

Cooke, Tony

Miracles and the Supernatural Throughout Church History

10. A Supernatural Faith

The opening chapter argues that Christianity is supernatural at its core, not merely an intellectual or ethical system. It surveys what the Holy Spirit does in believers and the church, lists the spiritual gifts Paul names, and contends that miracles still happen today wherever there is faith and expectancy.

Key takeaways

- Take the supernatural out of the Bible and there is no Bible left; the virgin birth, resurrection, new birth, and inspiration of Scripture are all supernatural.
- Christianity is more than history and morality. Paul preached in 'demonstration of the Spirit and of power' so faith would rest on God's power, not human wisdom.
- The Holy Spirit works throughout a believer's life: conviction, new birth, assurance, guidance, sanctification, indwelling, teaching, empowering, and filling. Much of this is quiet, not spectacular.
- Paul gives four lists of spiritual gifts (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 twice, Ephesians 4). The Spirit distributes them as He chooses, for building up the whole church.

- Signs were meant to accompany and confirm the preaching of the gospel, not stand alone. They also flowed through non-apostles like Stephen, Philip, and Ananias.
- We see little of the Spirit's power when no one expects it. The early church prayed boldly for signs because no one had told them the age of miracles was over.

Passages worth keeping

"To be blunt, Christianity is either supernatural, or nothing at all."

Bonnke's line states the chapter's whole thesis.

"Many people are looking for the spectacular and missing the supernatural that is right there all the time."

Hagin's warning not to overlook the Spirit's quieter work.

How it connects

The chapter ties the church's present powerlessness to a loss of the first-century expectancy: God has not changed, but faith often has.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Corinthians 2:4-5** -- faith should rest on God's power, not human wisdom
- **1 Corinthians 12:11** -- the Spirit distributes gifts as He decides
- **Mark 16:15-20** -- signs follow and confirm the preached gospel

- **Galatians 3:5** -- miracles come by the hearing of faith
- **John 14:12** -- believers will do the works Jesus did, and greater
- **Acts 4:29-30** -- the early church's bold expectancy for signs and wonders