

PREACHER SCHOOL

Supernatural Ministry 1™ — Class Syllabus

Course Objectives:

Jesus' earthly ministry is the measure for us. Everything He did was as a person filled and led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was both fully God and fully man. At no time did Jesus cease to be fully God but He did set aside His divine attributes to live as a man, like us, and to fulfill the will of Father through His incarnation. His earthly ministry life was done as a man who continually sought to honor and glorify God. Through prayer, Jesus became intimately dependent upon the Father and humbly obeyed the Father in all things, and from this place Jesus ministered to the people around Him in the rich supply of supernatural power given to Him by the Holy Spirit. Why through the Holy Spirit and not of His own sufficiency? Because Jesus came to demonstrate to us how we are to live as men and women fully-filled, led, and empowered by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of continuing Jesus' supernatural ministry on the earth. Jesus said of us, that in His name we would "do even greater things" (Jn 14:12) than He did, for His glory.

We start Preacher School with this Supernatural Ministry class to encourage and provoke people toward a supernatural worldview and toward complete dependence upon the Holy Spirit. We start in the book of Acts to show that after Jesus ascended to Heaven, the disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit and fully empowered to continue the ministry of Jesus. This same baptism and empowerment for ministry is for every believer today.

The Father's intention is that the supernatural ministry Jesus began would be continued in the earth by His followers until Jesus' return; the Second Coming. This supernatural ministry is what Jesus spoke of when He declared, "the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19). With these words Jesus explains what the supernatural empowerment by the Holy Spirit is for: the preaching of the gospel for eternal salvation, physical healing, and deliverance from every and any oppressive bondage, in full demonstration of signs, miracles and wonders that glorify God. In like manner, we have been anointed and empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue this same work.

Jesus said, "from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force" (Matt 11:12, NASB). "Violence" appears twice in this verse as Βιάζεται and is translated, "to force." It means a positive aggressiveness toward forcibly seizing or laying hold of the kingdom of God through the power of the Holy Spirit with the purpose of advancing God's kingdom. Ultimately, this is the ruining of Satan's kingdom by the direct extension or advancement of God's kingdom.

Both God's kingdom and the devil's kingdom are spiritual kingdoms. God's work can only be done through complete dependence upon, obedience to, and empowerment by the Holy Spirit. We cannot take up God's purposes, nor partner in His ministry without the Holy Spirit. Outside of obedience and dependence upon the Holy Spirit any ministry that men do is from their own fleshly strength, it is from their own human initiative. Ministry in human strength and from human initiative can be flashy and impressive and it has often built large crowds of people, but this ministry is from the flesh, it is carnal, and leads to religious striving. What man starts man must maintain in his own strength. Religious striving ministry wears out the people of God and this is a main reason we hear of so many pastors suffering breakdown.

All true ministry flows out of our relationship with the Holy Spirit who is God-With-Us, here and now. When Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me" (Jn 4:34), He was speaking about the satisfaction and fulfillment of living in complete obedience and dependence upon the Holy Spirit. All true *life-giving* ministry comes from the overflow of our relationship with Him and because we have set our heart on living to please the One we love...

The objectives of this class are:

1. To help people grow into deeper relationship with God
2. To help people see Him at work in everyday moments, both big and small
3. To move people to seeing and moving in the supernatural realm
4. To promote confidence in people's ability to live completely dependent upon the Holy Spirit
5. To promote faith in people to see themselves ministering the same way Jesus did: same power, same miracles, same experiences—it is His will that we would continue His ministry!

Required Reading/Participation (all students):

1. A Bible: RSV, NASB, NIV, or NKJV version
2. H. A. Baker. *Visions Beyond The Veil*. Publisher: God Sounds, print on demand by Amazon.
3. Norman Grubb. *Continuous Revival: The Secret Of Victorious Living*. Fortworth, PA: CLC Publications, 1997, Rev. ed.
4. Video: Graham Cooke, "Wild Love" prophetic word from 2018. This is required viewing for the first week of class. It is, however, a message I recommend people listen to more than once. https://youtu.be/oNi_s7129Os (To access an active URL for this see your class email, or access via the online version at ilovethechurch.com)
5. Download Zoom to a computer or device: <https://zoom.us>
We will use this video conference platform for some meetings during class. Any pertinent meetings will be recorded and shared for those who can't make meetings times.

Tier Three Students:

Randy Clark. *The Essential Guide To The Power Of The Holy Spirit*. Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, 2015.

Reading and writing assignments:

Benefits/purpose behind the written assignments: the practice of writing forces us to think more carefully about the words we use and the subject we are writing about. This has a two-fold effect of moving us toward better understanding of the subject *and* our verbal communication skills grow through the process.

There are three options of engagement for people:

Tier 1: Engage in class reading and Zoom training/testimony meetings.

Tier 2: Class reading plus weekly written response papers, Mid-term and Final papers.

Tier 3: Read *The Essential Guide...* book and write a response paper.

