

The Ten Commandments of the Supernatural

While teaching recently at an *Ignite & Unite Conference* in Montego Bay, Jamaica, I taught The Ten Commandments of the Supernatural workshop. I had so much fun teaching the workshop that I'd have bought the CD of the teaching for myself. The teaching is just good solid, foundational information that we need to hear over and over again. When followed, the commandments open the door for the Holy Spirit to manifest in our services.

I believe this teaching is just too good to leave at the conference in Jamaica. I want to share these commandments with you. Please share these commandments with those who work alongside of you in your children's ministry. Let's jump in

Commandment #1 *Thou Shalt Maximize Your Time*

I know that this doesn't sound spiritual, much less supernatural. But, believe me, it is. Most children's ministries operate within a defined time frame. In other words, your service begins and ends at specified times. And while we know these boundaries and that we only have a predetermined number of minutes with our children each week, many children's leaders and workers fail to maximize this opportunity.

There are two ways to maximize your ministry time.

1. *Start on Time.* It is incredible how often we put restraints upon the Holy Spirit because we have crowded our ministry time by starting late. Many consistently start their service late, shortening the time for the Holy Spirit to move. By starting late, we are under time pressure to get everything done in a shorter amount of time. Because of our tardiness, the teaching becomes less effective because we feel pressured to rush through the teaching. Altar ministry becomes non-existent. Should there be a few minutes for the altar ministry, we are interrupted by impatient parents walking into the service to pick up their children.

What about churches or even cultures that tend to arrive late? Shouldn't we wait for the kids to come so they won't miss anything? NOPE! Start on time. Waiting and starting late only perpetuates the problem. To solve this problem, try this positive reinforcement. As the children arrive, distribute On Time certificates UNTIL the designated starting time. Midway through the service, have the On Time certificate holders stand to their feet and make a big deal about this select group of children. Then, show the prize (make it something worth drooling over) that they will receive at the end of the service. Finally, when the On Time certificates are redeemed at the end of the service, make a big deal about the prize obtained by arriving on time. Then, do this again the following week. You could do this for several weeks or announce that you will do it occasionally. Believe me, this will get the children to your service on time. They will wake their parents at 5 AM to get the On Time certificate.

2. *Redeem the Time.* This is scriptural. *"Make the most of your opportunities because*

these are evil days." (Ephesians 5:16, *God's Word Translation*) We all know that if we wear a size 34 pair of pants, we shouldn't try to squeeze a 40-inch waist into the pants, right? And yet, we consistently try to squeeze 120 minutes of ministry into the allotted 90-minute time frame. We rush. We push. Racing through the over-packed schedule leaves no room to deviate because we have so much to accomplish. What if we placed LESS into the service and made time for Him to talk and demonstrate that He is in the room? Honestly examine your service. We all do things that are time eaters, pushing us up to the time when the parents are impatiently waiting for us to finish the service. Let's redeem the time. Let's make the brief few minutes with the children count by making room for the Holy Spirit to minister.

Commandment #2 *Thou Shalt Connect With Your Children*

This commandment ties in with the first commandment. Often, many children's ministry workers arrive just before class begins and then race to set up their room, locate the ministry equipment that mysteriously disappeared during the week, and then start the service. In doing so, they have set two enemies to a supernatural children's ministry in motion.

1. *Neglecting the Opportunity to Connect.* Believe it or not, many children's workers miss out on one of the most powerful ministry times. The opportunity for supernatural ministry can be in motion long before your feet hit the platform to start the service! You see, supernatural ministry can begin the very instant the first child walks into the room. That one-on-one time with an individual child before your class time begins can produce equal, if not greater, results than your platform ministry. How is this possible? 1 Corinthians 13 tells us of love's greatness and power, and Romans 5:5 tells us that this love is a supernatural work of the Holy Ghost. I have witnessed over and over again the ministry of the Holy Spirit as I connected with and gave my undivided attention and love to a child. It is incredible how 45 seconds or 2 minutes can eternally impact a child's life.
2. *The Wrong Kind of Connection.* In arriving just in the nick of time, there is a connection of the wrong kind that can thwart any move of the Holy Ghost. I don't need to explain much because this happens too often. Our late arrival causes our attention to be distracted from the children as we frantically put things together. We are bewildered as we race to make things happen. Soon, our confusion, bewilderment, and anxiety permeate the room and set in motion a ministry catastrophe. Why? Because there is a spiritual connection with the children. The children pick up and join in on our confused, anxious spirit. The result is chaotic.

Commandment #3 *Thou Shalt Connect with the Holy Spirit*

In sharing this teaching in Charismatic/Pentecostal conferences, I am embarrassed to mention this commandment. A person would think that this commandment isn't needed. After all, I am speaking to individuals who are part of denominations or movements that have emphasized the Holy Spirit. But, as we all know, just because we go into a McDonald's restaurant doesn't make us a Happy Meal. Going into water doesn't make us fish. So, going to and/or working in a Holy Spirit church doesn't make us a person of the Spirit.

