



## THE SUPERNATURAL

January 2013, Ps Stephen Smith

Everything created by God has a specific purpose. God never creates anything at random. If He gives us His supernatural power through His Son, Jesus, it is because we need it to carry out the Great Commission He gave us. When we ignore the purpose of something, we pervert its function, people use it ineffectively, and negative results ensue.

To reveal Himself as the supernatural and all-powerful God, He sent us His Holy Spirit. There is no other means by which we can know Him. God cannot be defined because no person has the mental ability to describe the infinite or the eternal.

**E. M. Bounds** in his book *Power through Prayer*, wrote,

*What the Church needs today is not more or better machinery, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use - men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.*

*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.*

Jude 20

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*

Ephesians 6:18

**The Holy Spirit helps us pray.**

*And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groaning that cannot be expressed in words.*

Romans 8:26 (NLT)

**Through prayer and fasting!**

("this kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.")

KJV - cast out, consumes, destroy, disinherit, dispossess, drive out and expel without fail.

*And Jesus said to him, If you are able! All things are possible to him who has faith.*

*Straight away the father of the child gave a cry, saying, I have faith; make my feeble faith stronger.*

*And when Jesus saw that the people came running together, he gave orders to the unclean spirit, saying to him, You, spirit, who are the cause of his loss of voice and hearing, I say to you, come out of him, and never again go into him.*

*And after crying out and shaking him violently, it came out: and the child became like one dead; so that most of them said, He is dead.*

*But Jesus took him by the hand, lifting him up; and he got up.*

*And when he had gone into the house, his disciples said to him privately, why were we unable to send it out?*

*And he said to them, nothing will make this sort come out but prayer.*

Mark 9:23-29 (Bible in Basic English)

*Is not the neglect of this plain duty (I mean fasting, ranked by our lord with almsgiving and prayer) one general occasion of deadness amongst Christians?*

- John Wesley

*Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen and confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for...the kingdom of God.*

- Andrew Murray

## What is fasting?

*The Greek word is Nēsteia – the word simply means “not to eat.” Fasting is abstaining from pleasures, including at times physical food for spiritual purposes.*

### THREE WAYS PRAYER AND FASTING WILL BRING THE SUPERNATURAL:

#### 1. Prayer and fasting releases a fresh anointing of spiritual power.

Jesus fasted before beginning his public ministry. Jesus had not done a miracle until after he fasted and prayed.

*And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the spirit into the wilderness.*

Luke 4:1

*And Jesus returned in the power of the spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through the entire region round about.*

Luke 4:14

#### 2. Prayer and fasting opens our ears to hear God’s still small voice.

*So he said, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.’*

*Then he said, ‘go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord. And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.*

*And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*

*So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him.*

1 Kings 19:10-13

We find the prophetess Anna is seeking God in fasting and prayer.

*And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;*

*And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day.*

*And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the lord, and spoke of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

Luke 2:36-38

#### 3. Prayer and fasting releases the supernatural within you... your city and your nation...

*The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].*

James 5:16b (Amplified)

*If my people who are called by my Name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

2 Chronicles 7:14

Abraham Lincoln, so recognized the power of fasting and prayer that he declared a “national day of humiliation and fasting and prayer” on April 30, 1863.

### FASTING WITH A PURPOSE

*Our greatest victories are won on our knees and with empty stomachs.*

- Julio C. Ruibal

*I set apart this day for fasting and prayer to God for His grace; especially to prepare me for the work of the ministry, to give me divine aid and direction in my preparations for that great work, and in His own time to send me into His harvest.*

- David Brainerd – April 19, 1742

*If you say, 'I will fast when God lays it on my heart,' you never will. You are too cold and indifferent to take that yoke upon you.*  
- D.L.Moody

## What is Biblical Fasting?

Fasting is the voluntarily denying oneself of pleasures (which includes) going without food in order to focus on prayer and fellowship with God.

Let's look at Ezra.

*Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.*

Ezra 8:21 (NKJV)

1. *To seek from Him the right way for us*
2. *And [for] our little ones*
3. *And all our possessions*

*For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "the hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake him.*

*So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.*

Ezra 8:22-23 (NKJV)

## HERE ARE 7 BIBLICAL PURPOSES OF FASTING:

### 1. For Humility.

*But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.*

Psalms 35:13

*Do you see how Ahab has made himself low before Me? Because he has made himself low before Me, I will not send the evil in his life-time, but in his son's time I will send the evil on his family.*

1 Kings 21:29 (Bible Basic English)

### 2. For Closeness.

*And you will go on crying to me and making prayer to me, and I will give ear to you.*

*And you will be searching for me and I will be there, when you have gone after me with all your heart.*

*I will be near you again, says the Lord, and your fate will be changed, and I will get you together from all the nations and from all the places where I had sent you away, says the Lord; and I will take you back again to the place from which I sent you away prisoners.*

Jeremiah 29:12-14 (Bible Basic English)

*Therefore also now, says the Lord, turn and keep on coming to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning [until every hindrance is removed and the broken fellowship is restored].*

Joel 2:12 (Amplified)

*Fasting helps to express, deepen, and confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything - to sacrifice ourselves - to attain what we seek for the Kingdom of God.*

- Andrew Murray

### 3. For Understanding.

*Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.*

Psalms 119:18

### 4. For God's Direction.

*As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*

*And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.*

*So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.*

Acts 13:2-4

**5. For Deliverance.**

*Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage.*

Isaiah 58:8 (Message)

**6. For God's Intervention.**

For example, the Moabites and Ammonites and Meunites came against Jehoshaphat the king of Judah. It was a terrifying horde of violent people. What could the people do? What direction should they turn?

