

## SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE Ben Rudolph

---

Good morning Life Fellowship. And if you are not awake after that song, there is nothing I can do for you. That was awesome. I love singing about the name of Jesus. And the Worship Team with Pastor Jason always does an amazing job preparing our hearts. And what they sang about this morning, I'm not sure if you caught it, but it was about how we have been transformed, how we have something to declare, and how we have something to praise Jesus about if we are followers of His.

Last week Pastor Dan talked about the sermon that Peter preached at Pentecost. Two weeks ago I talked about the coming of the Holy Spirit, and how that radically changed everything. The people now have responded to the gospel. And if we respond to the gospel the way that God wants us to respond to the gospel, then that means there will be something different about our lives. And the things that we say and the things that we do are not going to be natural to us.

Today we will be continuing our Origins Series, and we will be in Acts Chapter 2. We are going to read the follow up to the coming of the Holy Spirit, the follow up of Peter's sermon to repent and be baptized, and the follow up of 3,000 people coming to know Christ. It was an amazing moment. It was the first major evangelistic movement of the entire church history.

And what we will see in the following verses today is that it did not end there, that when the Holy Spirit comes, and the Holy Spirit shapes us, He continues to work in a profound way. I think many times what we have in our mindset is that there are these impactful moments where the Spirit of God works, but then we just live our regular, ordinary lives the rest of the time. And what I want us to ask ourselves today is - how is the Spirit, how is the person of God shaping us every single moment of every single day?

So when we talk about origins, and the church as it should be, we will get it right here in this passage. I hope as we read this passage you will be thinking, *'I want to be a part of that church.'* Let's begin reading in Acts Chapter 2 and verse 42.

***“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”***

## SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE Ben Rudolph

---

So we still see this movement transpiring. It wasn't just a moment, but day by day people are now joining this movement of God in what we now call the church. And how did that happen? What did they do? What were they doing that was so amazing? Well it says in verse 42, "*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*"

So here is what they did. It was four things: there was teaching, there was fellowship, there was the breaking of bread which would have been communion, and there was prayer. Now does that sound revolutionary to you? How many of you have at least some understanding of teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer? Have any of you experienced any of that at any level?

So when we read that we see that those are the things that they are doing, and we realize it was just by doing those four things day by day that the outcome of those things was people were coming to know Jesus. Huh? I don't know about you, but when I read those four things that they were doing it doesn't blow me away. And I think that is because for most of us when it comes to living out these actions, these behaviors of the church, there is a massive difference in doing those things in a natural humanistic way and in doing those things in a supernatural Spirit filled way.

And what we see about this church is that it was formed and shaped by the Spirit of God and those four actions, these four behaviors, these four activities were things that were not done just in a traditional way or a cultural way, but rather in a supernatural way. And as I stand here before you this morning and I read this, I want to be a part of a supernatural church. Is that what you want? Do you want to be a part of a church like this?

So what I think we have to do is we have to confront some things in our own hearts and lives this morning, because the responsibility of creating a church like this was not Peter's sermon. It was not amazing teaching. It was not because of a dynamic children's program. It was not because of fantastic, moving experiences of worship. There was an ordinariness to this church that was supernatural.

And I think many times we walk into church as an experience to be consumed, as opposed to a people to be identified with. And what we see here in this passage is this supernatural church. If we actually break down this passage, verse 42 gives us these four activities, and then these four activities are explained in further detail in the following verses. And I want to point that out to you because each one of these four things is given a description in the following verses.

## SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE Ben Rudolph

---

Again, the four things were teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. Now look at verse 43. ***“And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”*** That is reference to the apostles’ teaching. Now many of us don’t equate signs and wonders with teaching, do we? We think teaching is this forty-five minute lecture that the pastors do. But we see this teaching activity being done as Jesus demonstrated it over and over and over.

When Jesus declared the kingdom of God He always demonstrated the kingdom of God. Always. The natural way of teaching is to just give the information so that people will know more about the Bible and more about God. The supernatural way to understand teaching is to hear the teaching and then to immediately want to go and demonstrate it to the world around us. We want to demonstrate the truth as the truth is real and the truth transforms. That’s what the apostles were doing.

