



Naturally Supernatural | Ryan Wekenman | 6.29-30

Weekly Study

SHARE

- Take a few moments as a group to settle in and go around sharing **Highs & Lows** from this past week.
- Have individuals reflect on this series sharing how different parts have impacted their lives and thought processes

This is Week 7 of **Unseen & Eternal**, there's more than what meets the eye. There's a world we can't see that affects the reality we experience. And it seems in our cultural moment that there's a hunger for the spiritual and a fascination with the supernatural. If you feel like there's more going on than what you can see, you're right.

The Apostle Paul tells us to **“fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18)**. In today's culture, with the rise of witchcraft and astrology, it's crucial to discern supernatural elements. Jesus warned us about the enemy's counterfeit truths, which aim to steal, kill, and destroy. We need to learn more about the unseen and eternal to stay aligned with God's purpose.

- Was there anything about this week's message that was challenging or convicting to you? Explain.
- Going off of what the Apostle Paul says and what this whole series has been about, what have you been fixing your eyes on that is more temporary rather than what is eternal?

GROW

Read John 17:15-18

In this passage Jesus is praying for his Disciples, who are going to be sent into this world to be a light to it. Some of you are really good at knowing you're not of this world. The supernatural part comes very easy to you. Quiet time is your favorite part of the day. You always have worship music on. You're praying. You're fasting. You feel very comfortable connecting with the unseen and eternal. You know you are not of this world. THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING. However, Jesus is also sending you into the world. You have to learn to speak the language of the world. You have to learn culture. If your coworker who isn't a believer only ever hears about those things they're just going to think you are weird. Others of you are really good at knowing you've been sent into the world. You've gotten real comfortable in the world. Now it's time to realize you are not of the world.

- What stands out to you in this prayer Jesus makes for His disciples?**
- Why do you think Jesus emphasizes both "not being of the world" and being "sent into the world"?**
- Do you identify more with those who are deeply connected to the spiritual aspects (praying, fasting, worship) or those who are more engaged with the world (work, social activities, culture)?**

MOVE

Read Romans 12:2 & Read Read 1 John 2:15-17

This verse from Romans is telling us to not conform to what the world's ways are and how the world has unhealthy, dangerous patterns that individuals get stuck in but rather as followers of Jesus we should be transformed by the renewing of our minds. This doesn't always mean we have to get rid of things in our life but it does mean we need to begin viewing things differently.

Just like the passage in 1 John tells us that the world pushed us into living lives with lust of the flesh, eyes and self pride. This can communicate that not everything is bad but the way we view them can be very dangerous. Sex isn't a bad thing but the world has perverted it against God's original intention. Money isn't a bad thing but the bible says that it is the root of all even because when our flesh becomes greedy we use it for evil rather than good.

- How can we begin to view things differently, as suggested in the context? Think of examples like sex, money, or success. How can we align our perspectives on these with God's intentions?**

- What challenges do you face when trying to resist conforming to the world's patterns? How do you overcome them, and what support do you need from the group?**

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to address various issues within the church at Corinth including divisions, moral and ethical problems, questions about worship practices, and concerns about the use of spiritual gifts. The letter is aimed at correcting behavior, providing doctrinal guidance, and encouraging unity within the church.

In verses 20-23 Paul emphasizes his freedom in Jesus but also his voluntary choice to serve others to bring them to faith. Paul adapts his behavior to relate to Jewish people and those who follow Jewish law, even though he is no longer bound by that law. Paul also adapts his behavior to relate to Gentiles, those who do not follow Jewish law, while still adhering to the moral teachings of Jesus. Paul is willing to identify with those who are weak in faith or conscience to reach them effectively. His ultimate goal is the same mission we have here at Red Rock, the Make Heaven More Crowded.

- What challenges do you face when trying to adapt your behavior for the sake of the gospel without compromising your beliefs?**

When we reflect on Ryan's illustration with the balloon, we see two types of people. One being just the balloon, floating with no care for others interpretation of our actions so focused on the supernatural. Then there is the individual, just like the string on the ground, where an individual is so unaware of the supernatural that they are so caught up in the worldly things. Paul clearly demonstrates a balance between the two. Paul did and saw many supernatural things, always aware of the supernatural, but also grounded himself to the mission of being in the world but not living like the world.

- Reflecting on Paul's example, how can we apply this principle of becoming "all things to all people" in our daily interactions with non-believers while being true to our faith journey?**
- Ryan's illustration with the balloon and string shows two extremes: being too focused on the supernatural or too caught up in worldly things. Where do you see yourself on this spectrum? How can you find a better balance like Paul?**

PRAY

Share any prayer requests, write each one down on a piece of paper, and have each person pick a prayer request to pray for throughout the next week. Let this be a meaningful moment to pray for someone you may not know well, and to be prayed for by someone whose identity is unknown to you.