

The Reality of the Supernatural World PT1 By Todd Bentley

This article is taken from "The Reality of the Supernatural World" book
Written by Todd Bentley

Touching the Supernatural Realm

I stood on a sea of glass – it was clear as crystal (see Rev-4:6). This is the third Heaven, I thought. The sea has changed color: "Why is the sea of glass taking on the color of amber?" I asked the Lord. As I watched it change, I remembered Ezekiel describing the glory of the Lord as amber, and like a rainbow (see Ezek. 1:27-28; 8:2), and I understood. Suddenly, I was before a pillar of fire and I recalled that Ezekiel, too, experienced God's presence as a pillar of fire. The warmth of His glory surrounded me, and I felt His glory on my face – like a warm summer sun shining on me. There's nothing in this world that compares with the glory of God! Then the Lord spoke these words to me (later confirmed by several prophetic people), "The Body of Christ is ready, on a corporate level, for the kind of anointing that you have touched and seen hidden away in back rooms."

This and other experiences have been so life changing for me. A few believers here and there are being taken into the third Heaven, having angelic visitations, and experiencing dreams, trances, and all those supernatural experiences we read about in the Bible, but now it's time for all His children to enter in. As you read this book, I want you to raise your expectations of how much of God you can receive now. Let's grow in faith to encounter and experience God in ways that we never have before.

Set Your Mind on Things Above

I'm going to say this repeatedly, but it's important to settle this issue in your spirit. The Bible encourages us to set our minds on things above where Christ is seated. Think about the reality of Heaven. Listen. It's more real than the world you live in. It's easy to set our mind on what the situation looks like. It's so easy to get caught up in the temporal world, but the Bible says we need to set our minds on the eternal: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1).

Remember, though, we don't wrestle against flesh and blood but against demonic powers and principalities (see Eph. 6:12). The devil is real, and he really does want to steal from you and destroy you like you. No, you don't need to look for a devil behind every bush, but you do need to walk in a supernatural awareness of both demons and angels.

When I wake up in the morning, I make a conscious effort to thank God for the reality of angels. Because I make room for this reality as part of my everyday life, angels are free to manifest themselves actively in my ministry. I pray something like this: "Thank You, God, for the angels that are with me. Thank You for the angels – those ministering spirits that come to do your work. Thank You for the healing angels. Thank you for the harvest angels. Thank you for the angels that encamp around those who fear You. They lift me up, they lift me above the warfare."

As I am in the shower I'll pray, "I thank You, Jesus, that the blind see – and the deaf hear. I thank You that cripples walk. Just thank You for miracles and healing." I am constantly pulling that supernatural realm into my life and growing my faith levels by expecting miracles and reminding myself that they are easy for Jesus to perform. I thank God in prayers like this: "I thank You, God, for Heaven. Thanks, Lord, that I can see in the spirit. I want to travel in the spirit, Lord. I can go to Hawaii with my wife, God, why can't I go somewhere in Heaven too? Holy Spirit, take me there! Thank You for trances, visions, and dreams. Thank You that I hear Your voice, God. You said, 'My sheep hear My voice.' Yes, I can hear Your voice."

I may not see an angel, or anyone healed right there; I may not be in a place where I even need a miracle, but I stay aware of the supernatural realm by continuously setting my mind on things above and thanking God for them.

I always look for demonic powers and spiritual strategies. "God, what is happening in the service right now in the invisible realm? What is the enemy doing? What is the hindrance in the region?" The Kingdom of God is not in word only, but it is in demonstrations of the Holy Spirit's power (see 1 Cor. 2:4). I regularly pull on that divine realm, and then the heavens open up for me.

Only Believe

I want you to live and walk in God's power. I want you to encounter and to experience the reality of the supernatural and the spiritual realm. I've learned that these encounters, like everything in the Christian life, we receive by faith. "Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes'" (Mark 9:23). One New Testament story powerfully illustrates a Gentile's faith in the supernatural realm.

And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" (Matthew 8:7-10)

The Lord once told me He is calling us to the same kind of faith the centurion demonstrated. "Todd," He said, "if you can get people to believe in the realities of the spiritual realm (the manifestation of Heaven touching earth – the prophetic word, angels, dreams, and people being healed and set free), then I will release more of My power."

"God, what do You mean 'get them to believe in an angel' – what about believing in You?" I asked.

"My people don't have trouble believing in Me, but when you mention that an angel showed up they very quickly get into unbelief," He answered.