The next activity was fellowship. Now when we think of fellowship some of us are thinking potlucks, right? *‘Hey, the church is having a fellowship and there is going to be food there.’* That word ‘fellowship’ in the Greek is *koinonia*, and it is a word that means ‘to share,’ or ‘to have a common need or a common sharing of things.’

Look at verse 44 where it says this: ***“And all who believed were together and had all things in common.”*** That is the same Greek word ‘*koinonia*’ referring to the fellowship. ***“And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”*** Now this is not Communism, people; please do not freak out right now. Some of you may be thinking, *‘So does the Bible teach Communism?’* No, it does not.

But here is what is so supernatural about this. History teaches us that in those days between ten and fifteen percent of the population of these major cities in the Roman Empire consisted of destitute, impoverished people. And that would have been way more than you and I may have experienced. Only two percent of the population controlled two-thirds of the entire income of the Roman Empire, just two percent. And then only between five to seven percent of aristocratic people were considered wealthy.

So the vast majority, the seventy percent of the population were just average, common people that just barely had enough money to buy food every single day. So it was supernatural that these people who were just common ordinary people were selling their things. It was truly profound.

And then verse 46 refers to the breaking of bread. ***“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.”*** This was not

## SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE Ben Rudolph

---

just taking a wafer and a little cup and enjoying it for a few minutes. There was a daily communion with each other and with God. They would share meals together.

Think about the people that you eat meals with. Who do you eat meals with? We normally eat meals with people that are like us, don't we? Or people we want to hang around with. But Jesus demonstrated over and over in the gospel that He always ate with people that were not like Him. If you study the meals in the gospel of Luke you will see that one of the most profound ways that Jesus was able to reach people far from God was to share a meal with them.

And in those days they only ate with people of their same social status and their same gender. If you were a man you did not share meals with women. If you were a slave you didn't share meals with your master. If you weren't a citizen you would not share meals with people who were citizens. You did not intersect with people who were not like you.

So here is a church, the first entity that is on the scene here, and it is revolutionizing culture and society by saying, '*All people are created equal in the sight of God. And all are welcome at the table.*' This was two thousand years ago, people. This was revolutionary. This was supernatural. People from all different backgrounds, all different races, all different socio-economy levels, and all different genders would come and share a meal together, because they were all equal at the foot of the cross. That is a beautiful picture of what the gospel was doing to this community.

Next there was prayer. "***Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.***" This was prayer that was not a lottery list of, '*Hey God, let's check these things off. I need you to do these things.*' This was prayer that was God centered and God focused. It was about communing with Him.

This is what supernatural looks like. I know what you are thinking. You want to experience that. You want to know what that is like. I don't know about you but my experience with church does not feel like this. It doesn't look like this. And so how do we get there? How do we get to the place where this is becoming a reality in Life Fellowship?

Have you ever met with someone who has never eaten at Chick-fil-A in their life? And you look at them like, '*What is wrong with you?*' What is the first thing you tell someone who has not eaten at Chick-fil-A? '*You HAVE to eat at Chick-fil-A. I'll take you right now and buy you a chicken sandwich.*'

## SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE Ben Rudolph

---

And what if their response to you is, *'Yeah, but I eat a chicken sandwich at McDonald's.'* (Laughter.) You would be thinking, *'Man, you just don't understand. Chick-fil-A baptizes their chicken in holy peanut oil. And it is one of the most wonderful, glorious things you could ever eat. The chicken sandwiches at McDonald's don't have two pickles. You just don't get it.'*

And that is just the way we think about the church. It seems so foreign to our minds like comparing McDonald's to Chick-fil-A. It is something that we have experienced in life as just simple and ordinary, but where is God? Where is the God who should be shaping our churches? We have let fads and trends and culture and tradition and whatever else create this system we call church today. And if we want to be a church that is shaped by God, we have to make some shifts. So I want to share with you this morning three shifts that we have to make in order to become a supernatural church. Three shifts that we have to make to become a supernatural church.