Submitting assignments: They should be submitted in a word document. You can email these to me by attaching the word file. Single space your document. Note: your name on the top left side. On the second line write the class name. On the third line write the week number and corresponding assignment name. Example:

Romey Ritter
Supernatural Ministry 1
Week 2, Acts 5-8

For grading purposes, I am not looking for perfect grammar and sentence structure. I am looking for changed hearts, faith to rise, and for Spirit-given words that flow onto your page as you write. So, there is no failure in this class. And concerning getting "Spirit-given words," pray and expect Holy Spirit to help you and ask Him to give you His words, He loves to partner with us in this way.

Assignment due dates: the class week begins on Monday. All assignments for that week are due, Saturday by 11:30PM. (They can be submitted earlier.) Submit the via email: romey.ritter@seashorechurch.com

1. Weekly assignments: The weekly assignments will take in four chapters of the book of Acts at a time. Note or journal from the four chapters specific events that Holy Spirit highlights to

you or gives some specific revelation that raises your faith level to believe for more. Or, write about something that was surprisingly new that may have changed the way you read scripture. **These assignments should have an approximate word count of 300 - 500 words.**

The book of Acts is profiled through this class particularly because it is the book that demonstrates the supernatural lives lived by the first-generation disciples. Each chapter contains testimonies of the filling and leading by the Holy Spirit, instructions given by Holy Spirit, help provided by angels, miracles, the priority of prayer, and the believers dependence upon Holy Spirit for their lives and ministry.

Begin to “sit in” the book of Acts from the beginning of class. By “sit in” I mean read, pray, and ponder the verses. Read them out loud. Ask Holy Spirit for illumination and revelation. Consider what God is doing in and through the believers. Consider the believers interactions with each other and with unbelievers around them. Ask questions of the text as if you are living in the same time and space. Think how you would respond to these situations and ask Holy Spirit to speak to you directly about these scriptures. Ask, how did God speak to people? How did He show them things? Was it through visions? How did Peter and John know they were walking with an angel (5:19)? Were the “*scales*” that fell from Saul’s eyes something that was seen in the spirit realm rather than literal scales, hence the use of “*like scales*” (9:18)?

When we slow down to “sit in” Scripture we find things like Philip being given instructions by an angel to get on the road and head toward Gaza (Act 8:26), and then while on the road, further instructions are given by the Holy Spirit (8:29). We discover Philip had the discernment to know the difference between the angelic instruction and that of the Holy Spirit. And since we also are filled with the Holy Spirit, we can develop this same spiritual discernment or “sensitivity” to the spiritual realm.

In the same chapter Philip is “translocated” (8:39) by the Holy Spirit. I draw attention to this because cessationist scholars and bible commentators often interpret this from a naturalistic worldview. They assert Philip was given “a sudden impulse” or compulsion that caused him to move quickly in his own physical strength, rather than by a miracle of the Holy Spirit. To remove miraculous events cessationists have to change the meaning of Scripture and create weak interpretations to excuse away their lack of belief in miracles for today. The literal translation is the “Spirit of the Lord carried away Philip.” The Greek is ἤρπασεν from ἀρπάζω (*harpazo*) and means to catch up, carry away, snatch, or take by force. It was the Spirit of the Lord who carried Philip away in a miraculous translocation event. Philip’s geographic location was miraculously changed by the Holy Spirit and not by human effort; “nothing is impossible for God” (Luke 1:37). There are testimonies of God doing this same miracle with his servants again and again down through church history.

A note on cessationism. Cessationism is the belief that the gifts of the Spirit, which includes all the miraculous events we read about in the New Testament, ended at the end of the Apostolic Age, or soon after. Cessationists teach the work of the Holy Spirit was to establish that first generation church and give us the Scriptures, only, because once this work was done the Holy

Spirit withdrew. Hence, they assert: 1) We no longer need the gifts and miraculous events; 2) We cannot rely on the Holy Spirit in the same manner as biblical characters did; and 3) We should not expect His help nor any spiritual gifts or supernatural empowerment for ministry. Cessationism is a blatantly false and damaging teaching. It has bred spiritual impotency in the church.

A further note is given here of practical cessationism. This is where the Holy Spirit is recognized or acknowledged in only a token measure. He is talked about but there is little practice of His gifts. Believers may sit in a church for years and not be taught or encouraged to prophecy, pray in tongues, move in words of knowledge, etc. Believers may hear the occasional prophetic word from the pulpit, a guest speaker might come through once in a while and dazzle the people, but in general the people do not operate the gifts of the Spirit themselves —this is practical cessationism. The number of true cessationists today is far smaller than the number of practical cessationists.

Miracles, signs, wonders, *all* the gifts of the Holy Spirit point to the glory and supernatural power of God. As believers, when we grow in our awe and wonder and trusting-faith in God, rightly honoring Him as Lord, these gifts will be normalized in our lives. We are supposed to be living lives that look like the Bible. We should be disturbed when our churches and lives fall short of the biblical record. But the disturbing should lead us to repentance *and* to expectation for more of God, to go deeper with Him, and to pursue everything He has for us. Every supernatural interaction, prophetic example, miracle, provision, and healing recorded in the book of Acts is to be our normal. **A Holy Spirit led, supernatural-life is the NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

2. Mid Term: Describe Norman Grubb's seven points of personal and continuous revival. This is a small book, your paper can be short, keep to a **maximum of 500 words**. Please do not fill up your assignment word count with copied and pasted scripture. A few scriptures are fine and good, but learn to also use your words to describe revival for this assignment.

