

1. Dismiss Kids (1 Corinthians 3:1 - PG. 953)
2. WG: Guests/Reading Plan
3. Celebrate Pop-up mobile food Market
4. Teams Sunday

“Supernatural” 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Intro new series... The Playlist...

- Idea of a Playlist. What I love about it. We all love choice...
- There should always be a playlist in our hearts. We're going to talk about “American Jesus,” Rest: Pushing Pause, emotional health, physical health, racial reconciliation, how to experience Breakthrough and more. Who knows what might get added or deleted from the playlist.
- Today... I want us to think about what it means to live a Supernatural life.

It's been 50 years since the Apollo 11 landed on the moon and the world heard Neil Armstrong's indelible words: “That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

While NASA does fascinating work exploring the vast universe God has made, they are unusually popular these days. Go anywhere and it won't take you long to see a NASA logo: shirts, jackets, sweatshirts, purses, shoes, backpacks, stickers... I started wondering if we put a man on Mars and I missed the memo!

What's all the fuss about? There are several theories...

1. NASA officials say the growing demand can be traced to a renewed push for STEM education in science, technology, engineering, and math.
2. Some point to Elon Musk's SpaceX program that will soon be giving people trips around the world via outer space!
3. Pop Culture analysts credit companies like Coach & Gucci for using the NASA logo on a couple of their products.
4. But here's the one I like: some people say the symbol means - “Out of this world.” I don't know if most people are working that self-proclaimed stamp of approval, or if others are sharing that word of affirmation. (Mother's Day Story - 300 Stickers)

T: I don't know if anyone has slapped that sticker on you, but if you follow Jesus, God has done more than slap a sticker on your chest, He placed his very presence within you by giving you his Holy Spirit. That makes you “out of this world.”

You are supernatural! It's time we wake up to this truth.

The apostle Paul, the early church's greatest entrepreneurial leader, talks about this in...

1 Corinthians 3:1-9 TEXT DISPLAYED

TP: The Holy Spirit in you makes you supernatural.

I want to highlight 3 ways we should give evidence of this supernatural life from 1 Cor. 3.

1. Progress (3:1-2)

Who is he addressing? “Brothers & Sisters.” Christians. Those in the family of Jesus. This is so important because his description of their behavior could leave plenty of room for doubt. (1 Corinthians 1:5-7 - WOW. Sounds pretty good!)

But how does he describe them in v. 1 of chapter 3?

- “People of the flesh.” — This means they have Christ, but live like they don't. They give the appearance God's Spirit is NOT living in them. There is almost nothing Supernatural about their lives.
 - Now, Paul is not suggesting two classes of Christians: legit Christians and worldly Christians (some people who grew up in the church might have heard the phrase: “carnal Christians”).

- Here's the danger with that line of thinking: Someone can claim they decided to follow Jesus 10-20 years ago, but not live like Jesus all those years. If that's the case, the safest conclusion is NOT that they are a "worldly or carnal Christian," but that they are not a Christian at all.
- [The greatest indicator of the genuineness of a person's faith is how they live today!]
- Paul then calls them "babies." :) You think I keep it real. This dude Paul...
 - He says they still need "milk, not solid food."
 - Milk here, as we see from the context, is not the content of teaching or growing in understanding (as in Hebrews 6), but living consistent with what they've been taught.
 - This should be a warning for us who live in the most educated and informationally driven age: growing as a Christian is not equal to listening to 10 podcasts a week, read our bibles 3 times a day. We must put truth into practice!
 - You can know Christology but not be full of love for Jesus,
 - ...harmartiology but not hate your sin,
 - ...missiology but never share the gospel!
- Paul's is saying there should be clear progress, and at times, "rapid progress." That's why he uses the metaphor of an infant. Every time someone sees my son, he's gotten so big. He's so big (Miracles!!)
- In verse 2 he says, "You were not ready, and you are still not ready."
- I wonder how many times God has looked at my life and then looked at his watch, and said: "This could have happened so much quicker. Tanner, you're taking baby steps, when you could be running. You're at mile marker 3 when you should be at 13!

App: What about you? Are you where you thought you'd be? Where you want to be? There's MORE for you!! Now is not the time for guilt or regret. It's the time for action!

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way." (Philippians 3:12-15)

In verses 3-4, Paul addresses the specific issue that reveals, in part, their lack of progress. If you keep reading you'll see how much room they had to grow! ("Xns gone wild.")

2.Perspective (3:3-9)

- Major groups within the church were divided by jealousy and strife. Explain.
 - They created factions that focused on following different leaders: Paul & Apollos [Cephas (1:13).]
 - Apollos. He was really good with the word. He could captivate a crowd.
 - Paul. Trained at the feet of Gamaliel. Most say he was the greatest theologian, missionary and preacher of the early church.
 - In 1st century Corinthian culture people treated rhetoricians (public speakers) like athletes. They were all about touting their favorite communicator.
 - Jealousy: This led to jealousy. They claimed superiority because of the leader they were connected to. This made them envious of one another and led to...
 - Strife: There was relational friction. Can you imagine? Pastor T - that's my guy. No, Pastor Joddy, he's got that degree in biblical theology. What about Pastor Steve? He brings that international perspective. But Pastor Reddy: his wisdom is off the charts.
- Their jealousy and strife flowed from a faulty perspective...
 - They were thinking on a human level, not according to God's Spirit!
 - They elevated specific leaders, missing the fact that any good thing about Paul, Apollos, Peter, Steve, Jon, John, or Tanner is a result of God's Spirit working in us. That's it!

