

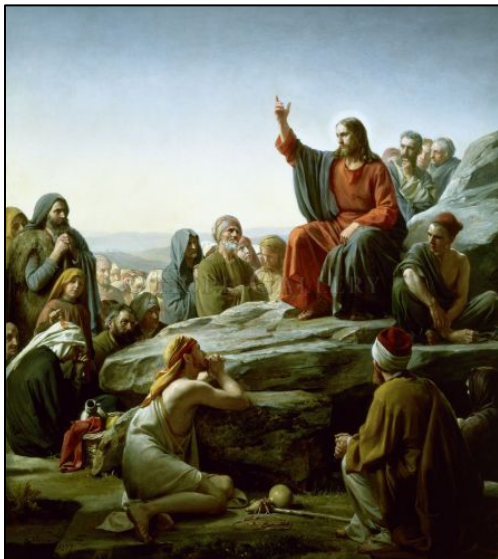


CHRISTIAN
UNION

Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

KEY FIVE: SUPERNATURAL ASPECTS

May God's Kingdom Come



Matthew 6:9-10 - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sermon on the Mount, 1877
Carl H. Bloch



We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

As God's power is released for His kingdom advancement, supernatural manifestations occur including tongues, miracles, healings, prophecies, and deliverances. Knowing and understanding these works of God help to deepen and extend revival.



Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

1. Aspiration and Desperation
2. Theological Foundations
3. Seeking God Wholeheartedly
4. Spiritual Practices
- 5. Supernatural Aspects**
6. Impacting the Three Spheres
7. Leadership

The Coming of the Holy Spirit



The New Covenant is characterized by greater power and presence of God as fulfilled on the first Pentecost after Jesus' Ascension.

*The Descent of the Holy Spirit, 1620
Anthony Van Dyck*



Supernatural Aspects

1. Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power
2. Skepticism of the Supernatural
3. Reality and Inevitability of the Supernatural
4. Beware Witchcraft
5. Benefits of the Supernatural
6. Resources



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Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

1. The Distinction
2. Prophecies
3. Obedience is More Important
4. Names Written in Heaven
5. Love is Greater
6. Qualifications of Elders
7. Category Two Power May be Imparted



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Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

It's helpful to think about the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in two major categories. Of course, this is a simplification, but helpful to better understand His work and be faithful to God's purposes.



Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

- **Category One Power:** Power to call to obedience and strength to live in obedience.
- **Category Two Power:** Power for miraculous demonstrations of the Spirit including tongues, dreams, visions, words of knowledge, prophecies, healings, deliverances, miracles, etc.

Both categories of the Holy Spirit's work are important, but category one is much more important than category two. The solution isn't to disallow category two, but to allow it and to always remember that category one is more important of the two.



Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

All work of God may be considered “supernatural” in some sense, but for the sake of this teaching, what’s considered supernatural are the works of God that can be seen as coming from the spiritual realm alone, such as tongues, miracles, prophecies, deliverance, etc.



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Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.** And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”



Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

Ezekiel 36:23-27 - And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷**And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**



Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

Joel 2:28-29 - “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters **shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.** ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.”

*BOTH are prophesied for the New Covenant,
increased Category One and Category Two Power*



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Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power



Matthew 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to me, **‘Lord, Lord,’** will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the **one who does the will** of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, **‘Lord, Lord,** did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of **lawlessness.**’”



Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

John 14:15-17 - “If you love me, you will keep my **commandments**.¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,¹⁷ even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Obeying the Father is far more important than ministering supernaturally through prophecy, deliverance or miracles. The Spirit is given to help obey commandments.



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Luke 10:19-20 - “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, **but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**”

Being clothed with the righteousness of Christ is far more important than having authority over evil spirits.



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Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

1 Corinthians 13:1 - 14:1 - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love**, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.



Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

1 Corinthians 13:1 - 14:1 (cont'd) - ⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power



Faith, Hope, and Love
Henry Lee Battle

1 Corinthians 13:1 - 14:1 (cont'd) - ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 14:1 **Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.**

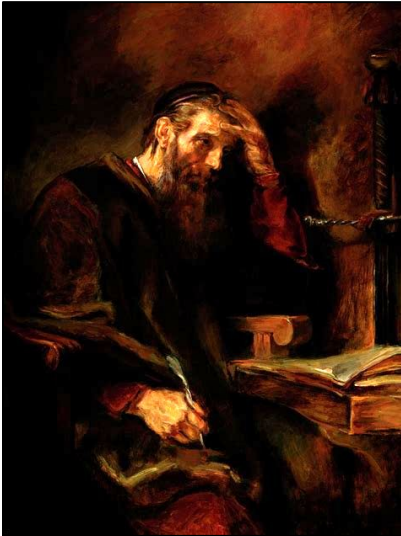
Loving others is more important than miraculous gifts of the Spirit.



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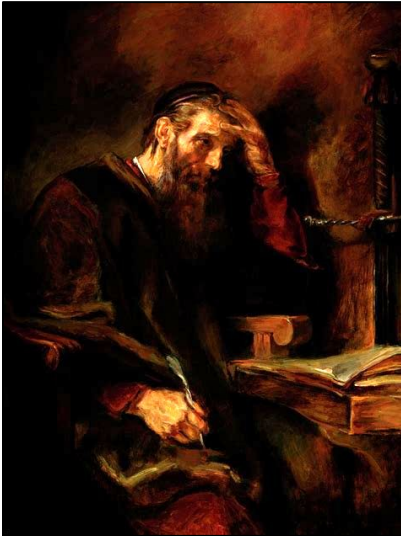
Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power



1 Timothy 3:1-7 - The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,

The Apostle Paul, 1657
Rembrandt

Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power



1 Timothy 3:1-7 (cont'd) - ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

The Apostle Paul, 1657
Rembrandt



Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

Noteworthy that requirements for elders and deacons consists of character qualities; there are no stated expectations of having reached a certain level of proficiency in supernatural spiritual gifts.



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Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

Interesting Fact - Christians can receive category two power without seeking the Lord very diligently, because gifts can be imparted through the laying on of hands. However, it's also the case seeking the Lord diligently will indeed increase the presence of Category Two power (2 Timothy 1:6).

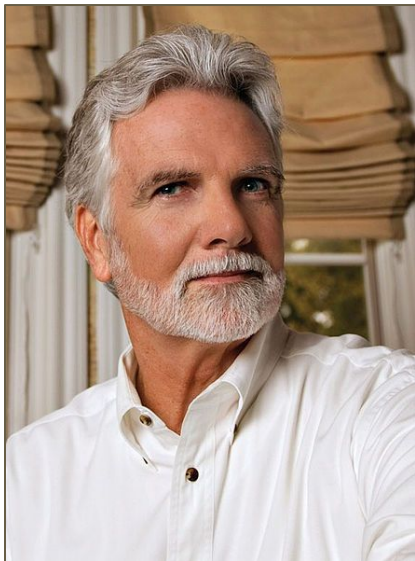
Corinth as a Case Study - Christians in Corinth had so much Category Two power that it had to be regulated, but had little Category One power (1 Corinthians 3:1-4; 10:1-32; 13:1-13).



Category One Over Category Two Holy Spirit Power

Christians are to value and prioritize the power of the Holy Spirit for righteous living over the operation of spiritual gifts, even though spiritual gifts are to be valued and practiced.

John Paul Jackson



John Paul Jackson, though extraordinarily gifted prophetically, highly valued the the importance of character and obedience to God first and foremost.

John Paul Jackson (1950-2015)
Pastor, Author and Ministry Leader



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5. Supernatural Aspects

Supernatural Aspects

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2. **Skepticism of the Supernatural**
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Why Skepticism of the Supernatural?

Skepticism of the supernatural is primarily a Western phenomenon. There is little division in the international church between the intellectual side of the faith and the more supernatural side of the faith.

