

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

08 January 2023

Supernatural Living

Do you like superheroes?

I grew up on Superman.

I never knew the others because we did not waste money on comic books.

I seldom got a penny for gum, much less money for comic books.

And when I started earning my own money I was not about to waste it on comic books when there were so many good things to buy.

But Superman was on the newly installed television set.

I enjoyed his super strength and especially his ability to fly.

I have flown in my dreams all my life and I believe it is because of Superman.

Each of us, in Jesus, have super abilities because we have his abilities.

The Christian life is a supernatural life, an exciting adventure that begins with a life-changing, spiritual birth.

It begins with faith and continues as a work of faith.

Living the Christian life this year can be a celebration!

In *Isaiah 54:2* the Lord called for Israel to expand their vision, "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

This was to be done in preparation for the Lord's restoration of Israel.

The prayer of our hearts should be for the Lord to stretch out vision, enlarge our faith, and expand our goals.

A faith vision is one in which we visualize what God intends to do and act in harmony with it.

Hebrews 11 records men and women who had a faith vision.

They saw by faith and obeyed God's call.

If we are to experience the adventure of believing God, we must do four things.

1. Learn to think supernaturally.

Isaiah 55:9 says, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your thoughts".

We can strive to have the mind of Christ, as we control our thoughts as an act of the will.

How can we change our thought life?

First we can saturate our minds with God's Word.

Then we can follow the words of *Colossians 3: 1&2*. "Seek those things which are above . . . Set your minds on things above."

Think worthy thoughts, faith thoughts, and thoughts of praise, worship, and thanksgiving.

Finally, think about the attributes of God, his goodness, greatness, generosity, and glory.

Think supernaturally!

Think about who you are spiritually.

No longer a servant, but a son or daughter of God.

No longer lost, but found.

No longer an alien, but a citizen of the kingdom.

Think of your spiritual heritage, the hope of your calling, the riches of Christ's glorious heritage, and the abundant greatness of his power for believers.

Think like children of the King!

When we begin to think these thoughts, we stretch our vision.

Knowing God for who he is will change our lives.

2. Learn to plan supernaturally.

Supernatural planning includes our personal lives, our families, the church, our business, or whatever pertains to our need for planning.

There is nothing wrong with planning.

Proverbs 16:9 says, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

God himself is a planner.

He has a well-thought-out plan for the world from the first day until the last.

Psalms 139:16 indicates divinely detailed planning for our lives.

Let God reveal his vision to you.

This becomes the basis for our faith.

Then we set our goals so that they become his goals for us.

Prepare for the fulfillment of His goals.

Our faith will be tested, but God is faithful when we trust and obey him.

He will confirm his direction for us and assure us through prayer what His will is for us.

Our obedience to God requires supernatural planning; planning by faith, following God's plans.

Having big plans, God-sized plans.

The plans and goals God gives to people have two consistent elements: a wide scope of influence and a lasting impact.

God's goal for Adam and Eve was to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it".

God's goal for Abraham was not just to have a son, but to start a nation and to be a blessing to all people on earth.

Jesus' goal for the disciples was for them to be witnesses in the power of the Holy Spirit from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

God-sized plans are big plans, supernatural plans.

If they are so small that we can fulfill them ourselves, they aren't God-sized and God will not bless them.

Our plans are big enough when they need God's intervention for them to be accomplished.

Dr. Joon Gon Kim, evangelist and founder of Korea Campus Crusade for Christ, received a vision from the Lord to have a gathering for Christian training in Korea.

His goal was 3000,000 delegates, but more than 323,000 came from seventy-eight countries, including 15,000 pastors and evangelists.

The largest evening service was attended by 1.5 million.

More than a million registered salvation decisions in one evening.

This happened because the Lord touched the heart of one man to believe God for great things.

3. Learn to pray supernaturally.

Supernatural praying is found in *John 14:12-14*: "Greater works than these you will do in my name."

God gives us the faith to pray for something, and as we pray, he causes our faith to grow and to pray even greater things for him.

"According to your faith, be it unto you."

We can never ask God for too much if our hearts and motives are pure and if we pray according to the Word and will of God.

Someone has said, "Whatever we vividly envision, ardently desire, sincerely believe, and enthusiastically act upon will come to pass if there is a scriptural authority for it."

A while back a Christian organization was praying for the Lord's miraculous provision of a certain sum of money.

Within a few days a man announced that he would give the ministry a gift of \$1.1 million.

This was unquestionably a supernatural provision.

4. Learn to claim supernatural resources.

We are not ordinary people.

Our lives are joined with the one who spoke the world into existence.

We belong to him who has been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

He dwells in us in all his resurrection power.

We can claim *Philippians 4:14* for our lives: "I can do all things in him who strengthens me".

Our faith may be small, but like a muscle it will grow with use.

If you are struggling to trust God for some physical need, for someone's salvation, or for financial help, then pause to meditate on whatever barrier to your faith you are facing right now. Remind yourself of God's power which is available to you to accomplish the supernatural.

If you are not trusting God, that is sin.

Confess your unbelief to him and claim, by faith, his supernatural resources.

We have seen what it means to celebrate supernatural living,

This is God's will for our lives and for His church!

Know it, believe it and live into it.

Now and forever more!