That made sense, and here's why: if I tell you that Paul, Elijah, and Daniel saw an angel you'll say, "Amen. I believe it." We expect the prophets to have those experiences. But if I say I saw an angel, then everyone becomes sceptical. We are the Daniels, Elijahs, and Pauls of today. If we aren't seeing into the supernatural realm, who else will?

We need the simple faith of a child. Today, we often hear reports of children who see angels. Angels will sometimes show a playful side of themselves to people. At a meeting at Edmonton, Alberta, I heard a report of Gabriel visiting a seven-year-old boy. The angel actually pulled up his gown to show the boy he was wearing running shoes!

"Only believe" (Luke 8:50) is the door that opens up the spiritual realm that brings Heaven; that brings all the miracles and all the signs and all the wonders. God wants to challenge your belief system. He wants to challenge your level of faith. God wants to challenge your mind-set and to make the supernatural natural and commonplace. He wants us to believe like the saints of old, and He wants to release miracles as He did, and as we see, from the beginning to the end of the Bible. This is the inheritance of His sons and daughters.

End-Time Release of Signs and Wonders

But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My servants I will pour out of My Spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Acts 2:16-21)

Do the words "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" refer to a day yet to come or a day that is here? I believe we are living in the outpouring of God's Spirit right now. He is releasing prophecy and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up; and the poor have My Spirit on all flesh – sons and daughters are prophesying, young men are having visions, and old men are dreaming dreams in our generation.

God's purpose here is that we all will prophesy and have dreams and visions. What we are seeing now is progressive; it's a process. I believe that this divine promise is available today for anyone who is ready to receive it. A day is coming in the Church when all flesh will come into the dimension of visions, dreams, healings, and miracles. This calling goes way beyond the dimension of commonplace prophetic words, the still, small voice, impressions, words of knowledge, prophetic exhortation, or even "thus says the Lord" type of prophecies spoken to us in the first person (as though God is speaking the words). Every believer should be having profound, detailed, accurate words of knowledge for every person they encounter. Every believer should be having visions and dreams. Every Christian should be participating in healings and miracles. These experiences are available to all of us now.

I don't know if the last days are 500 years or 1,000 years away, but I do know we are certainly in the last days far more than the disciples were when the Spirit was poured out in Acts. I also know that these are the last days for anyone reading this book. Maybe your life is a third or even two-thirds of the way spent. It's the last days – the only days remaining that each of us has to serve the Lord.

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WHATS IN THE BOOK?

It is Todd's prayer and belief that as you read this book you'll come under a powerful anointing to walk daily in the reality of the supernatural and be a vessel for miracles, signs and wonders. God wants your life to be a prophetic message that carries supernatural substance. The Reality of the Supernatural World will inspire you to believe in a bigger God than you have ever known...

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Every saint has the opportunity to participate in the release of this prophetic dimension, which will come with signs and wonders. We are destined to carry that supernatural anointing, to walk in the reality of the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, and to have the eyes of our heart opened to see into the heavens. This is our inheritance. According to Scripture, God endorses ministry (through signs and wonders) "Men of Israel, hear the words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know" (Acts 2:22). This passage speaks of the day that God confirmed and endorsed Jesus' ministry with miracles, signs, and wonders. According to John 17 we are as loved by the Father as Jesus is; we are just as much a child and just as much a joint-heir. Jesus asked this of the Father: "...that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me" (John 17:23). Jesus is seated at the Father's right hand in the heavenly places and, as part of His body, we are made to sit in heavenly places with Him (see Eph. 1:20-23).

The Father wants to endorse ministry in North America with miracles, signs, and wonders. He wants us to reach for this inheritance. We need to say, "Thank You, Lord, that it's mine." The supernatural needs to become a part of our consciousness, art of our everyday thinking. We need to think about open heavens, angels, visions, and dreams. We need to talk about miracles, power, and healings. We need to thank God for angels and the prophetic.

We are living in an exciting time! God wants to anoint you for prophetic vision and to give you spiritual eyes. As the Lord opens the eyes of your heart, you will come into the reality of the supernatural realm. God wants to make you naturally supernatural. It's time for your launch into new realms of the Spirit.

Made for Signs and Wonders

God hasn't called us just to preach the Gospel. The Gospel "package" includes performing signs and wonders. Your destiny is to be a sign and a wonder! God created us to see signs and wonders, as well as to be signs and wonders. Delve deeply into this passage of Scripture: "Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel..." (Isa. 8:18).

We're talking about a prophetic life, a prophetic message. People are crying out for revelation: "Give me illumination. I want an experience of the supernatural. I'm not seeing the signs and wonders in the church today, so I'll call the psychic hotline." When we don't have signs and wonders, the world looks for them somewhere else. They seek them in the New Age, the occult, and in the false expression of genuine revelation. God wants us to have the genuine article, so the world can know there's revelation and understanding in the Church.