The Reformation - Because of abuses in the Western church at the time of the Reformation, many reformers were more cautious about supernatural elements of the faith (e.g. supposed healing power of various relics). They wanted to avoid superstition.

Why Skepticism of the Supernatural?



The School of Athens, 1511
Raphael

The Enlightenment - The Enlightenment period in the West both positively and negatively affected the church. Many intellectuals rejected the miraculous and adopted a purely naturalistic worldview, seeking to explain everything apart from God. For example, the “New Atheists” from a few years ago arose in the Western world, not Africa, South America, the Far East, India or the Islamic world.



Why Skepticism of the Supernatural?

Influential Theologians - Influential cessationist theologians like B.B. Warfield at Princeton Seminary in the 19th century had an outsized influence on Presbyterian and Reformed segments of the Protestant church. Anti-supernaturalist, non-Christian, influential theologians like Rudolf Bultmann went even further believing that the Bible needed to be “demythologized.”

Abuse - Some turn away from the supernatural because of deception and abuse. With TV faith healers scamming watchers for money, it’s natural to be tempted to throw the baby out with the bathwater, rejecting the work of the miraculous with the prosperity gospel.



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Reality and Inevitability of the Supernatural

- **From the Beginning** - *The New Testament* is filled with the miraculous.
- **Paul as Miracle Worker** - Because the Apostle Paul is highly regarded as a brilliant man, many in the West center their theology almost exclusively on his writings. However, Paul himself was quite the miracle worker, raising people from the dead, speaking in tongues, prophesying, and healing all who were ill on the island of Malta. His intellectual brilliance in no way hindered his understanding of and operation in the supernatural realm.

***Apostolic Tradition* by Bishop Hippolytus (ca 200 AD)**



The Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus describes the practice of deliverance in the early church.

16: But if any man is **possessed with demons**, he shall not be admitted as a hearer until he is cleansed.

17. Let catechumens spend three years as hearers of the word. But if a man is zealous and perseveres well in the work, it is not the time but his character that is decisive.



***Apostolic Tradition* by Bishop Hippolytus (ca 200 AD)**

20. They who are to be set apart for baptism shall be chosen after their lives have been examined: whether they have lived soberly, whether they have honoured the widows, whether they have visited the sick, whether they have been active in well-doing. When their sponsors have testified that they have done these things, then let them hear the Gospel. Then from the time that they are separated from the other catechumens, **hands shall be laid upon them daily in exorcism and, as the day of their baptism draws near, the bishop himself shall exorcise each one of them that he may be personally assured of their purity.** Then, if there is any of them who is not good or pure, he shall be put aside as not having heard the word in faith; for it is never possible for the alien to be concealed.



Reality and Inevitability of the Supernatural

- *The Nearly Perfect Crime* or *The Healing Reawakening* by Francis MacNutt documents the practice of healing in the early church for hundreds of years.
- *The Great Awakening* by scholar Thomas Kidd documents much of the supernatural phenomena during the Great Awakening and experienced by Jonathan Edwards and others.

Supernatural Phenomena Historically Accompany Revival



“The Northampton revival [in 1734-5 as part of the Great Awakening] featured **miraculous and ecstatic manifestations of the Holy Spirit** that some critics would use to denounce the revival as rank enthusiasm.” It was not uncommon to have **“outbursts of laughter,” and to experience visions and healings.** - Distinguished Professor of History at Baylor, Thomas Kidd in *The Great Awakening*