*And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.*

*And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.*

2 Chronicles 20:3-4

*Then, before all the meeting, the spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel, the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite and one of the family of Asaph.*

*And he said, Give ear, O Judah, and you people of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat: the Lord says to you, Have no fear and do not be troubled on account of this great army; for the fight is not yours but God's.*

2 Chronicles 20:14-15 (Bible Basic English)

The next day when the people of Judah went out, they found that the people of Moab and Ammon had destroyed one another, and it took them three days to gather the spoil, there was so much. What looked like defeat and calamity was overnight turned into stunning triumph.

Again the course of history was changed through the fasting of God's people.

**7. For Others.**

*And when you go without food, be not sad-faced as the false-hearted are. For they go about with changed looks, so that men may see that they are going without food. Truly I say to you, they have their reward.*

*But when you go without food, put oil on your head and make your face clean.*

*So that no one may see that you are going without food, but your Father in secret; and your Father, who sees in secret, will give you your reward.*

Matthew 6:16-18

Amen and amen!

Love you  
Pastor Stephen



## PRAYERS TO BREAK MINISTERIAL BARRENNESS

Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You that Your Word declares; "Herein is my Father glorified that you bring forth much fruit." Lord, as I come before You today, I know it is Your will for SOTERIA to be fruitful in ministry. You did not call us to become broke, busted, and disgusted. I call upon You today to make the ministry in which You have called me to be fruitful and multiply. Father, I call for an open heaven over my church even as the heaven opened over Jesus when He was baptised and the Holy Ghost descended upon Him in bodily shape. Father God, let the anointing of the Spirit descend upon me and my church today.

Lord, even as Elijah prayed and the heaven opened bringing forth rain on the ground beneath – even so, Lord, do the same with us. Let Your rain of fruitfulness come down on SOTERIA. I come against every act of barrenness assigned against my church and ministry in Jesus Name. I boldly decree that no weapon formed against SOTERIA can prosper.

Every strategic move of the spirit of barrenness to keep SOTERIA, my life and ministry grounded is cancelled, nullified, and reversed in Jesus' name.

From today, I declare and announce that great doors are being opened to and from SOTERIA. Effective doors are opened to us. From today, I decree that a door of utterance is being opened for us. SOTERIA'S voice will be heard in my city and nation. I decree that a door of faith is opened to us, and we have the supernatural operating in SOTERIA. We lay our hands on the sick, and they recover. Signs and wonders are following us as we preach the Word. I decree that a great and effective door of ministry is being opened unto SOTERIA, bringing us into a place of influence.

From today, my church - SOTERIA is bringing forth fruit. Every outreach that we set out to do is fruitful. People are getting saved in my church. Lord, I decree that lost souls are saved as we preach. The sick are healed, the lame walk, the blind see, and deaf hear in SOTERIA.

From today, the clouds hovering over SOTERIA to keep us grounded are replaced by the glory cloud of the presence of God.

From today, lack is no longer keeping us behind. Jehovah Jireh is meeting all the needs of SOTERIA. We have more than enough, and are fruitful in every good work.

Every spirit, every power waging war against SOTERIA and my ministry be confused and dismayed in your manoeuvres, in Jesus' name. My church and ministry is moving from minimum to maximum. My church is growing exceedingly. Our members are growing strong in the Lord. They are strong in the Word of God.

Every power, that refused to let us go, is removed by the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus. Any principality denying and tying up the destiny of SOTERIA and my ministry be cursed in Jesus' name. SOTERIA is moving forward, and we will not be denied any longer. Let all Pharaohs lose their grip on my church and ministry. As Israel came out of Egypt with abundance, my church and ministry is coming out in abundance. As Egypt drowned in the Red Sea, never to be seen again, all spirits hindering our progress is destroyed, never to raise their heads against us.

Lord Jesus, You said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." I lift up the banner of Christ. I lift up the name of Jesus. I lift up the Cross of Christ over my church, and I expect men and women, boys and girls to be drawn unto You. I rebuke the spirit of blindness that is blinding the minds of people from hearing and seeing the gospel that we preach to cease in their manoeuvres in Jesus' name.

Barrenness is a thing of the past in SOTERIA and my ministry.

Fruitfulness is our present and future.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.