- A sure mark of operating in the flesh is focusing on people, rather than how GOD is working through those people.

Leadership is important, but any leader worth following points the people they lead to the only one worth following: Jesus Christ!

That's what Paul's doing in verses 5-9. It's all about gaining perspective!

- Look at Verse 5: Apollos? Paul? SERVANTS doing our job!!
- Verse 6: Paul planted. Apollos watered. God gave the growth! Remember how we fight for vision: we see through to see YOU! Paul did his thing. Apollos did his thing, BUT in each case, GOD WAS DOING HIS THING!!
- Verse 7 is even more explicit:
 - Paul: I am nothing.
 - Apollos: Nothing. Tanner: I am nothing. Not anything!
 - Only God.
- Verse 8: this doesn't mean that our actions are inconsequential. Two thoughts here.
 - Our work matters because each person contributes to the one goal (Power of WE). "No one worker's task has any independent importance." (Carson)
 - But also notice. God sees our work. He cares about our work, and he will reward us for how we spend our lives for him.
- But in the end, it's all about him! Verse 9. God. God. God!

T: They were not making progress, because they lacked the proper perspective, but the lack of perspective was really a lack of power!

3. Power (3:1-4)

- Verse 1: "could not address you as spiritual." "spiritual" = "those who possess the Holy Spirit."
- Gordon Fee, a renowned Pauline scholar says, "For Paul "spiritual" in every case has some reference to the Spirit of God." (Fee, Gordon). That Fee is spot on is proven in verses 3 & 4
 - Verse 3: "are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way."
 - Verse 4: "are you not being merely human?"

Do you see the implications?

- If you have God's Spirit dwelling in you, God is in you! There's more than meets the eye!
- The Holy Spirit in you makes you supernatural.
- God's Spirit empowers us to think and live on a supernatural level. I agree with Fee when he sums up the reality of the Spirit in us as "God's empowering presence."

Just listen to what the Bible says God's POWER through his Spirit. God, help us to REALLY believe what you say:

- "But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." (Acts 1:8)
- "For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power." (1 Corinthians 4:20)
- **"For God gave us a spirit, not of fear, but of POWER." (2 Timothy 1:7)**
- "But understand this, that in the last days there will¹ [be] people who [have] the appearance of godliness BUT DENY its POWER." (2 Timothy 3:5)

Here's the point: POWER should mark our lives! When it does, there WILL BE impact. There will be influence. God will be changing others by the power of our love, our words and our actions.

But how do we know what a powerful looks like?

- FRUIT: Galatians 5:22-23 (love, joy, peace, . . . wisdom, boldness, _____)
- GIFTS: Romans 12, 1 Peter 5, 1 Corinthians 12 & 14 (leadership, administration, teaching, faith, healing, prophecy, service)

A powerful life looks like JESUS CHRIST!

You have God's Spirit, but it's our responsibility to seek to be filled with God's Spirit continually. (Ephesians 5:18).

We are filled with the Spirit as we fight for vision!

- Pick up this Book (Bible: "Spirit-inspired Words")
- PRAY!
 - Humbly
 - Do you realize you are nothing spiritually without God's Spirit?
 - If you do, you should be praying every day: "God, fill me with your Spirit!"
 - Some of you don't get it yet. Your heart has not been humbled. You think this is happening because of your strength not God's strength. Let me try to help.
 - Why did God send God to God? (CG this week)
 - Because Jesus was not only fully God, he was also fully human. He took on our weaknesses and limitations. He did not sin, but he was tempted. He got tired and hungry. He experienced pain. God stumped his toe!
 - And because of his full humanity, he needed the fullness of the Spirit to empower him for the work the Father assigned to him.
 - If Jesus needed the Spirit, SO DO WE!
 - God, fill us with your Spirit. Pray that humbly and...
 - Boldly (I know you have more to give me God. My hands are open. My heart is open!)
 - Come again and again. Jesus bought our place at the throne. Come boldly to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16)
 - Ask again and again. We can never ask too much.
 - The rhythm is receiving again. And again. And again.
 - The Spirit is not static. He is a dynamic reality in our world and in our lives!
- The result can look like this: every moment power under the leadership of God's Spirit everyday!

Conclusion: GOSPEL

How is this even possible?

The Paradox of Christ: Jesus, who was eternally supernatural, eternally divine, entered into the natural world in the form of a baby, who lived a perfect life, died in excruciating death in our place, and then rose from the dead, so that we who are natural can experience the supernatural life God made us for in the very beginning.

Have you stepped into the supernatural life of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Are you living in the fullness of that life, growing at the pace God desires for you?

Connect Card: 2 Steps...

1) I want to step into the life of Christ.

2) Pray for me to walk in the power of God... _____

PRAYER.

Bridge to the Lord's Supper