The first shift is this - we must zealously model Jesus. I just kind of broke down for you those four things the first church followed. We are not going to go deeply into those four things and how to practice them, because I think all of us are familiar with those four activities - the teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. We have some ideas, but we need to ask if our root system, our operating system in how we view those things is rooted in the person of God.

So the first shift we have to make is to zealously model Jesus. If you look at these four things that they did, why were they doing them? They had no playbook, they had no gospel written down, there was no book of Acts or Ephesians, there was no Lifeway; they were a breakthrough church. They had none of that. There was nothing, they had no resources, so what did they use? How did they come up with this?

They came up with this because they spent time with Jesus. When you look at what they were doing here, they were doing exactly what they saw Jesus do. They were a people who knew who Jesus was and they wanted to model Him because of the profound impact He had on their lives. They did not think that they had to do certain required things to follow Jesus. No, they knew they had been transformed by Jesus and they wanted to do these four things.

In a couple of months my dad is going to be preaching here at Life Fellowship on a Sunday morning. And my dad is more well known in the northeast and Midwest, but when people hear me preach after they have heard my dad preach, they always say, *'Man, I can hear your dad when you speak.'* Now why is that? Well, I am not trying to be like my dad, but I grew up with him. And we traveled together to youth rallies and events, and to summer camps, so I have heard my dad preach hundreds of times, literally

## SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE Ben Rudolph

---

hundreds of times. And just being around my dad and seeing the things he did impressed me so much that it made an impact on me.

And I think when we spend time with Jesus, and when we think about our church we wonder what is shaping us. What is shaping you when you walk into this room, when you drive into the parking lot, when you come into church, what do you think about? Do you think about a community of people that are shaped by the person of Jesus? Or do you think about an experience to be consumed?

We have to confront our understanding of church. Is church an event? Is church a location? Is church a building? Or is church the people? What we need to understand here in this passage is the Greek word *ecclesia* is used when they are talking about the church. And *ecclesia* is used over and over again in the New Testament, and that is the word they used to describe what church is. And that word *ecclesia* means ‘called out ones.’

The very first time Jesus uses this word is in Matthew Chapter 16 and verse 18. “***And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock,***” Jesus is talking about Peter’s confession of faith in Him as the Messiah. “***And on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***” Upon Peter’s confession God will build His *ecclesia*, and that is the first time it is mentioned in the New Testament.

So what is profound about that? When Peter, James and John and all the other disciples heard that, do you know what they would have thought of? They would have thought of Alexander the Great. And that was because a couple of years prior to this, Alexander the Great, one of the great military leaders of human history, essentially conquered the known world. From Europe to Asia to Africa, he conquered and brought a new kingdom and a new culture to really infiltrate and transform the known world. It was called Hellenization.

Alexander the Great would go in and conquer a city, but he wouldn’t destroy the city or the people. What he wanted to do was conquer them, and then to bring them in, to transform their cultural values to represent Hellenization. And a group of people would come from Greece and from the known kingdom, and they would come into these conquered cities and states to establish this culture. Do you know what they called these people that would come in to transform culture? They were called *ecclesia*, the ‘called out ones.’ They came to bring a new system and a new way of thinking for their lives, to transform the community and their culture.

And we need to think about ourselves as people that God has sent us for here. We are here not by mistake; we are here in Lake Norman for a reason. We are the called out

**SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH**  
**ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE**  
**Ben Rudolph**

---

ones that God has established here to show what the kingdom of God looks like. This is what it looks like to incarnate Jesus in our community. So we have to successfully model Jesus.

Look at the things the first church was doing. They were selling their possessions and giving them away. Why? Why would they do that? Why would they sacrifice so much? It was because they had just seen their Savior sacrifice His life for them. What is the motivation for sacrifice? Why would they behave that way when it doesn't seem natural to us to sacrifice? Are we supposed to post our Christmas gifts to be sold on eBay? If we do it is probably because we got bad gifts for Christmas, right? (*Laughter.*)

No, we don't post our gifts on eBay because we are using them. The only things we probably sell on eBay are things we don't use, or want, when we need a little extra money for vacation or some such. These people were selling their possessions, not because it made them feel good, but because they had seen the sacrifice of Jesus. And when you and I understand the sacrifice of Jesus and what He did for us, we should have no problem sacrificing for others.

