



Supernatural – Weakness and Power **Pastor Rich Harris 09.17.2023**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

Supernatural: a manifestation or even attributed to some force beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature

The power of God looks like foolishness to the world.

[1 Corinthians 1:18, 27, ESV]

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong

[Colossians 2:14-15, NLT]

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

The power of God is given to us for a purpose.

[Acts 1:8, NLT]

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

We can't manipulate or control God's power.

We can hinder ourselves from experiencing the fullness of God's power.

[1 Corinthians 4:8-10, NLT]

You think you already have everything you need. You think you are already rich. You have begun to reign in God's kingdom without us! I wish you really were reigning already, for then we would be reigning with you. Instead, I sometimes think God has put us apostles on display, like prisoners of war at the end of a victor's parade, condemned to die. We have become a spectacle to the entire world—to people and angels alike. Our dedication to Christ makes us look like fools, but you claim to be so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are so powerful! You are honored, but we are ridiculed.

[Matthew 16:24-26, NIV]

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

[1 Corinthians 4:11-13, NLT]

Even now we go hungry and thirsty, and we don't have enough clothes to keep warm. We are often beaten and have no home. We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living. We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us. We appeal gently when evil things are said about us. Yet we are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash—right up to the present moment.

[1 Corinthians 4:14-16, ESV]

I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

[1 Corinthians 4:20, ESV]

For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

[2 Corinthians 12:8-10, ESV]

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

[Mark 16:17-18, ESV]

And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Key Points:

The power of God is given to us for a purpose.

Applications for the Week:

If you or someone you know needs a miracle, come this Thursday evening to Pursuit at your campus (click [HERE](#) for details}. Take time to pray during the week and expect God to move through His supernatural power in your life.

Discussion Questions

1. What is one of your favorite superhero movies?
2. Have you experienced or witnessed the supernatural power of God in your lifetime? What was that like?
3. Why do you think there is such a cultural fascination with the supernatural?
4. Pastor Rich said, "The power of God is given to us for a purpose." What is that purpose?
5. The world's idea of power is different than God's idea of power. Why does the power of God look like foolishness to the world?
6. Why does the love of worldly things limit God's power in our lives?
7. In your circle, who is someone that imitates Jesus well, in his or her actions, perspectives, or values? (Paul said "Follow me as I follow Christ.")
8. How does God empower those who believe to live out purpose with eternal perspective? What do you think He wants to demonstrate through us? [Consider Acts 1:8]