

September 3, 2023

SUPERNATURAL (4 part series)

Part 1: Supernatural Deliverance

Part 2: Supernatural Healing

Part 3: Supernatural Protection

Part 4: Supernatural Provision

Heath Adamson shares the story of his deliverance from the occult and addiction in an article in Christianity Today magazine (November, 2018). Even as a child, the spiritual world was real to him because of his involvement with the occult. Heath remembers watching a chair slide across the floor and a candle floating off the coffee table. His experiences with the supernatural led him on an all-consuming quest for answers.

Then in eighth grade a female classmate sensed in her heart that God was whispering Heath's name. The whisper said something to the effect of, "Pray for that young man. You are going to marry him one day." They struck up a relationship, but when the school year ended, they went their separate ways. She attended church, but Heath had regular encounters with the demonic realm, became addicted to numerous drugs, looked like a human skeleton, and lived life in quiet desperation.

Heath then writes:

In my junior year of high school, I asked my physics partner about religion and he invited me to church. I actually went and one Sunday night, I lay in my bedroom thinking about who God was and what the truth could be. I felt like God himself had come into my room. I remember saying out loud, "Jesus, you are who you say you are." Deep inside, I believed he loved me the way I was. God's presence was so real that I could almost feel him breathing in my face.

I told my physics partner I would go back to church with him on a Wednesday night. I said, "Remember when the pastor asked if people wanted to ask Jesus to forgive them. Well, I think I need to do that." At the end of the service, a volunteer pastor said a prayer and shared the gospel. I was the only one who responded. That night, when I embraced the grace of Jesus, my body was supernaturally and instantaneously healed. My substance addictions vanished.

The very next day, I discovered something incredible in the mailbox. Inside was a handwritten letter from the girl who dared to listen in eighth grade when God touched her heart. It just happened to land in the mailbox the day after I met God. After I married that amazing girl, I found her prayer journals. That's when I discovered how God used the prayers of her and others, often whispered when no one was watching, to help soften my hardened heart.

Looking back at my salvation, I am the product of a girl who dared to believe when God whispered, an invitation to church, and the power of prayer. And most of all the Savior who stepped into my darkness and, instead of turning away in horror, showed me who he was and who I was created to be.

Welcome to Part 1: Supernatural Deliverance

Q: Why is the world so messed up? Why is life so hard?

Jesus, the Apostles, and the whole Bible teaches that there is a real but unseen spiritual battle we are dealing with.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- **The battle is "in the heavenly realms"** not as if these are far away, but here in realms we cannot see.

- The battle is with *spiritual forces of evil*.
- The whole Bible is about SUPERNATURAL DELIVERANCE from **the grip that evil has on us**.

Q: Who is the devil?

Revelation 12:9 (NIV) The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

- **Where does the devil now live?** Not in hell! But “in the unseen realms...ON EARTH.” *He was hurled to the earth, because of his organized rebellion. who leads the whole world astray.*

Jesus also three times called the Devil “the prince of this world”.

John 12:31 (NIV) Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

John 14:30 (NIV) I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me,

John 16:11 (NIV) and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Jesus came to “destroy the devil’s work”.

1 John 3:8 (NIV) The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

HOW WOULD JESUS DO THIS? FIRST he “binds the strong man”

Mark 3:27 (NIV) In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house.

HE BINDS HIM with the power of WHO HE IS, as the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE. Truth is REALITY. Jesus is the REALITY– the Devil is the DECEIVER.

John 8:32 (NIV) Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:36 (NIV) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Q: Why doesn’t God just destroy the devil and his demons?

HE WILL.

Revelation 20:10 (NIV) And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

HE WILL ... **BUT God has a purpose** for delaying the Devil's judgment.

Q: Can you think of a purpose for God's Delay? Here is one.

- God wants you to choose Between Two OPTIONS.
- If there are no options there is no choice.
- For us to choose to love and remain loyal to God, there must be an alternative, or it isn't really a choice. And God wants us to choose HIM for who he really is, and what he has done.

Q: What is the devil's main strategy?

