

Living Life Like Jesus Christ
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We are in a sermon series called Miracles - When Heaven Touches Earth.
 And I want you to understand that:
 God has not destined you to live a common life, but an uncommon life.
 God has not called you to live a natural life, but a supernatural life.
 God has not saved you to live an ordinary life, but an extraordinary life.

The dictionary defines extraordinary as beyond what is ordinary or usual;
 highly exceptional; remarkable; having a special purpose.

I believe that Jesus died on the cross to save us for eternity and to give us an
 extraordinary life in the here and now. So I'm preaching today on Living Life Like
 Jesus Christ.

Jesus lived a life full of holiness and miraculous power and so can we!

Jesus died to save us from hell – but not just to save us from hell.
 He wants us to live an abundant life now!

Jesus died so we can go to heaven – but not just so we go to heaven.
 He ushered in a kingdom with kingdom principles, authority and power and then
 He gave that power and authority to us!

Jesus did not die just so we can go to church – but that we would be the church –
 the ambassadors of His kingdom on earth!

Jesus did not die to start a religion – but to birth a family of believers.
 Romans 8:29 says

*For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His
 Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

This is your destiny – to become like Christ. To be conformed to His image. The
 Message version of Ephesians 4:15 says

God wants us to grow up... like Christ in everything.

So we are to live like Him and love like Him and have power like Him! But as we
 all eventually figure out – living the Christian life is impossible in our own
 strength! We try and fail – try again and fail again – until we finally come to the
 end of ourselves and realize we can't live like Christ in our own strength. We need
 a power greater than our own!

Many of us live beneath the extraordinary life God wants us to live because we are trying to live it in our own ordinary power.
 But we cannot live a supernatural life with our own natural abilities.
 But we're not smart enough, good enough or powerful enough.

Fortunately – God knows that and He did something about it. That's why Zechariah 4:6 says

“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.

The word might means ability or wealth. The word power means human strength. In other words, living the Christian life is not going to be accomplished in your own ability or strength.

You need something beyond yourself.
 You need strength that is stronger than yours.
 You need wisdom that is wiser than yours.
 You need ability that is more able than yours.

Fortunately - Ephesians 3:20-21 says

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

God is able to do above all that we ask or think. That means more than we can desire, more than we can express in our prayers; more than all that we can dream in our wildest dreams.

The extent of God's power is seen in the way Paul pyramids his words. God is:

Able
 Able to do
 Able to do what we ask
 Able to do what we think
 Able to do what we ask or think
 Able to do all that we ask or think
 Able to do above all that we ask or think
 Able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think
 Able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think

In other words, the most you've ever thought or dreamed about God is less than who He really is.

However wise you think God is – He's wiser!
 However great you think God is – He's greater!
 However loving you think God is – He's more loving!
 However powerful you think God is – He's more powerful!

And that power works in us and that power works on us and that power works for us and that power works through us!

We have the same power working for us that worked for Jesus. We have the same supernatural life in us that was in Jesus Christ! Romans 8:11 says

And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

Just as the cross is an absolute essential to the Christian life, so is being filled with the Holy Spirit. In fact, it impossible to love as Christ loved and live as Christ lived without being filled with the Holy Spirit.

People tend to forget that while He was on earth, everything Jesus did was done in the power of the Holy Spirit. He could do nothing on His own. In John 5:30, He said: *By myself I can do nothing.*

Jesus lived a supernatural life in the power of the Spirit. We can live a supernatural life only if we have the power of the Holy Spirit. We must stop trying to do it in our own strength!

The more like Christ we become, the more dependent upon the Holy Spirit we will become. He lived His entire life in total dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:38 says

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him.

Why did Jesus, who was God incarnate, need to be anointed with the Holy Spirit's power? Jesus came to earth for two reasons, to die for our sins and to show us how to live. To do that, He had to lay aside the glory of His divinity.

He never ceased to be God, but He emptied Himself of independent exercise of His divine attributes in order to be dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit. In theology, this is called the "Kenosis" or emptying. Philippians 2:5-8 says

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross!

The phrase "Made himself nothing" – is translated in the New American Standard Version – "emptied Himself."

The Living Bible says He *“laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men.”*

Jesus emptied Himself of His power and glory and lived a life of dependence upon the Holy Spirit to show us how we can live.

I think most of us are doomed to live ordinary lives because we excuse ourselves from becoming like Christ. We think it’s unattainable, so why try?

I know none of us will be perfect – but we can be and should be becoming more and more like Jesus everyday!

The only way we can do that is the same way Jesus did it – absolute dependence upon the Holy Spirit!

The more we depend on ourselves, the less like Jesus we will be.
The more we depend on the Holy Spirit, the more like Jesus we will be.

The more we lean our own strength, the less like Jesus we will be.
The more we lean on the power of the Holy Spirit, the more like Jesus we’ll be.

The more we are full of ourselves, the less like Jesus we will be.
The more we are full of the Holy Spirit, the more like Jesus we will be.

Would you agree that the life Jesus lived was extraordinary?
Would you agree that the life Jesus lived was supernatural?
Would you agree that the life Jesus lived is available to us?
Well – it is!

The life of Christ was extraordinary and supernatural because He lived His life in total dependence on the Holy Spirit. And we can live our lives the same way.

Luke 1:35 says Jesus was born of the Spirit.

