
Compelled By Love

Part 4 - Kingdom Ways #1

Declare and Demonstrate

Have you ever had the chance to see up close magic? You know, the stuff that won't win you a girlfriend in high school? You know the type... You know that there's something going on, and what you see happening isn't really what you know to be true, but you just can't put your finger on what's going on.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5 (ESV)

"Apart from me, you can do nothing..."

Where We've Been So Far

He's a good-news God!

A Love Encounter

Anyone/Anywhere/Anytime

Where We're Going

John 15:5, translated woodenly from the Greek:

"The one who remains in me, and I in them, this one brings forth much fruit, because apart from me, you have no power to do nothing." (Greek has double negatives!)

Power to Do Something

'power' – *dunamis* in the Greek text

Without it, no fruit. How do we get it?

Acts 1:8 – “You will receive power (dunamis) when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth.”

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus **IS WITH ME** – until the very end of the age! **SURELY** He is with me! **ALWAYS!** And He's with you!

Like Jesus, we walk daily with the Spirit, Him empowering our choices, decisions and, in conjunction with His leading, we do what He brings us to.

Walking in Jesus' Way

Hebrews 2:1-4

Signs, wonders and various miracles: these are **ALWAYS** supernatural, and **SOMETIMES**, they are spectacular!

Matthew 10:7-8 (ESV)

Show and Tell

The reality that we've just unpacked is that **IT WON'T BEAR FRUIT** unless it's empowered by God, it's a Spirit-drenched activity.

Demonstrate – do the God-stuff that He gives us the opportunity to do as we walk with Him.

Declare – we tell people what just happened (or what is about to happen!).

Following God's Lead

We could just teach you a formula, and there are plenty of good ones – learn one if you want! But (and here's the importance of the process) this all stems from and leads back to a relationship with God!

Look at the life and style of Jesus.

Research and our personal stories bear this out – the most powerful transformation and life change happen in the relationships that we invest in.

God has entrusted us with a frontline: people who He loves, and people who He has carefully placed in your life, for you to be empowered to declare and demonstrate that love.

Activation

What if we started our day with the question, "Where are we going today, Jesus?" "Holy Spirit, what's on *Your* plan for my day?"

What would it look like to spend time learning to hear His voice, instead of maybe filling the blanks ourselves, because it's a little safer?

Learning to communicate with God is a life-long journey – just like every relationship. This is abiding.

How do you hear His voice? Follow His lead? It's not meant to be hard, or difficult, but the simplicity of just spending time with Him, following Him.

John 10:27

And then walk your day knowing that there is god-fruit when there's God-awareness in our lives.

Practice! And enjoy it!

Reflection Questions and Activities *(From This Week's Group Study)*

1. Have you ever taken Jesus' words from John 15 and thought about them in a relational context: we can't demonstrate and tell of God's love apart from Him?
2. Have you ever thought of your church, ministry or spiritual activities as requiring God's supernatural empowerment? What would look different if He was central to it all? How have these things been different when He has been empowering them?
3. What would it look and feel like if you were to take the pressure off yourself to perform, and simply allowed your personal connection time with God to inform and empower your frontline time with those around you?
4. How would you respond if God asked you to allow Him to do supernatural work through you? How would you feel if those looking on didn't notice? What is your heart response to God's invitation to living 'naturally supernatural'?
5. Have each group member take out their list of their frontline people. With a separate sheet of paper, allow the group to break up into solo time, and with some quiet worship music on, spend time praying for the people on their list.
6. Start with where we left off last week: how does God feel about them? Ask Him to remind you again of how He feels about them. Journal down on the paper what you sense God showing or telling you.
7. Take this a step further today: ask God what He would like you to do to demonstrate His love to them. Start to write down the ideas you have. Remember, we don't want to just come up with our own best efforts, we want to allow God to use us to supernaturally love them. As you learn to hear God, don't dismiss any ideas, but record them all, and then review your list to see which one/s God highlights.
8. Pick one that you can do in the next week and share it with another group member or the group as a whole.