Are we a people shaped by the gospel, shaped by the love of who Jesus is? Listen, modeling Jesus zealously can only happen when we are overcome by His love. We need to be so overcome by the love of Jesus and His grace for us. He took us in as sinners separated from Him and He transforms us by pouring out His grace on us. If that doesn't move our hearts, we will never be like Him.

So the first thing we need to do is zealously model Jesus. The second thing is - we must courageously submit to the Spirit. Again, some historical narrative is helpful at the point. We see the disciples leading this movement. When we read verse 42 through 47 we realize that the same guys in charge of leading this movement were the same guys we read about in the gospels.

And that should have us scratching our heads because before they were constantly making mistakes and they were constantly saying stupid things. They were fighting over who was the greatest the very week that Jesus was crucified. They were like, '*Who do you like best, Jesus?*' And after three and a half years of being with Jesus they even deserted Him when He was arrested. They doubted Him and Peter denied Him.

And this is the group that is now leading this new movement. What happened to them to change them? The Holy Spirit happened. And when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we don't do the same things we would normally do. We don't lead the same way we would have led before. We don't talk the same way and we don't live the same way. Everything about us changes forever when the Holy Spirit has control of us.

## **SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH**

### **ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE**

**Ben Rudolph**

---

Pastor Dan said this last week, at the moment of salvation we receive the Holy Spirit, and then in our daily walk with Jesus we need to be sure the Holy Spirit has us. When the Holy Spirit has us collectively there are things that are going to happen that are natural. These people were selling their possessions and distributing to all who had needs. And again this was not Communism. There were communes back then where people would get together and live in a commune after selling their things. They would put all their money in a pot and live off of it.

But that is not what this is talking about. This is about people who were controlled by the Holy Spirit and who are now looking for ways to bless the people around them. They are looking for people with needs to be met. The Holy Spirit was guiding them to people who had needs and they were doing something about those needs. This was moment by moment Holy Spirit inspired.

If you look in the Old Testament there were all these laws that God gave. There were laws about how to take care of widows and orphans and people in need. There were laws about harvesting their fields and leaving the edges for the needy. There were laws about when shaking the fruit out of the trees they were to leave some fruit for the needy. They were told to invite the widows and orphans to the table during festivals. There were many laws about taking care of people who were in need, how they were to show a generous spirit and how they were to share with people who had needs.

And this is how the Holy Spirit was working here in these people. They no longer needed the laws to tell them what to do because now they had the Spirit of God that was moving in them. There were no requirements anymore from the law. God wanted people to submit to the Holy Spirit as He showed them what they were to do. We talk so much about giving in the church but when is the last time we gave spiritually. Not out of our required tithe, or out of tradition, or what makes us feel good, but just as a spiritual act of giving.

I remember when I was in college the first time I experienced this. We had a soccer team and they won our conference and were set to go to Nationals in Florida to play. And because we were a small Bible college there was not the money in the athletic department to pay for the trip to Nationals. So every player had to come up with two hundred and fifty dollars to pay for their own way to Nationals in Florida.

We had three rooms in our suite at college with two guys to a room. So there were six guys in our suite. There were a couple of these guys who played soccer and one of them was my roommate, and the other one was in a room next to ours. And one of the guys told my roommate that he just couldn't go because he didn't have the two hundred

**SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH**  
**ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE**  
**Ben Rudolph**

---

and fifty dollars, and his parents didn't have the money either. He was using every penny he had just to be able to be at the college.

So my roommate and I talked and we decided we had to do something. We had all these people in different dorms, and he called all of them and told them about this soccer player who needed to go to Nationals and who didn't have the money to go. He didn't say how much the player needed; he just said he needed money to pay for his trip. He asked them to go around their dorm and ask everyone for money.

Now listen, here is what I know. Do college kids have money? No, they don't, especially not in a private Bible college. But we sent out the word, and about 7 o'clock that night we went around the dorms and collected the money into a bag. When we got back to our room we dumped it out on the bed and started counting the bills and the change. The biggest bill we had was one twenty dollar bill. The person who gave us that twenty dollar bill didn't even know this soccer player who needed the money. So there was one twenty dollar bill, a few five dollar bills, some one dollar bills and lots of change.

