

HALF LIFE

**Natural Supernatural**

# Recap

The problems/challenges in your **life** are **natural** with supernatural implications

The problems/challenges in your **spirit** are **supernatural** with natural implications

**Everything** that Jesus accomplished in His three year ministry He accomplished by the Power of the **Holy Spirit**, not His divinity

# Recap

## 2 Main Roles of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit first **convicts** us

The Holy Spirit's primary goal is **transformation** into **Jesus**

God the **Father**:  
law and holiness

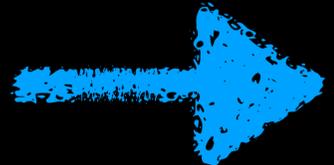
God the **Son**: grace  
and forgiveness

God the **Spirit**:  
convict and transform

The lost



The found



movement, transformation, maturity

# Recap

He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The **world** cannot receive him, because **it isn't looking for him** and doesn't **recognize** him. But you **know** him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. [John 14:17](#)

# Miracles, CS Lewis

“For this reason, the question whether miracles occur can never be answered simply by **experience**. Every event which might **claim** to be a miracle is, in the last resort, something presented to our senses, something seen, heard, touched, smelled or tasted. And our senses are not infallible. If anything extraordinary seems to have happened, we can always say that we have been the victims of an **illusion**. If we hold a **philosophy** which excludes the supernatural, this is what we always shall say. What we learn from experience **depends** on the kind of philosophy we bring to experience. It is therefore useless to appeal to experience before we have settled, as well as we can, the philosophical question.”

# Miracles, CS Lewis

“Men became scientific because they expected **Law in Nature**, and they expected Law in Nature because they believed in a **Legislator**. In most modern scientists this belief has died: it will be interesting to see how long their confidence in uniformity survives it. Two significant developments have already appeared—the hypothesis of a lawless sub-nature, and the surrender of the claim that science is true. We may be living nearer than we suppose to the end of the Scientific Age.”

“A **naturalistic** Christianity leaves out all that is **specifically** Christian.”

What are the **purposes** of miracles? Some would say miracles are supernatural events that exist outside the laws and confines of creation. In other words, miracles are things that should not happen, and that is why our responses are often puzzlement or denial. Nothing about a miracle makes sense when viewed with this perspective, and that is why they are so **difficult** to believe. [Theology of Work](#)

What if miracles are not unnatural? What if miracles are, in fact, more natural? What if they're **supra natural**? I have heard miracles described not as things that should not be, but instead as revealing the way things **should** be.

"miracles lead not simply to cognitive belief, but to worship, to awe and wonder. Jesus' miracles in particular were never magic tricks, designed only to impress and coerce. . . . Instead, he used miraculous power to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and raise the dead. Why? We modern people think of miracles as the **suspension of the natural order**, but Jesus meant them to be the **restoration of the natural order**." [Tim Keller](#)

# Normal vs Normative

**Normal:** everyday occurrence

**Normative:** accepting the possibility without hesitation

What would it take for you to **believe** in the miraculous?  
Or more to the point, the **power** of the Holy Spirit?

The main issue with the supernatural/miraculous is that we assume whatever occurs is **outside** of reality. The miraculous as Jesus demonstrates instead shows the natural as it ought to be

When they saw him, they worshiped him—  
but some of them **doubted!** [Matthew 28:17](#)

And even when you ask, you don't get it because your **motives** are  
all wrong—you want only what will give you **pleasure.** [James 4:3](#)

The supernatural (miraculous) does not cause **belief**

The book of Acts records at least **20 specific** miracles and tells of **9** times when clusters of them occurred.

The book of Acts covers from **30 AD to 62 AD** (approximately), that's about 32 years. So the **miracle math** (including clusters) is **0.9** miracles per year on average

# Opposition

Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You **lied to the Holy Spirit**, and you kept some of the money for yourself." 5:3

And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of conspiring to **test the Spirit** of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too." 5:9

"You **stubborn** people! You are **heathen at heart** and deaf to the truth. Must you forever **resist the Holy Spirit**? That's what your ancestors did, and so do you!" 7:51

# Witness

Then Peter, **filled** with the Holy Spirit, **said** to them, "Rulers and elders of our people..." 4:8

After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit. Then they **preached** the word of God with **boldness**. 4:31

Stephen (a man full of faith and the **Holy Spirit**)...  
None of them could stand against the **wisdom**  
and the Spirit with which Stephen **spoke**. 6:5, 10

# Calling/Purpose

And so, brothers, **select** seven men who are well respected and are **full** of the **Spirit and wisdom**.