Luke 3:22 says that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus and anointed Him when He was baptized in water.

Luke 4:1 says Jesus was filled with the Spirit.

Every single thing Jesus did was in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit. Luke 4:1 says

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert.

Jesus was taught by the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 11:2 says

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

Jesus taught by the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:1-2 says

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen.

Jesus performed miracles by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 12:28 says

But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Jesus lived a holy life and died for our sins in the power of the Holy Spirit

Hebrews 9:14 (in the Message) says

Through the Spirit, Christ offered Himself as an unblemished sacrifice.

In short, everything Jesus did was in the power of the Holy Spirit. And remember – our destiny is to become like Christ. So here’s the key for us:

IF JESUS LIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT’S POWER – SO MUST WE!

Since Jesus was born of the Spirit, we need to be born again by the Spirit!

Since Jesus was filled with the Spirit, we need to be filled with the Spirit!

Since Jesus was led by the Spirit, we need to be led by the Spirit!

Since Jesus ministered in the power of the Spirit, we need to minister in the power of the Spirit!

Since Jesus had the fruit of the Spirit in His life, we need the fruit of the Spirit in our lives!

Since Jesus depended on the Spirit, we need to depend on the Spirit!

We are all dependent upon God for everything. In John 15:5, Jesus said *“Without Me you can do nothing.”*

Philippians 4:13 says *I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.*

Trying to be spiritual – be Christ-like – to live and love like Christ without the Holy Spirit is like:

Trying to fly without wings

Trying to breathe without air –

Trying to drive a car without gas –

That reminds me of the Tournament of Roses Parade that happens every New Year’s Day. One year a beautiful float suddenly sputtered and quit. They tried to figure out what was wrong. The whole parade was held up until they discovered they were out of gas. The ironic thing is that this float represented the Standard Oil Co. With all its vast oil resources, its float was out of gas.

Many of us are like that.

We have all the power of the universe available to us and we are out of gas!

We are sputtering along in our strength instead of soaring in the power of God. Do you understand that the power of God is available to us today? Remember Ephesians 3:20?

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

According to the power that works in us - God's power in us can accomplish for us more than we can now conceive. The way God accomplishes this is by the power that works in us.

A few verses earlier – the Bible tells us what that power is. Ephesians 3:16-17

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

The power of God that works in us is the Holy Spirit. He is constantly at work in our lives:

- Convicting us of sin
- Drawing us to Christ
- Making us like Christ
- Guiding us in prayer
- Inspiring us in worship
- Giving us direction in life
- Empowering us to live an extraordinary life.

To live life like Christ, we must do it as He did it, in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we will not do the works of Christ.

Without the power of the Spirit, no one would ever be saved, healed, delivered, or restored.

Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we will never live a supernatural life like Christ lived.

The good news is that just as Jesus was:

Born of the Spirit	So can we
Filled with the Spirit	So can we
Anointed by the Spirit	So can we
Led by the Spirit	So can we
Taught by the Spirit	So can we
Spoke by the Spirit	So can we
Performed miracles by the Spirit	So can we
Lived an extraordinary life by the Spirit	So can we

The only way we can live a life like Christ is by total dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

This takes dying to self – applying the work of the cross in our lives – and yielding ourselves totally to the Spirit of God.

So – do you want to live like Christ? Then you must do it like Jesus did, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And to do that – you must have the Holy Spirit in your life. That happens when you are born again. Jesus promised that all who believe in Him will receive the Holy Spirit. That's one way to know if you are really saved. Romans 8:8-9 says

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

The Holy Spirit is received at salvation. Ephesians 1:13 says

And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago.

Christ's sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower all believers to live as Christ lived, love as Christ loved and minister as Christ ministered.

The key is this – Jesus said that life lived in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit only happens when we believe in Him.

Do you believe in Him? I don't mean – do you believe right things about Him. You can do that and not be saved. That's what demons do. James 2:19-20 says

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

A lot of people say they believe in God. So what? This kind of faith is just an intellectual agreement with facts.

Demons believe in God.

Demons know the Bible is the word of God.

Demons know that Jesus Christ is the son of God.

Demons believe Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world.

Demons believe Jesus rose from the dead.

They know all of that is true. They saw it with their own eyes. But they will never repent of sin and rebellion and submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

And this world is full of people – and churches are full of people – who are 'believers' in name only.

They say they believe right, but they live wrong.

They say they believe in God, but they live like the devil.

Listen – if your faith is only in your head – it will not save you. It must impact your heart and your life. Romans 10:9-10 says

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

We need more than head faith – we need heart faith.
 We need more than dead faith – faith without works.
 We need saving faith – faith that results in true change.

Don't tell me you've come to Jesus and you're still the same.
 When you come to Him you're a new creation.
 When you come to Him you go away different.
 When you're born again, you're brand new.
 When you're born again – you receive the Holy Spirit into your life.

No – you're not perfect – but you are in the process of change. You are becoming more and more like Jesus – little by little – day by day - from faith to faith – from glory to glory.

Living a life like Jesus Christ requires the Holy Spirit and having the Holy Spirit means you must have saving faith.

So do you have saving faith? Don't just tell me – “Well, I believe in Jesus.”

Have you trusted Jesus or are you just believing right things about Him?

Is His Spirit living in you?

If you don't know for sure – don't leave today until you do.

Your eternal life and the possibility of extraordinary living depend on it.