We counted up the money on the bed and it came to two hundred and fifty-one dollars. There was two hundred and fifty-one dollars. That is our God. Our God is a God who gives just enough. And I think what we miss so many times in our opulent, our extravagant, our having more than enough financial security in our culture is we miss out on those opportunities where we get to see God give just enough. He calls us to sacrifice so that He can bless someone to show them He is taking care of them.

If we are going to incarnate Jesus, one of the greatest ways we can do that is when the people that we rub shoulders with, the people in our lives, are in need. These people were not turning to the government or to programs; they were turning to the church. We should want our church to be the first place people can turn to when they are in need.

Not only did the Holy Spirit ask them to sacrifice their resources, but He also asked them to sacrifice their time. Look again at verse 46 where it says: "***And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.***" There are a couple of things that we see here that are truly supernatural. First we see that their faith was a daily faith. It was not a once a week faith, it was not a convenient faith; it was a daily faith in their communing with one another and with God. They looked at what they were doing every single day because it was their identity. It was what they were known as, and it affected how they viewed themselves every single day. It was not, 'Can I carve out enough time to do some church stuff?' It was, 'We are the church.' And day by day this is what they did.

## SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE Ben Rudolph

---

The other thing was there was a corporate side to this, and then there was a personal side where they met in homes. And even the fact that it says they attended the temple together is profound. And that is because in every other culture when they went to the temple, like Solomon's temple, or to any Greek or pagan god's temple, what was true about temple worship was that anytime they went to the temple to worship they would worship there on their own. It was a personal experience. They would go and burn the incense, they would offer the sacrifice and they would do their religious duty to get the benefit from their deity. It was personal, it was private and it was just by them alone.

Here we have the church breaking down this understanding of when you worship God that even though it is personal, it is so much more than that. When we come together it is about a collective understanding of worshipping corporally. It is not about one individual's needs, but it is about coming together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to benefit one another.

So there are all these things that the Spirit is confronting in our lives. He is confronting this individualistic spirit that permeates our hearts and our minds. *'This is my time. This is my stuff.'* And He is confronting this not to be mean. When we talk about sacrifice, when we talk about individualism, I know it can get really sticky. But listen, the Spirit is doing this because He wants to give us joy.

I have said this before that these people were just simply sharing meals with one another. We have this One Life Initiative where we pray for people close to us and far from God. We have the My Circle training coming up in a couple of weeks and I hope you come to that because it going to be a phenomenal thing, and it is where you will get a chance to really grow in your understanding of how to share your faith with another person. But let me just say this, one of the most simple but supernatural ways that we can be the church is when we begin opening up our homes to share meals with people.

This could be so profound if your house was the house in the neighborhood that people gathered at. We are so disjointed from one another. And God called them to share these meals together. And look what happens in verse 46, ***"They received their food with glad and generous hearts."*** Do you know what that means? That word 'glad' means 'exceeding joy,' it means that we get exceeding joy when we do this. When we sacrifice our resources and don't just live for ourselves, there is a supernatural joy that we receive from God. And that is why He asks us to do this.

So we have to zealously model Jesus, courageously submit to the Spirit, and then number three we need to - fully rest in the Father. Look at the verse 47 again where it says: ***"Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their***

**SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH**  
**ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE**  
**Ben Rudolph**

---

*number day by day those who were being saved.*” Now I think there were two types of results that we see here in this passage. And I am so glad we have two kinds of results here because there are two types of people in this room right now. There are people that are motivated by relationships in this room. You have a good day when you spend time with people, or when you feel connected. ‘*How was your day today?*’ ‘*Oh, it was great. I had the best conversations.*’

And then there are some of you in this room that you are motivated by productivity, and for you it is a task list. And it is a good day when you get your list done. So what we see here is God doing something relationally and the church is having favor with all people. So many times we are controlled by worrying about if people like us. We worry about our reputations, we worry about being liked, we worry about being accepted, and we even worry about being ‘too Christian’ because of what people might think about us.