We will give them this **responsibility**. 6:3

One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the **Holy Spirit said**, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them."...So Barnabas and

Saul were sent out **by the Holy Spirit**. 13:2, 4

# Calling/Purpose

Barnabas was a good man, **full of the Holy Spirit** and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to **look for Saul**. 11:24-25, 42 AD

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all **afraid** of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! 9:26

When the believers heard about this, they took him down to Caesarea and **sent him away** to Tarsus, his hometown. Vs 30, 34 AD

# Guiding

The **Holy Spirit said** to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage." 8:29

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because **the Holy Spirit had prevented them** from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time...but again **the Spirit of Jesus did not allow** them to go there. 16:6, 7b

Afterward **Paul felt compelled by the Spirit** to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before going to Jerusalem. "And after that," he said, "**I must go** on to Rome!" 19:21

# Prejudice

But the **voice** spoke again: "Do not call something **unclean if God has made it clean.**" The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven. Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean? [10:15-17a](#)

The **Holy Spirit** told me to go with them and not to worry that they were **Gentiles.** [11:12](#)

# Boldness

Saul, also known as Paul, was **filled with the Holy Spirit**, and he looked the **sorcerer** in the eye. **13:9**

**Filled, pimpremi:** primarily, to blow, to burn," later came to denote "to cause to swell," and, in the Middle Voice, "to become swollen,"

# Law and Grace

For it seemed **good to the Holy Spirit** and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these **few requirements**... [Acts 15:28](#)

The reason for these **4 abstentions** would have originated because of the society they lived in. The abstentions themselves originate from the Old Testament, more specifically Lev Chapter 17&18. [Ramesh DeSilva](#)

The book of Acts starts with the **advent** of the Holy Spirit. Luke is letting the reader know that all that follows is His work

There are **three** glaring examples of the Holy Spirit we **overlook** in the Book of Acts

# Community

**sharing** in meals..**shared** everything they had 2:42,44

They sold their property and possessions and **shared** the money with those in need Vs 45

They worshiped **together**..each day Vs 46

**shared** their meals with great **joy** and **generosity** Vs 46

**All** the believers were **united in heart and mind** 4:32a

And they felt that what they **owned was not their own**, so they **shared** everything they had. 4:32b

There were no **needy** people among them, because those who owned land or houses would **sell** them 4:34

# Community

A Holy Spirit **saturated** community is a **diverse** group of people, with a variety of **socio-economic** backgrounds and **ages**, coming together in generosity of **resources** and **spirit**, for the **common goal** of Christ-likeness. The Body of Christ is **held together** by the Holy Spirit.

"A Christian life -- or a person who calls himself or herself a Christian -- that does not leave space for the Spirit and does not allow the Spirit to go forward is a **pagan life**, dressed as a Christian one," **Pope Francis**

As a body without breath is a **corpse**, so the church without the Spirit is dead. **John Stott**

# Community

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities **the Spirit gives** us. **1 Corinthians 12:1**

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same **Spirit** is the **source** of them all **Vs 4**  
to one person the **Spirit** gives the ability to...to another the same **Spirit** gives...The same **Spirit** gives...the one **Spirit** gives...is from the **Spirit of God**...It is the one and only **Spirit** who distributes all these gifts. **He alone decides** which gift each person should have. **Vs 8-11**

But **we** have **all** been baptized into one body **by one Spirit**, and we all **share the same Spirit**. **Vs 13b**

# Suffering

The council then **threatened** them further...4:21

They **arrested** the apostles and put them in the public jail. 5:18

They called in the apostles and had them **flogged**. 5:40

The apostles left the high council **rejoicing** that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus Vs 41

The Jewish leaders were **infuriated** by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in **rage**. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit 7:54-55a

Around midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns** to God, and the other prisoners were listening. 16:25

# Salvation

The greatest miracle is when someone submits their **will**, **agendas** and **ego** to Jesus and **truly surrenders** all that they are

The Jews on Pentecost (Acts 2) The Samaritans (Acts 8) Simon (Acts 8)

The Ethiopian Treasurer (Acts 8) Saul (Acts 9; 22; 26) Cornelius (Acts 10)

Lydia (Acts 16) The Jailor (Acts 16) Some Athenians (Acts 17)

The Corinthians (Acts 18) The Ephesians (Acts 19)

In the same way, there is **joy** in the presence of God's angels when even **one sinner repents.**" [Luke 15:10](#)

Rejka

**full**

of the Holy Spirit

played later to tear down

showed up early to  
Walden office hours  
Church to set up tech and  
to play later to tear down

# Warning & Promise

they left with this final word from Paul: "The **Holy Spirit** was right when he said to your ancestors through Isaiah the prophet, 'Go and say to this people: When you **hear** what I say, you will **not understand**. When you **see** what I do, you will not **comprehend**. For the **hearts** of these people are **hardened**, and their **ears cannot hear**, and they have closed their eyes—so their **eyes cannot see**, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and **they cannot turn to me** and **let me heal them**.' Acts 28:25b-27