The world should be saying, "I've never met these people, but somehow they knew something about my past and about my sickness in my body. They also knew something about my younger brother and he got healed; that tells me there's a God." When these supernatural events begin to happen, you won't even need to preach the Gospel (but don't) because it will be evident to the unbelievers that there's a living God in Heaven.

Now look what happens if we are not for signs and wonders: "And when they say to you, 'Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,' should not a people seek their God? Should the dead on behalf of the living?" (Isa. 8:19).

When we are not for signs and wonders, people seek out wizards, mediums and dead gods. They consult the dead on behalf of the living, rather than the living God. Doesn't that verse just break your heart? So many people are turning to the counterfeits because we are not where we need to be spiritually. We need to live out our spiritual inheritance and be signs and wonders; then the world will turn to the Church for revelation.

We must understand the reality of the supernatural, the open heavens, and the heavenly glory and reach for that place in the spirit where supernatural signs and wonders happen. God wants to release this anointing upon His people. Are you ready for it?

Signs and Wonders Testify to God's Kingdom

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about Acts 2, or the Day of Pentecost? According to Acts 1:8, Pentecost was about receiving dunamis (miraculous) power. Likely, you picture a group of people gathered in a Jerusalem upper room who feel a rushing wind, see tongues of fire, and then speak in other languages. In reality, the experience at Pentecost was not so much about speaking in tongues as it was about signs, wonders, prophetic experiences, power, and about God opening up Heaven as He poured out His Spirit. Think about it: Speaking in tongues was only one of the evidences or results of the Holy Spirit's outpouring that day.

Historically, many things happen when God pours out His Spirit. People have prophesied for days afterward, having visions and dreams. We don't see these things often, or on the same level, because we have a hard time believing that God allows people encounters with the supernatural world.

I'm going to make a statement that you might not believe; you might even find it offensive. Fortunately, it's just my opinion; I got it from the apostle Paul who picked it up from Jesus – so don't get upset with me! Here it is: You haven't fully preached the Gospel of Christ. If you haven't done it with miracles, signs, and wonders:

Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God. For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient—in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. (Romans 15:17-19).

Paul says that he had fully preached the Gospel because signs and wonders by the power of God accompanied his preaching. Chew on that one for a while.

In the context of the Gospel presentation, we should always see the manifestation of God's power. "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (Matt. 9:35). Notice that Jesus preached the Gospel and healed every sickness and disease. In every reference where Jesus proclaimed the Gospel, we see the demonstration of the Kingdom. "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people" (Matt 4:23).

In my ministry, I teach my disciples, "Power first, then the Word. Go in and prophesy first, or demonstrate the power of God first in some way."

In the church, there's been such a lack of the demonstration of God's power. Our preaching won't be effective in the church today because so many people's attitude is, Been there, done that, brought the T-shirt. Their minds and hearts are often already closed five minutes into the service:

How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? (Hebrews 2:3-4)

We see it here again. God backs up the salvation message with signs, wonders, and various miracles. That is the Gospel message:

I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing. Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

(2 Corinthians 12:11-12)

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance... (Hebrews 6:4-6)

As the last biblical reference suggests, when the Word of God enlightens us, we are supposed to taste the powers of the age to come – these powers are now. Ask the Lord to give you a taste of Heaven now. We don't have to wait till we die to see angels or to experience Heaven.

When John the Baptist was in prison, he sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus if He was the one or if He should look for another. I love Jesus' answer. Nowhere in His answer does He ever say "yes." He just describes His actions and lets John draw his own conclusions. Jesus could have said, "Of course I am, John. I was born of a virgin. Don't you know the Scriptures?" He could have keyed in on many aspects of His divinity, but look how He chose to describe His Messiahship:

And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for hear another?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up; and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is the who is not offended because of Me.' (Matthew 11:2-6)

Note also that Jesus didn't just say that He preached the Gospel to the poor and stopped at that. He set an example of what we should do. We are the generation that should enter into "greater works than these" (John 14:12). In the church today, we have limited the Gospel to only preaching, but it shouldn't be isolated from these other Kingdom manifestations. According to Jesus and Paul, preaching, healing, and miracles are a package deal.

If you want to know if the Kingdom has come to your life or your church, just ask these questions: "Do the lame walk? Do the blind see? Are AIDS sufferers healed? Are the dead raised? And do the poor hear the Gospel?" Look for the signs and wonders of the manifestation of His Kingdom.

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