

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Topic: 'How to move in the prophetic'

Speakers: Allen Steel and Philip Brice

25th May 2017

Part 1: How to be naturally supernatural

The Challenge of the Book of Acts

The book of Acts is all about functioning with God's supernatural power. The early church was birthed, grew rapidly and burst out from Jerusalem into other cities and then into the nations, under the direction and enabling of the Holy Spirit.

How can you be '*naturally supernatural*'?

Watch and Do

The best way to learn is by observing someone else in action and then 'having a go' yourself. For 3 years, Jesus' followers watched how He related to people and ministered to them with love and in the power of the Holy Spirit. By the time we read about these followers in the book of Acts, we see them reaching out to people in the same way. They watched Jesus in action and then were empowered to go and do the same.

Further reading:

- The apostles taught and healed in the synagogues and temple
(Acts 3:1-26; 5:12-16; 13:14-48; 14:1-7; 17:1-4, 17; 18:4)
- They taught and healed in the market place
(Acts 14:8-18; 17:17-33)
- They healed the sick
(Acts 28:7-9 cuff Luke 4:38-39)
- They brought deliverance to the bound
(Acts 16:16-21 cuff Mark 1:24-26)
- They healed the crippled
(Acts 3:1-8 cuff Mark 2:9-11. See also Acts 9:32-34)
- They raised the dead
(Acts 9:36-40 cuff Mark 35-42)

Critical factors

Accept... that operating spiritual gifts is a normal, essential part of New Testament ministry and mission:

Jesus said to them, *“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”* (Mark 16:15-18)

Examples

- Jairus' Daughter (Mark 5:21-42)
- Zachaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
- Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:25-40)

Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)

The New Testament experience of the gifts: *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; (7) if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; (8) if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

Submit... to Jesus as LORD of your life:

- Do business with God over any known, unconfessed sin in your life
- Maintain an attitude of genuine humility and reverence
‘Think of a bookshelf – to find a book you have to intentionally look and lower your posture (humility) and stretch out of your comfort zone (faith) to take hold of it off the shelf.’ (Stepping out; deliberate action)

Desire... sensitivity to the Holy Spirit promptings as you:

- Desire to minister to people with the love of Jesus (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)
- Desire to be used of God and hear his “voice”

Challenge... distorted thinking with the truth:

Distorted thoughts:

“God longer communicates ... period.”

“God speaks to others, but not to me!” “I don’t know HOW to tune into God’s wavelength.”

Truth of God’s Word:

“I will reward those who diligently seek me.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Realise... that they are gifts (1 Cor 12:1)

- We cannot earn them or learn them.
- Understand that everyone can use the gifts, not just church leaders (1 Cor 12:7, 11)
- Their purpose is to build others up, not to build up the one using it or to put others down (1 Cor 12:7; 14:12)
- They are the work of the Spirit, not us (1 Cor 12:11), therefore we cannot take the glory for how we are used in this area (1 Cor 12:21)
- They are not a mark of divine approval on our lifestyle (1 Cor 13:1-2; Matt 7:22; Acts 3:12, 16) but they must be desired (1 Cor 14:1,39)
- They must be orderly (1 Cor 14:27-33,40). God is a God of order and since He gives the gifts, He will not give them in a disorderly way
- They are subject to our control (1 Cor 14:32), therefore we cannot blame God if we are out of order or wrong.

Expect... His presence and power to flow through you:

You are in God's presence NOW because Jesus lives in you! You don't have to plead for His presence to turn up or come down from heaven (Hebrews 10:19-22). We are coheirs with Christ (Romans 8:10-17).

Develop... a daily intimacy with Jesus

Feast on His Word (Matthew 4:4)

Memorise it (2 Timothy 2:15)

Respond... to His promptings (Acts 8:26;20:22):

Be watchful (Colossians 4:2)

Tune to spontaneity (John 14:31)

Have 'a-go'

Part 2: Operating Spiritual Gifts

Step out in faith and 'have a go'

- Cultivate an attitude of trust and expectation = faith (John 14:11-14; Hebrews 11:1)
- Be prepared to experiment - break free of the fear of failure (2 Timothy 1:6-7)
- Realise that the usual outworking of the gifts are:
(a) Promptings / intuition / spontaneity

- (b) Pictures
- (c) Concepts / one word coming into your thoughts
- (d) Scripture verses
- (e) Speaking out:

When we ask with faith & humility, the first thought that pops into our mind is most often a God prompting; the second thought is often a lie from the enemy to discourage or condemn us (“As if God would speak through you – you have such a problem with pride”) and third thought is often our own doubts, fear of failure or worrying about others opinions, surfacing. Sincerely ask Jesus to operate a spiritual gift through you; when the first thought comes into your mind, speak it out in faith (by resisting the urge to listen to second, third thoughts that come after it.

- Never manipulate or criticise another person - Always give dignity to people!
- Be wise when following a prompting from the Holy Spirit, especially with unchurched people: ask permission to share what you are sensing, avoid Christian talk, reiterate that you ‘could be wrong’; ask if you can take a moment to pray for them
- Realise that God will never give a spiritual gift or prophetic word that violates a biblical principle or goes against His Word.
- If unsure, talk with a Pastor or Leader who you have observed operating spiritual gifts and ask them to give you their thoughts on whether what you are sensing is a prompting from the Holy Spirit. Listen to their advice as you will learn a lot from it – it will help you confirm or clarify what you are sensing.

Practical

Form Groups of 10:

- Silent confession before Jesus
- Speak in tongues / thank Jesus
- Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you
- Go with first idea that pops into your head
- Ask questions to ‘fill-out’ details like – Male/Female? Name of person? What does this mean (practical application) for their life?
- Notice any fast heart beating or sense of ‘*I can’t keep this in*’, tears or physical reactions to God’s presence (e.g. eyelids fluttering, feeling warm or hot). You may want to write your thoughts or a Scripture reference down on paper to prompt you.
- Speak it out – let it be tested in a safe group environment
You may start with one word and as you step out and start to speak about this word, more ideas will come
- Thank Jesus for speaking to you so powerfully

Be a 'catalyst' to help others release the 'spiritual gifts'

- Come prepared to home groups / church / prayer meetings open to the Holy Spirit's promptings and surrendered to Christ
- Encourage others to 'have a go'
- Spend time in prayer, still before God as you ask Him to speak to you – then write down any thoughts that come