# Warning & Promise

So I want you to know that this salvation from God has also been offered to the Gentiles, and they will accept it." For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his **own expense**. He welcomed all who visited him, **boldly** proclaiming the Kingdom of God and **teaching** about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him. [Vs 28-31](#)

# Baptism

Sunday July 10th





**UCC in the Park**

**July and August**

Assistant Kids Director

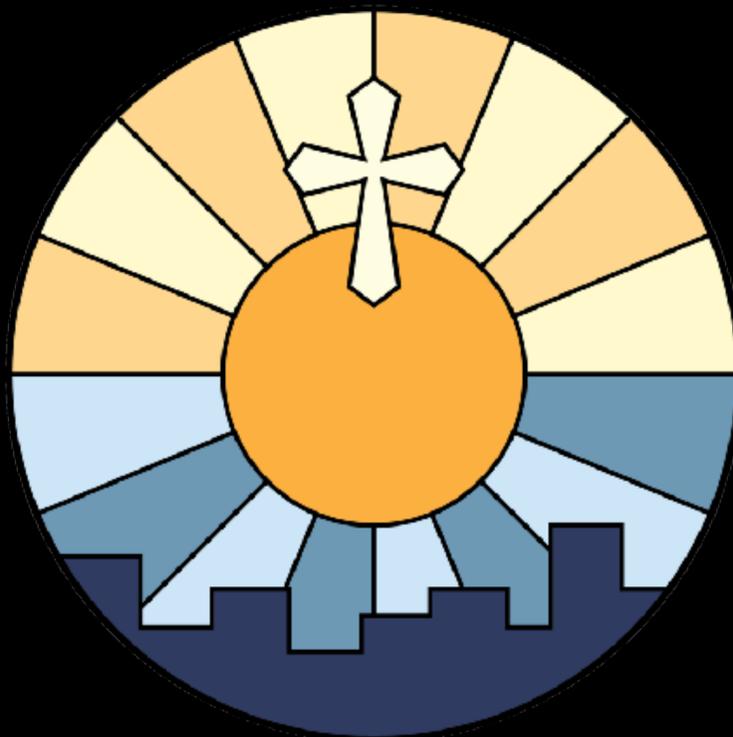
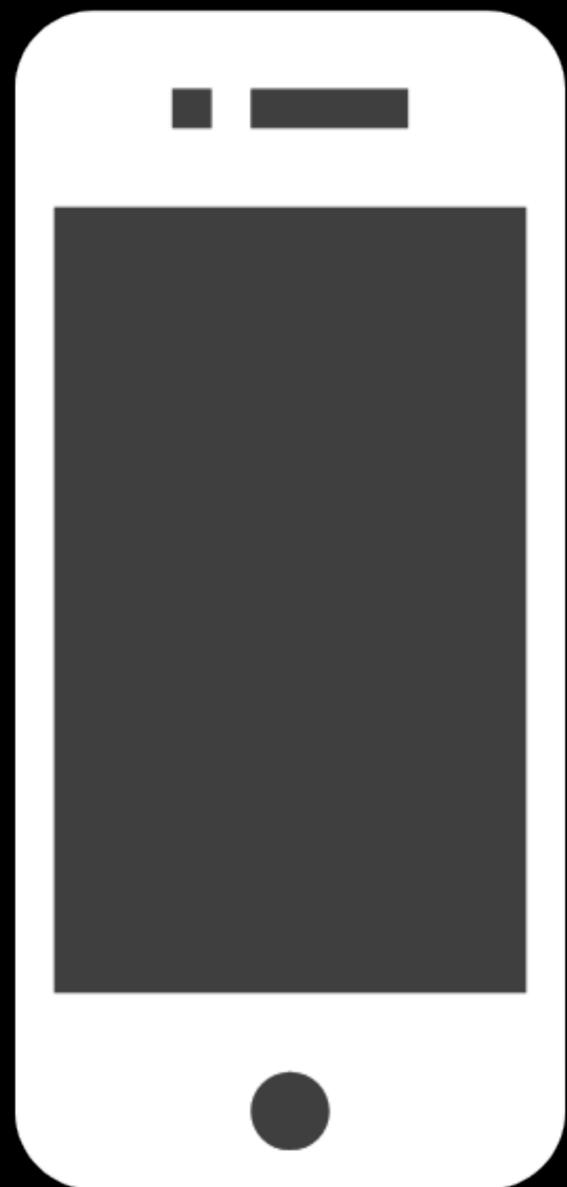
Worship Leader



# Kids Volunteers

**text2give**

226-909-0014



**eTransfer**

info@uccwaterloo.ca

(auto deposit)