we can use our logic to figure it. We’re not too troubled if we don’t know all the added features. What is interesting though is that the moment something goes wrong we run to the manual, but what we don’t realize is that we would not have needed to pause our lives to get this information if we had read it properly in the first place. As true as this is with general things we buy and use, we often live our spiritual lives this way.

**Verse 15 “Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth*

Romans 12: 1 – 2 *“Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of*

worship. Do not conform and longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will – his good pleasing, and perfect will.”

Another good question to ask ourselves is “do I know the will of God?” because it is very much a part walking in the supernatural. We ought to be constantly asking God what his will is in every situation we find ourselves in and not just lean on our own natural understanding. A large part of knowing God's will is definitely studying the scriptures but I would go beyond that and say It requires living a life that is yielded to the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:9 “*however as it is written: no eye has seen, nor ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him **BUT** God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. **The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.** For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the Spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.”*

The Holy Spirit guides us as we walk in the supernatural but we have to learn to trust him and what he reveals to us. What has the Sprit been urging you to do or say? Have you been obedient to that or have you used your own logic to avoid acting on what He is saying? Don't grieve the Spirit in your life.

A few years ago I had been serving as a worship director in a church In Port Elizabeth. After praying for a long time Brit and I heard God leading us out of that church. The year hadn't ended and lot of things didn't appeal to our agenda. After having spoken to key people, I was so discouraged because there was so much pressure for us not to move on and so, in wanting to make it easier on everyone I agreed to stay on a voluntary basis to help transition between myself and the new person taking over from. What added to the difficulty of this time in our lives wasnot knowing exactly where God was leading us, all we knew was that we needed to get ready to leave.

I remember one morning kneeling before God and asking him to help me make sense of what was going on as I had not been able to find a place to stay for Brit and myself because

no one would let us start a new lease with me being employed. God told me to start a 6 day Jericho walk around the block where the church was situated. I thought to myself, people would think I'm crazy! I have friends and people who know me who will see me walking around the block singing and praying out loud! I eventually submitted and set out to do this.

The first and the second day was quite easy because I only had to circle once on the first day and twice on the second day. To cut a long story short, it was now day 6 and I had walked past the same people 6 times! The stares were piercing and made me feel so crazy and to top it all off, I gave a great shout of victory at the end, you can imagine what people were thinking seeing me shouting in the street.

I went inside my office and continued the day as usual not knowing that the next day God would very evidently align so many different things for us. I remember thinking, "wow after so many weeks of utter disappointment and criticism from people around me and all God wanted me to do is sing and pray in the streets? I realize today that the point of that exercise was not the actual walking around and singing, The point was whether or not I was willing to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Since then there have been many breakthroughs in our lives that have often required acts of obedience that didn't necessarily make sense at the time. I mention this to encourage you to lean into God's spirit and to be willing to respond to what he places on your heart.

3. Traded momentary comfort for an eternal promise.

In Philippians 3:8 Paul writes *"What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ"*

A quick look at Paul's life makes this point so clearly. In acts 22 Jesus chose to take away Paul's physical sight in order to help him see more clearly spiritually.

**Acts 22:12 - 13 "My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me. 12 "A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. 13 He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him."*

God can use horrible times in our lives to point our eyes to what he wants us to see. As much as we don't like it this is so often true.

I was watching a television program the other night and in the program there was a young lady suffering from severe OCD. She could not stand seeing her own brother's hands... weird right? Just having them visible left her in a violent tremble. She also had a problem with "k" sounds coming from her mother's mouth.

As part of her therapy, the therapist exposes her to those exact elements in order to help her change her mindset. I remember watching this and thinking "that is so weird, those are two of the safest people to her" but I realized that her perspective is not the same as mine. There is no way we would react the same way in that situation even if we tried, unless we had the same perspective.

*Heb: 5-11 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."^[a]⁷ **Endure hardship as discipline**; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, **in order that we may share in his holiness.** ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

Perhaps you came angry, frustrated and grumbling this morning. Maybe you're angry at God because he is not sticking to your agenda for your life. I want to encourage you by saying that God is interested in the ultimate best for you and longs for you to see things the way he sees them because when you do, you will want nothing else but him and his heart for you.

4. Paul told an authentic story.

It's clear to see that Paul retells his story over and over in his letters. He uses his story to highlight the grace and mercy that God has extended to him and how it has impacted his life

and mission. The world we live in right now teaches us to present the best possible picture of ourselves at all times, maintain small talk and avoid highlighting our weaknesses and failures. But what we don't realize is that there is no way we can honestly tell the gospel story without highlighting what we have been saved from and by whom we have been saved. This is what we see when Paul is standing trial in the scriptures.

Acts 22:3 - 5 *"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you today. I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, as also the high priest and all the council can testify. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished"*

**1 Timothy 1:15-16*

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

How many of you would stand in front of scores of people and begin to describe in such detail the things we have done? As hard as that may be I believe we have so much to share and when we do the highlight becomes the grace and mercy of God on our lives. If we're going to live out an authentic gospel we are going to need to share our own authentic lives. You have a valid story to tell.

Challenge

Perhaps you're wondering what stands in the way of you walking in the supernatural this morning. While I don't claim to know what the complete answer is for you, I can say that a lot of it has to do with what informs your worldview. Believe it or not what you're looking at has a huge bearing on what you're living like right at this moment. As I end off I want to encourage you to reflectively ask yourself these questions in the coming week.

1. Do I have a revelation of who Jesus is right now?

2. Do I know God's will for me and those around me right now?
3. What is the Spirit prompting me to do? What should I let go of? What should I take hold of?
4. What is my story and where can I share it?

Mathew 6:22 – 23

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy,[a] your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy,[b] your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

What is your perspective? And is your life full of light or darkness?