Here is the reason for this commandment. In the life of the typical children's ministry leader or worker, if there is any connection throughout the week or in the service between the Holy Spirit

and the leader or worker, it is a brief mention in the opening prayer. I wish this weren't true. He is almost an afterthought. With this type of relationship, you can rest assured that outside of an act of God's mercy, the children are subjected to a lifeless, powerless, anemic classroom experience.

Do yourself a favor and write the following statement in the back of your Bible. *The revelation of the Spirit is proportional to the relationship with the Spirit.* In other words, the level of His manifestation or His demonstration is proportional to the level of connection. The revelation of His presence in public is directly linked to the level of intimacy in private. The greater the intimacy, the greater the power. It was demonstrated in Jesus' ministry. Through His pulling away from the masses to have time to communicate with the Spirit, He could flow in the supernatural.

There is so much that I could add as I share about this commandment, but space won't allow it. Let me close with this thought. The routine of life will always squeeze out of your day the time for communing with the Spirit. Become intentional. Become disciplined. Let go of the lesser to make time for the greater. Make time to connect for an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit throughout your day. In doing so, He will manifest Himself in and through you in ways you never thought possible.

Commandment #4 *Thou Shalt Prepare for Where You Want to Go*

Many people approach children's ministry with an attitude reflected in the song made famous by Doris Day "Que Sera, Sera". The words of the song's chorus are ...

*Que Sera, Sera,
Whatever will be, will be,
The future's not ours to see
Que Sera, Sera,
What will be, will be.*

While I don't claim to be a prophet, I will prophesy to those with this mentality. At best, where you are today will be where you are next month, year, and five years.

Commandment #4 is vital to those who refuse to stay where they are today. First, there is a conclusion and resolution that where you are today is not where you will be in the coming days. This decision will necessitate action on your part. *(Side note ... the reason for the action being on your part is that heaven has already determined that it wants to invade your service and children. Heaven is waiting upon you to take action!)* This action begins with you preparing for where you want to go.

This preparation is threefold. Because of a lack of space, I will capsule the thoughts and ask you to ask the Holy Spirit to expound and enlarge on the following few sentences.

1. *Prepare Yourself in the Word.* Know what the Word says about the Person and works of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit hasn't changed. How He manifested Himself through Jesus' ministry in the Gospels and the newborn Church in the Book of Acts is how He

wants to manifest Himself through you today! *(Side note ... stay in the Word. This will keep you from having false doctrine and getting goofy and weird.)*

2. *Prepare Your Children Through Teaching.* If you want a Holy Ghost church, prepare the way through the teaching. Teach on who He is, what He does, and how He loves to reveal His presence and power. Focus your teaching on where you want to go. *(Side note ... remember to be age-appropriate. Give child-size portions in each teaching. Don't overwhelm or overload.)*
3. *Prepare Your Staff.* They can't flow *with* you if they haven't connected *to* you. Please don't assume that they know where you want to go. The two essential steps to having your staff work together are Reveal and Congeal. Share your vision and passion (reveal) and then bring the team on board by solidifying (congeal) how every team member can make this happen.

Commandment #5 *Thou Shalt Minister in Boldness and Authority*

I am constantly amazed at children's workers' mealy-mouthed, namby-pamby presentation of the Gospel. While there is a place for fun and excitement in the delivery of the Good News, this can't be to the exclusion of a Holy Ghost-filled, power-packed, no-holds-barred expectation for God to show up and demonstrate His presence by His Holy Spirit. Often, prayers are perfunctory. The prayers are just a part of the check-off list of things that must be done. Altar calls are quick and meaningless. In many classrooms and children's church services, ministry is reduced to an information presentation void of any power to validate the Gospel.

How should our ministry be conducted? Well, let's go back to the example provided. I challenge you to take time this week and reread the Gospels and the Book of Acts. There was nothing mealy-mouth, namby-pamby about Jesus' ministry in the Gospels and the ministry of the believers in the Book of Acts. With authority and boldness, the Good News was taught and demonstrated. They taught. They demonstrated. And, it wasn't with a cowardly, iffy-type delivery. With great boldness and confidence, they preached, prayed, and saw God show up!

One of the most significant revelations we can receive is that when you and I stand up to minister, we aren't mere human beings. We are representatives of the most high God. We are His spokesmen. We are His means of seeing His will and desires manifest.

What has God given to us to enable us to be His representatives? First of all, we have God Himself living inside of us. He is not far off.. Secondly, we have His mighty, powerful Word abiding within us. Thirdly, we have His precious Holy Spirit abiding within us. His host of ministering angels are awaiting the sound of our voice. What more do you need?

