

Is There an Interpreter in the House?
Finding and Following the Flow of the Spirit in Your Service
Lesson 1: Contending for the Supernatural

Text: 1 Cor 14:27-28 / 1 Cor 2:1-5

- I. Christianity without the supernatural is just another religious philosophy.
 - A. The New Birth is supernatural
 - B. The Baptism with the Spirit is supernatural.
 1. Acts 2:1-4 / 10:44-48
 2. Acts 8:19 – does anything ever happen in your service that makes the local sorcerer want to pay money for it?
 - C. Our preaching and teaching are supposed to be, also. 1 Cor 2:1-5 / Heb 2:1-4
- II. We need the power of God:
 - A. **In signs and manifestations:** I Cor. 12 - Don't be ignorant! The cessation of these gifts led directly to the work of liberal theology to try and explain away or "demythologize" the Bible. The Bible is a supernatural book. Without the miraculous there is no story!
 - B. **In anointed preaching:** Note Luke 4:32 / Mark 9:15 Our preaching ought to be with such "thus saith the Lord" authority "that people are shaken, offended, or amazed. We have had enough scribal meandering, it is time for prophetic proclamation - Matt. 7: 28-29
 - C. **In genuine Holy Spirit Revival:** We have had enough of men's programs. Acts 2:41 was accomplished with 120 young believers. It is time to quit getting ready for revival and start having one.
- III. Forces that mitigate against the supernatural
 - A. The church - world heresy hunters. Matt. 12: 22-32 The modern pharisees who still want to reduce the Holy Ghost to a doctrine rather than a vibrant living person who walks and talks in us, through us, and to us.
 - B. Our pride: We want to be part of a respectable organization. Be careful not to offend anyone, and you'll always offend the Holy Spirit. It is possible to be doctrinally sound and spiritually dead. Any doctrine you hold which is not manifest is a dead spot in your church. you need to contend for it.
 - C. Church growth theories. Shorter, user friendly services. Inoffensive sermons. Pleasing programs.

1. This is not a supermarket - people who don't want to be committed need to get saved.
 2. We cannot design our services to suit the flesh of the unsaved. We design our services to suit the Lord and glorify Him in the assembly of the saints. We must make a decision as a church whether we want to be easy to access for people or for God. Note Acts 5 - dead people at the altar is definitely not politically correct.
- D. Our own human nature. We like the predictable and the familiar. We are lazy and don't like the real because it often stretches us.
- E. A natural reaction to the false and flaky. I Thess 5:19-22 Lack of discernment will kill revival because people will throw out the baby with the bath water.
1. False ministries - Money-hungry, power controlling, miracle faking ministries cause us to turn a skeptical eye toward the real.
 2. Excess and confusion - Groaning meetings, spiritual warfare, demon spitting, faith without doctors. These are all ploys used of the devil to blind us to God.
 3. Our command **DO NOT DESPISE**: I want the real power of God !!!