

THE FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Isaiah 8:18, Mark 16:17, 18, Obadiah vs 17

The fundamental nature of the Christian faith is the experience and enjoyment of life in the supernatural. The word “*fundamental*” means “*forming a foundation*”, “*of great importance*”, “*serving as a starting point*”, “*an essential part*”. These adjectives described the place and position of supernatural experiences in the Christian faith.

The Christian religion started with signs, it is sustained by signs and will be consummated in the end by supernatural signs. Permeating the entire length and breadth of church history are stories and testimonies of how ordinary men accomplish extraordinary things for God and in His name by faith.

The signs, stories and testimonies evident in the lives of almost all true believers confirmed the possibility, reality and transcendence of life lived in partnership with God and His daily intervention and involvement in the affairs of men.

In a world filled with problems, troubles, trials, necessities, denials, difficulties and frustrations which often physically handicaps men, every Christian and believer should know and clearly understand time tested, trusted and God approved approach to problem-solving, survival strategy and steady progress.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Supernatural Foundation of the Christian Faith
2. Supernatural survival and sustenance of believing people
3. Experience and enjoyment of the supernatural by divine connection

1. Supernatural foundation of the Christian faith

Luke 1:34-37, Acts 10:38, Hebrews 9:14, Romans 8:11

Jesus Christ is the founder and foundation of the Christian faith. His birth, death and resurrection as well as His ascension and entire life and ministry are landmarks or milestones of journeys that has clear supernatural dimension and magnitude. The miracle ministry of Jesus span through every realm of nature. He performed miracle on land, in the sky and on the seas. He cured diseases, revived the dead and demons obeyed Him. It is interesting to note that the means by which Christ attained and achieved all He did while on earth are well described in the Bible and traceable.

Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, the same power that came upon Him in baptismal measure in river Jordan at the commencement of His ministry. His sacrifice, death and resurrection were all mediated by Holy Spirit's power. This He made available to His disciples who gathered together in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost. Following Holy Spirit's baptism, they went out as gallant soldiers – army of the Lord to conquer and change the world of their time. The evidences of their exploits are still with us today.

Holy Spirit's baptism and power is the key that connects men with supernatural experiences and divine possibilities. As we confront life's difficulties and tries to excel in a morally bankrupt world, Holy Spirit's Baptism, power, gifts and fruits is what we need today.

2. Supernatural Survival and Sustenance of Believing People

Genesis 49: 22-26, Exodus 3:1-4

What the scriptures stated about Joseph and the Burning Bush, representing Israel and their experiences through the ages is also true about Christianity. Several failed attempts to render Christianity and the Bible extinct over several centuries of human history pointed to divine origin and supernatural nature of our anchor. At least thirteen supernatural manifestations can be highlighted from the lives and experiences of those who walked with God and believed in Christ before us –

i. Supernatural life

e.g Lazarus John 11:25. His case gives us a picture of what God can do with debased, corrupt, degenerate human nature. Jesus can reverse both physical and spiritual decay and ruin no matter how long the sufferer has been in such a state.

ii. Supernatural walk

e.g Peter's walk on the sea Mathew 14:25-29

iii. Supernatural call

a. Call to salvation - Saul became Paul 1 Timothy 1:12-14

b. Call to Service - Moses and the Burning Bush Exodus 3:2

John 1:12 God gives us power to be and become all that He ordained us to be and become.

iv. Supernatural heart

Promised in Ezekiel 36:26-27.

Received by King Saul in 1 Samuel 10:5-6, 9.

Stephen demonstrated it in Acts 7:57-60.

God promised to replace our hearts with a new one that can make it easy for us to walk in His ways

v. Supernatural Revelation and Guidance

e.g Prophet Ahijah when the wife of Jeroboam visited him in 1 Kings 14:1-5

Elisha and Syrian Army 2 Kings 6: 8-12, Haggai in Genesis 21:19

vi. Supernatural utterances and pronouncements

e.g speaking in tongues Acts 2:1-4

Paul and Elymas Acts 13:7-11

Elisha 2 Kings 3:16-18. Provision of water for troops

- vii. *Supernatural strength*
Promised in Deuteronomy 33:25, Psalms 91:16
Fulfilled in i. Moses Deuteronomy 34:7 (at 120yrs)
ii. Caleb Joshua 14:11 (at 85yrs)
iii. Sarah Hebrews 11:11 (at 89yrs)
- viii. *Supernatural protection and preservation*
Promised in Psalm 34:7
Enjoyed by Elisha and his servant 2 Kings 6:15-17
- ix. *Supernatural Healing/Miracles*
Promised in Romans 8:11, Exodus 23:25-27
Enjoyed by i. The lame at Beautiful Gate Acts 3:6
ii. Dorcas raised by Peter Acts 9:36-37, 40
- x. *Supernatural Provision*
Promised in Psalm 37:25
Enjoyed by i. Widow of Zarephath/Elijah 1Kings 17:15,16
ii. Wedding couples at Cana in Galilee John 2:7-9
- xi. *Supernatural Deliverance*
Promised in Isaiah 49:25
Enjoyed by i. The three Hebrew children Daniel 3:27
iii. Daniel in Lion's Den Daniel 6:20, 21
iv. Peter in Prison Acts 12:8-18
- xii. *Supernatural Progress and promotion*
Promised in Isaiah 49:23, Deuteronomy 28:1, 12-13
Enjoyed by i. Joseph in Egypt Genesis 41:38-40
ii. Daniel in Babylon Daniel 1:18-20

God created the posts, qualified them for the appointment and presided over the interview panel

- xiii. *Supernatural Transition, Translation and Glory*
 - i. Enoch Hebrews 11:5-6
 - ii. Elijah 2 Kings 2:11

All these we have the privilege of enjoying if we are connected to Christ and to God; and if we remain connected. No matter how terrible and difficult things become in the world, we can still get the best if we learn to walk and work with God without distraction.

3. Experience and enjoyment of the Supernatural by divine connection

Isaiah 8:18

In the final analysis, it is whom you know in life that will give you much more than what you know. Connecting to and benefitting from the anointing and Holy Spirit's supernatural power and activities requires certain deliberate steps, choices and actions –

1. Relationship with God Mathew 7:7,11
2. Accepting Christ John 1:12
3. Knowledge of God's will 1John 5:14
4. Faith in God and His word Mark 11:22, Luke 1 :37
5. Righteous living combined with fervent prayers James 5:13-16
6. Fasting Mark 9:25, 28-29
7. Vows and covenant with God if your faith is insufficient to carry you through to your miracle Psalms 89:34
8. Confidence in, request for and acceptance of prayer-help from elders in Christian faith and faithful ministers of God Mathew 10:40-41, James 5:14

Jesus described healing, deliverance and signs/miracles as “*children's bread*”. God delights in feeding His children consistently and regularly much more than earthly fathers. You can be fed right now by connecting through in with our supernatural God and loving heavenly Father. Connect now and remain connected; divine help is coming your way!