3. Final paper: *Visions Beyond the Veil* has been chosen because it demonstrates how God gives revelation to people that is consistent with His Word and demonstrates our need for full trust and obedience and dependence upon the Holy Spirit in everything. *Visions Beyond the Veil* is a book about a revival that occurred in an orphanage among very poor, uneducated children who were rescued from the streets of China. When the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the children at the Adullam orphanage they began seeing visions, preached, and prophesied about things they had no prior knowledge of. They were too young and had little to no Bible education to have had the depth of revelation they were speaking of, but for the Holy Spirit who was teaching them everything. There was deep repentance in the children's hearts, increased prayer, and a burden for lost people came upon them. There was a great desire for the continual seeking of God's presence. They began accurately preaching the gospel in power and spoke of many heavenly encounters. These children learned these things through direct revelation. No man taught them. The Holy Spirit taught them. The leaders at Adullam did not interfere but allowed God to do everything He wanted and they faithfully wrote down all the

children’s stories. The Adullam leaders testify to the biblical accuracy of the many revelations these young, outcast, uneducated, former-street-beggar children were given through the Holy Spirit. Through the lives of these children, Adullam became a true New Testament example where the ministry of Christ was fully realized through children.

The final paper is a response paper to this book. Answer these four questions:

1. From chapter 4 what insights did you gain about heaven?
2. From chapters 6 and 7 explain the children’s understanding of angels and demons.
3. Chapter 10 explains God uses those things (people) that are despised in this world to expose those who are foolishly wise and self-sufficient in their own eyes. Explain our need for humility and childlike faith.
4. Page 91, “Eye Witness of Past Bible Events” explains visions the children have had of biblical accounts. I have had several similar. Write and explain if you have had any similar experiences. Or, write about your reaction to the children having these in person experiences of biblical accounts through the Holy Spirit.

1,000 max word limit.

4. Tier 3 reading and paper: From Dr. Randy Clark’s book, *The Essential Guide To The Holy Spirit*. Due by the end of week 6.

1. Explain Dr. Clark’s thesis.
2. Explain the ongoing division in the church over the Holy Spirit.
3. Answer, What are the distinguishing marks of a work of the Holy Spirit.

1,000 max word limit.

Zoom Meetings:

We will meet weekly via Zoom. Meetings will vary from week to week but primarily the discussion will center on testimonies. Each week students are encouraged to bring testimonies of healings, preaching the gospel, or other opportunities to share God’s love. The zoom meetings are required, either in person or by watching the recording later in the week. The purpose is to stir each other’s faith. The testimonies are a method of provoking one-another to greater faith. Testimony says, “do it again, God,” so it raises our faith. A recurring link will be provided for these. The weekly recordings will be sent via email to the whole class, unless some sort of confidential conversations occur that make sharing sensitive.

Course Readings and Assignments dates:

Week beginning Monday	Readings, videos, etc.	Assignments
Wk 1 – Sept 7	Watch: https://youtu.be/oNi_s7129Os	Acts 1-4 Weekly assignment

	<p>Read: The Book of Acts, with special reference to the chapters 1-4</p> <p>Zoom: Wednesday, Oct 9 8pm EST</p>	
Wk 2 – Sept 14	<p>Read: Acts 5-8 Begin also: <i>Continuous Revival</i></p> <p>Zoom Wednesday, Oct 16 8pm EST</p>	Acts 5-8 Weekly assignment
Wk 3 – Sept 21	<p>Read: Acts 9-12</p> <p>Zoom Wednesday, Oct 23 8pm EST</p>	Acts 9-12 Weekly assignment
Wk 4 – Sept 28	<p>Read: 13-16</p> <p>Zoom Wednesday, Sept 30 8pm EST</p>	<p>Acts 13-16 Weekly assignment</p> <p>Midterm paper: Norman Grubb's Seven points.</p>
Wk 5 – Oct 5	<p>Read: 17-20 Begin reading: <i>Visions Beyond the Veil</i></p> <p>Zoom Wednesday, Oct 7 8pm EST</p>	Acts 17-20 Weekly assignment
Wk 6 – Oct 12	<p>Read: 21-24</p> <p>Zoom Wednesday, Oct 14 8pm EST</p>	<p>Acts 21-24 Weekly assignment</p> <p>Tier 3 student papers due: Randy Clark's, <i>Essential Guide...</i></p>
Wk 7 – Oct 19	<p>Read: 25-28</p> <p>Zoom Wednesday, Oct 21 8pm EST</p>	Acts 25-28 Weekly assignment
Wk 8 – Oct 26	<p>Finish reading</p> <p>Zoom Wednesday, Oct 28 8pm EST</p>	<p>Final paper due: Response questions to H.A. Baker's, <i>Visions Beyond the Veil.</i></p>