

## SUPERNATURAL ZONE

# "Faith's Confirmation"

Pastor Rick Shelton

Sunday, July 5, 2009

- Why am I teaching this series of messages? We have experienced the full expression of God's power here. Every Christian should have some kind of supernatural experience in their lives with God.
- God gave me this scripture while we were on sabbatical, and gave it as a mandate for the rest of my life.
- **Psalms 71:17-18 (NKJV)** O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this *day* I declare Your wondrous works. <sup>18</sup> Now also when *I am* old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to *this* generation, your power to everyone *who* is to come.
- **Psalms 71:17-18 (NIV)** Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. <sup>18</sup> Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.
- We must show this next generation the power of God that will confirm what they believe, so they won't believe something they just 'heard' about.
- **I Corinthians 2:4-5 (NKJV)** And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
- Has your life been changed by God? Has He answered your prayer. . . does He speak to you? Have you seen God take something away that was there physically so you can say you have seen the healing power of God?
- We don't speak just to fill your head with information about God and Christianity, but it must be confirmed with the power of God in experience . . . the reality of God in your lives!
- (referring back to Matthew 17, the transfiguration) **II Peter 1:16-21 (NKJV)** For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. <sup>17</sup> For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup> And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; <sup>20</sup> knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.
- Churches speak about issues to help them to help themselves, and yet are totally irrelevant to the real issue that will deal with all others. . . the power of the Holy Spirit!
- Your faith cannot be based only on theological information about God. Everybody needs a confirmation of their faith! You need to know what it is like to see somebody healed or freed from 'something' when you prayed. . . or 'know' God answered a prayer when you cried out to Him. . . to be an eyewitness of His majesty. . . a 'confirmation of your faith!' Our faith must be confirmed by an experience of what we believe.
- Don't be taken in with a gospel that says "you speak the Word" and you will have your needs met and get healed and have all questions answered. NO! It is just as much a miracle to go through an extremely difficult situation where things didn't work out the way we prayed, yet He sustained us and lifted us with His grace in the midst of it.
- There's a book about Billy Graham, titled "Billy, the Early Years." When he was in his twenties, he was having crusades and they were growing. Charles Templeton was also having crusades and was touted as being the

greatest evangelist of the generation. Templeton was preaching for a week at a church, and saw in the pastor's library a whole section of books written by atheists, Darwin's theory, etc. He devoured them and bought more to read. After a while he became a well-known atheist, leaving the ministry and his faith. That put Billy Graham in a 'crisis of faith'. (That was actually a good thing because Christians get labeled as having a 'head' mentality, blindly believing what you are told without 'knowing' for yourself.) Billy's wife, Ruth, told him to read them with the Bible beside them, and seek God, and see what He has to say about it. While Billy was out of the country in Europe, he stayed with an older, wise man. When Billy voiced his struggle, the man said, "We must pray and seek God. You're missing the power of the Holy Spirit in your life." They prayed for hours. Many had said he had head knowledge, but had never 'experienced' God. He did, and later said he had a 'spirit baptism', that settled the crisis. When he returned home, the crusades were noticeably different. Billy said he had known God with his head, but now he had experienced the tangible presence of the power of the Holy Spirit in his life.

- 'Doubts' in a child's mind are actually a mechanism God uses for the child to investigate what he believes, otherwise he would always believe what he had been told and his faith would be shallow.
- To probe philosophy a little tends to lead man away from God; to probe philosophy more deeply tends to lead man back to God.
- In this series we will talk about the person and the works of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to confirm our faith.
- The number one way to confirm God's power is with the Holy Spirit baptism.