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

Pastor and Theologian of the Great Awakening

Supernatural Phenomena Historically Accompany Revival

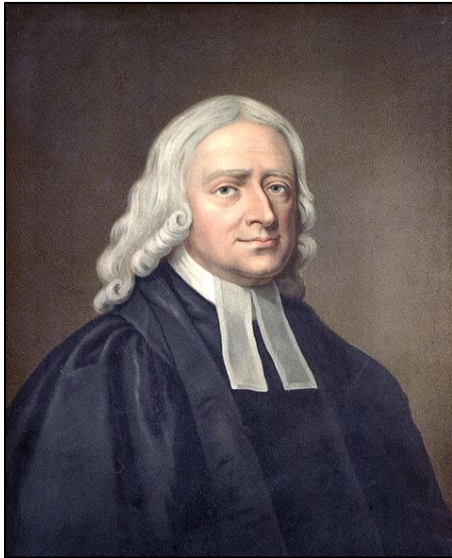


Also from Kidd: “Whitefield started seriously to contemplate the things of God during a brief stay in Bristol as a teenager. **There Whitefield began to receive visions and dreams.** ‘Here God was pleased to give me great foretastes of His love, and fill me with such unspeakable raptures, particularly once in St. John’s Church, that I was carried out beyond myself.’”

George Whitefield (1714 - 1770)

Anglican Minister and Revivalist of the Great Awakening

Supernatural Phenomena Historically Accompany Revival



Journal Entry - January 17, 1739: revivalist John Wesley and others intervened with a woman named Sarah Jones who was believed to be Christian by him and her friends, “Her agonies were extreme; her face was distorted; her eyes started almost out of her head; and it was not without the utmost difficulty that three or four persons could hold her, even in her bed.” After prayer and intervention, **they were able to deliver her from the demonic affliction.**

John Wesley (1703-1791)

English Revivalist and Founder of Methodism



Reality and Inevitability of the Supernatural

- *The Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God* was written by Jonathan Edwards to address supernatural, unusual phenomena. See christianunion.org/distinguishingmarks
- **1906 Onward:** Pentecostal phenomenon starting 1906 in Los Angeles, CA - now over 500 million worldwide (also healing revival, latter rain movement, Charismatic movement, Jesus Movement, Third Wave and Global Church spirituality)
- **Usual Increase:** Seeking the Lord wholeheartedly usually yields some measure of increased supernatural phenomena.



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Beware Witchcraft

- Peter confronting Simon the Magician (Acts 8:9-24)
- Can cause confusion on the gospel (Galatians 3:1)
- Can cause deception (Revelation 18:23)
- Curses can alight if there are cracks in the seams.
- Practitioners of witchcraft are attracted to outpourings of the Holy Spirit. They employ curses, but also seek to integrate themselves to “help” the ministry. They curse leaders and laypeople, and lead many astray.



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Benefits of the Supernatural



- Strengthens the faith of Christians (Matthew 21:18-22)
- Stirs faith in non-Christians (1 Cor 14:22-25)
- Testifies to and authenticates the message, although need to beware false signs (Hebrews 2:4)
- Brings glory to God (John 9:1-3)

Benefits of the Supernatural



- Benefits the recipients (Luke 8:43-48)
- Deliverance can deepen and extend revival (Discernment: flesh, Holy Spirit, demons)
- No need to improve on God's ways



5. Supernatural Aspects

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Resources

- **Ministries:** Orbis, Bethel, Global Harvest, International House of Prayer, Christian Healing Ministries, MorningStar Ministries
- **Books:** *Surprised by the Voice of God* by Jack Deere, *Inner Healing* by Mike Flynn - *Healing Through Deliverance: The Foundation and Practice of Deliverance Ministry* by Peter Horrobin, *Power Healing* by John Wimber, *Healing* by Francis MacNutt, *Demon Possession and the Christian: A New Perspective* by Fred Dickason, *Understanding Spiritual Warfare* by Sam Storms.



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When the Holy Spirit comes in increased power, may we all be ready to lead and minister, understanding and cooperating with His supernatural manifestations, yet always valuing first and foremost, strong character and righteous living.



We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

As Christians seek God wholeheartedly, He gives grace, power and direction to be used as His instruments in our families, communities and nation.

**Help America Return to God by Becoming a Cornerstone Partner
with Christian Union: christianunion.org/cornerstone**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

Psalm 33:12



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