- **DECEPTION and LIES!!! That Makes sense. A LIE is THE ONLY** alternative to TRUTH.
- **"What is truth?"** Truth is REALITY. God is reality. His definitions of what is his good and beautiful design is reality. To go against reality has consequences (even in this world). So, you can test REALITY by REALITY. Gravity is a REALITY. Deny it's reality to your own peril.
- **The Devil's Strategy:** To convince people his way is better than God's way. He must lie to do this. Jesus calls him the FATHER of LIES. AS the first liar, he is also the ultimate source of all lies, and all evil...which is built on lies. But "The Devil's Way" is now an organized GLOBAL EMPIRE.



MORE RECENT LIE: To convince people he isn't real.

HE USES MANY DECEPTIONS and SCHEMES.

THAT'S THE BAD NEWS: HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS.

- Jesus told his followers that *"if you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples,"* and when you hold to his teaching, *"you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32)

- **What's Jesus' MISSION? HE taught his disciples to pray and live:** *"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven."* That's our aim. That's our prayer. We seek God's ways in God's kingdom.
- **What's the Devil's MISSION? The devil "teaches" the opposite. Not Our Father...***hallowed be your name, your kingdom come..., but instead, "My Kingdom come, My will be done, on Earth as it is in HELL."* He can only convince people of this with LIES.
- (2 Cor. 11:14) He masquerades as an angel of light BUT he delivers **darkness, disorder, distraction, deception, death, and destruction!**

John 10:10 (NIV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Jesus established his Kingdom and set us free from **THE DEVIL'S DOMAIN.**

Q: Why do strong believers still have spiritual battles?

Satan (the Devil) is a prowling opportunist bully!

Luke 4:13 (NIV) When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Satan is an opportunist. He takes advantage of sickness, weakness, exhaustion, grief, and trauma. He's like the prowling lion cutting the weakest out of the herd. He hoped to pick on Jesus while he was weak!

Even in his weakened state, Jesus didn't fall for the temptation. Satan did not give up. He's still an opportunist waiting for an opportune time.

*Ephesians 4:26–27 (NIV) "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. [another way to translate the word here "foothold" is **"opportunity"**]*

JUDAS the betrayer of Jesus was famous for giving the Devil "an opportunity" in spite of such close proximity to Jesus himself.

The Devil circled Jesus and the 12 Disciples looking for an opportunity, some weakness to exploit.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV) Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

He prowled around till he saw Judas pilfering funds from the community purse. The prowling lion cut the weakest disciple out of the herd, and had his way with him. Judas

betrayed him for money. Then Judas hung himself. Jesus came to give life, but the devil came to steal, kill, and destroy.

CREEPY RIGHT? There are TWO DANGERS TO AVOID:

- Don't OVER focus on the Devil and Demons.
- Don't UNDER focus on the Devil and Demons.

FOCUS ON GOD AND THE GOOD NEWS: Jesus came to set us free!

Q: Are you struggling?

FOCUS ON THE GOOD NEWS: The cross changed everything. Jesus' power and authority is INFINITELY GREATER and JESUS gives you his **authority** and **presence** in His Kingdom.

James 4:7 (NIV) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

He's a "roaring lion", but he will "flee from you" with his tail between his legs!! All you need for this is JESUS and the TRUTH as Jesus taught it!



Talk It Over

Supernatural

(Part 1)

Supernatural Deliverance

SMALL TALK

1. Have you ever encountered a story or representation of the devil or demons in popular media or culture? How do you think these portrayals compare to what the Bible teaches about them?

VIEWPOINT

2. **Read Luke 4:1-13.** What do these temptations reveal about the nature of the devil's tactics? How does Jesus' response provide insight into how we can resist the devil's schemes?

3. **Read Mark 5:1-20.** What does this passage reveal about the power and authority of Jesus over demons? How does it illustrate His compassion and desire to bring healing?
4. **Read James 4:6-8.** What is the relationship between submission to God and resistance against the devil? How can we actively draw near to God and resist the devil's influence in our lives?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. Reflect on times when you might have faced temptation or spiritual struggles similar to what Jesus encountered in the wilderness. How did you respond, and what lessons can you learn from Jesus?
6. How can you demonstrate Jesus' compassion in your interactions with people and what practical ways can you be an instrument of healing and deliverance?

MAKING PROGRESS (THIS WEEK)

1. Think about an area in your life where you've noticed the influence of negative thoughts, temptations, or spiritual battles. How can you actively apply the principles of submission to God and reliance on God's Word?