Consider this ... Being mealy-mouthed and namby-pamby shows that we haven't recognized who we are and who is abiding within us. Come on. Let's speak and know that all of Hell is shaking. Let's pray and know that God is awaiting an opportunity to respond. Let's be bold and confident because we KNOW that we are the representatives of the most high God!

Commandment #6 *Thou Shalt Use Your Voice*

When I first started in the ministry, there was a phrase included in most wedding ceremonies that I conducted that isn't used anymore. Towards the end of the ceremony, as the officiating

minister, I would say, "If there is anyone present that objects to this wedding, let them speak now or forever hold their peace." If there were no objections, it was concluded that everyone was content with the marriage proceeding, and I would pronounce the couple man and wife.

Here is one observation that I've made concerning the moves of God. Those who see a move of God are noisy people. Sitting back and just watching the proceeding continue unchallenged just isn't tolerated. Holy Ghost people have come to terms with the reality that mental discontent isn't enough. Someone has got to stand up and begin to use their voice to declare aloud what God has promised concerning the outpouring and moving of His precious Spirit upon THIS generation.

Be assured that it isn't an exercise in futility. As we stand and interrupt the "ceremonies" by speaking God's Word, we:

1. *Notify heaven that we see the way things are and remind them of God's promises.* The sound of God's Word going into the heavenlies causes the Spirit of God to take action!
2. *Cause faith to arise within ourselves.* Why? Because faith comes by HEARING (not thinking). When we speak aloud the promises of God, faith swells up on the inside of us and causes us to boldly begin to act upon what we hear!
3. *Serve notice on the enemy and remind him that it is a new day.* TODAY is the day of the Holy Ghost. Satan's days of causing complacency and spiritual-lite services are over. TODAY is a day for the supernatural, and the first course of business for the supernatural is to serve a no trespassing order to Satan and his imps!

Let me ask you the (modified) question that I used to say in the marriage ceremony "If there is anyone present that objects to the services that you've been having, let them speak now or forever hold their peace." Come on. Stand to your feet right now and begin to make some noise!

Commandment #7 *Thou Shalt Acknowledge, Welcome and Honor His Presence*

The words of the chorus "Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome in This Place" are far easier to sing than to demonstrate. Often, we sing the song's words while our mind is thinking about the time and how much still needs to be done in our service. We have before us a carefully crafted agenda. The puppets are in place. The object lessons are lined up. The slides are prepared. The games are planned. All that we need is to get on with the service. All the while, the One whom we just welcomed with the words of our song sits idly by. The Holy Spirit knows that once again He has been restrained from accomplishing the will of the Father.

One of the most significant steps we can take in learning to flow in the supernatural is to acknowledge, welcome, and honor His presence. I know that you've prepared before the service. You've prayed. You've been in the Word. You've put together a fantastic lesson. But while this is tremendously important, restraining Him would make our preparation utterly useless.

Acknowledge that He is present. Verbalize your thankfulness for His presence. Finally, make Him feel welcome by listening to and obeying His promptings and leading. While the lesson is planned and the staff is ready, recognize that everything is subject to His step-by-step direction. There have been times that I've sensed His voice speaking to my spirit to push the lesson aside

to do something that wasn't in the lesson or to spend more time in a particular area than originally planned or to pause where we were in the lesson so that take action to back up what we've just taught with the understanding that we could pick up where we left off in the lesson next week. The Holy Spirit loves to be welcomed and obeyed!

One note of caution: Am I suggesting that we should abandon lesson preparation and "just flow"? NO!!! That is far from what I'm teaching. At one of our meetings, a young man came to me to tell me that he had learned from my teaching that he wouldn't have to study any more before a service. Instead, he could walk into the service and "flow" with the Holy Spirit. I have NEVER taught that. Instead, I encourage you to follow Paul's advice to Timothy. *"Study to show yourself approved unto God."* Study. Prepare. Study some more. Prepare some more. At the same time, recognize that the Holy Spirit is present and looking for an opportunity to speak through you and lead you step by step. Those who see the supernatural study and prepare while welcoming, acknowledging, and being sensitive to His presence.

Commandment #8 *Thou Shalt Be Sensitive*

I'll be candid. I hate, hate, hate to counsel people, especially those going through marital problems. To me, the answer to any marital problem is quite simple. It comes down to me asking one or two questions, "What are you doing now that you weren't doing when you were dating?" or "What are you not doing now that you were doing when you were dating?" Often, I find that familiarity has changed the whole scenario of the relationship. That "specialness" has disappeared in the marriage. Sometime in their relationship, one or both individuals stopped doing those special things or acting in that special way to keep their relationship the way it was when they were trying to *get into* the relationship. If their behavior during their dating days were anything like they are acting towards each other now, they would have never married, right?

How does this relate to a supernatural children's ministry? Those who flow in the supernatural are those who monitor their "specialness meter". In other words, these individuals walk in the same or even a greater sensitivity throughout their relationship with the Holy Spirit as they did at the beginning. Those who see the Holy Spirit move supernaturally are sensitive to His presence and strive only to do what would please the Spirit of God.

The apostle Paul gives this strong admonition:

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [do not offend or vex or sadden Him] ..." Ephesians 4:30 (The Amplified Bible)

Let's remember that according to John 14, the Holy Spirit, the *Parakletos* (Greek - the One called to walk alongside), is now constantly abiding within you. He is fully conscious of your every Word, thought, and action. Knowing His abiding presence within us should cause us to monitor our "specialness meter". With the sensitivity and "specialness" intact, we will flee anything that would grieve the Spirit of God in our daily lives and our ministry times. And, knowing that you value and treasure Him and His presence, the Holy Spirit will begin to move in an awesome, powerful way.

Commandment #9 *Thou Shalt Leave Your Pride at the Front Door*

This commandment is significant for three reasons:

1. *You will make mistakes.* As with developing a relationship with any person, there will be learning times to understand better who the Holy Spirit is, how to hear and recognize His voice, and how to flow with Him. In these times, you WILL make mistakes. It's a given. This doesn't mean that you are less spiritual. It is truly a learning experience! So, what do you do when you make a mistake? Apologize to Him. Secondly, publicly acknowledge your mistake. Public mistakes demand public apologies. Again, there shouldn't be any shame in making mistakes. It wasn't your intent to err. But you should own up to the error and let the children know that it was a mistake and that with God's help, it won't happen again.
2. *You will be pushed beyond your comfort zone.* Those who flow with the Holy Spirit and see the supernatural transpire will have their human senses shout, "Stop. You don't know what you are doing. This isn't like you! This is foolishness. What will people think about the colossal mess you will create?" Getting out of your comfort zone is never pleasant. Remember, those who walk in the supernatural never stay in the boat of comfort.
3. *Pride can become your greatest enemy.* Remember this. Pride is a double-edged sword. Your pride can keep you from attempting to flow in the supernatural due to the fear of what others will say about you. And, after seeing the Holy Spirit manifest through you, the sword can turn to destroy you and stop the flow of the Holy Spirit due to the pride and arrogance developed in your attitude, brought about by what others say about you. This can be eradicated by remembering that God is the source of the power. It's not you. Never has been and never will be. This should keep us humble and dependent upon Him!

Commandment #10 *Thou Shalt be a Dunamis Person/Ministry*

Just before Jesus' ascension to heaven, He commanded His followers to go to Jerusalem and await the promise of the Father. (Acts 1:4) At the fulfillment of the promise, the followers would be endued with power from on High (Acts 1:8), a power that would enable them to "be" or do their heavenly assignment.

We all know that word *power* used in Acts 1:8 is the Greek Word *dunamis*. This is the Greek Word from which we get our English words *dynamite*, *dynamic*, and *dynamo*. The *New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* teaches us about this Greek word "1411. *dunamis*, doo'-nam-is; from G1410; force (lit. or fig.); spec. miraculous power (usually by impl. a miracle itself):-ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work."

Because of the restraints imposed by wanting to be concise, allow me to briefly summarize how this *dunamis* applies to those who flow in the supernatural. Being a *dunamis* person will give you:

1. *Supernatural Ability.* We see *dunamis* in Acts 2 when Peter stood up to preach, and about 3,000 people were brought into the Kingdom. Though the Jewish high priest assessed Peter as an "unlearned and ignorant" person in Acts 4:13, the Holy Spirit enabled Peter to go beyond his natural ability and powerfully convey the Gospel on the day of Pentecost.

2. *Supernatural Authority*. Not only does the enduement of power bring supernatural ability, we see in Acts 3 that the dunamis gives an authority that transcends anything that you and I can create. Without reservation, Peter grabbed hold of the hand of the lame man and commanded him in Jesus' name to rise up and walk. This supernatural authority will cause the dunamis person to demand that situations and circumstances change!

3. *Supernatural Strength*. We've seen two different results of being a dunamis person in Acts 2 and Acts 3. Let's see what happened in Acts 4. Standing before Annas the high priest and other Jewish authorities, Peter and John were commanded to cease preaching the Gospel and the demonstration of supernatural ministry. Look at how the dunamis kicked in. Upon hearing their demands, the former cowardly Peter (his cowardice was repeatedly seen as Jesus was being tried), boldly stood before the leadership and with the strength of heaven declared that they must obey God and would continue to preach of what they've seen and heard unwaveringly.

Can you see the significance of this commandment? Those who flow in the supernatural MUST be dunamis people filled with heaven's supernatural ability, authority, and strength. Will you be that person?

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