Listen if you are obedient to God you can trust Him with your relationships. You can trust God for you to have favor, or grace with other people. You can trust God with the results also. So many times we do things but wonder about the outcome. We only want to do something that is going to be worth our time. And we want to be sure of the outcome. And here the outcome was that day by day more people were coming to know Jesus.

And it was God behind it all. God was behind the productivity and He was behind the relationships. And for us to truly rest in God, we need to say, ‘*God, I am simply going to be obedient. I am simply going to submit. I am going to do what you are calling me to do and I am going to trust you with the outcome.*’ And that can be hard for us because we want to be a part of something that is happening and something that is moving.

I see this happen all the time in churches. People want to go where they think something is happening. We know that people shift and move from church to church, because they think this other church has something really exciting happening, so they want to jump on that. It means that sometimes the pressure comes on us and we think we have to make something happen. I have seen it all. I have seen buses driving all over town picking up lots of kids. I have seen churches doing all kinds of things on Sunday mornings to be more exciting. I have seen lots of systems and strategies and processes and plans that we come up with to make the church more productive and more attractive.

But if we are truly going to be a supernatural church, we are going to have to trust those things with God. Listen, I want to see God work. I want to see God move. But the way we are going to do that is not by doing anything sexy. ‘*Oh my goodness, did you*

## SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE Ben Rudolph

---

*hear what Life Fellowship is doing now?’* What I want is for our church to have the reputation of teaching God’s Word, the reputation of fellowshiping, the reputation of sharing what we have, and for meeting common needs. I want our church to be one where we are hospitable and people are feeling welcome, where we open up our homes and our lives for others. *‘Hey, you should come to our Life Groups because we share and we pray.’*

I love how the first church was dedicated to prayer. One of the greatest ways that we show that we are committed, that we are fully resting in God’s outcome, is by praying. I wish you could have been in the room with our team on Tuesday, because we had a list that we prayed over, and it was every name on our One Life Initiative. So if you submitted a card for the One Life Initiative, and you got your band, I want you to know that this week the ministry team prayed over every name, and there were tears that were shed as we prayed.

Why do we do that? There is nothing extraordinary about that, but we are calling on God for these people we are praying for to come into the family of God. It is just the ordinariness of how we can just pray to God day by day and then see the outcome. Being a church that trusts God takes faith that is not natural, but supernatural. At the end of the day we need to decide if we want to be a natural church or a supernatural church. And more importantly we need to know what is normal for us. Do we want the supernatural to be normal or do we want the natural to be normal?

So I want to give you two quick questions to think about. I know I have said some hard things for us to accept today, but the first question is this - are you dedicated to helping us become a supernatural church? Verse 42 said, “***And they devoted themselves.***” It didn’t say the apostles devoted themselves. It didn’t say Peter, James and John devoted themselves. It says, “***they***” devoted themselves. That means it was the three thousand plus one hundred twenty people that committed their lives.

And if this church is going to be a supernatural church it is not going to be based on the giftings, and the personalities of the leaders and pastors of this church. If we are going to see this church become supernatural, it means that you and I are all going to feel the ownership and say, *‘I’m in.’* Maybe you have been attending this church, but you have never really dedicated yourself. You have never joined, you have never jumped all in, but today you are here to do something that God wants you to do. That is the invitation I want to leave you with.

The second question is this - what is one area in which the Lord is leading you to help us become a more supernatural church? What is one area? Maybe God is calling you to simply say you will cook meals in His name. Maybe you are someone who has

**SHIFTS TO BECOME A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH**  
**ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE**  
**Ben Rudolph**

---

been giving out of obligation, or out of tradition, but now you want to invite the Holy Spirit to tell you when and how and where and who to give to. Maybe you are someone who knows they need to pray more, that knows they need to be more intentional about praying for this church and praying for lost people and praying for our community.

There are these simple ways that we can do to become a supernatural church. What is it that you can do to help bring this about? Let's pray.

*Lord, I just pray that we would be a church controlled, led by, guided and filled with the Holy Spirit. Help us to become a supernatural church by doing what the first church did by teaching, by fellowship, by the breaking of bread and by praying. God, please help each person here today ask themselves what they can do personally with the help of the Holy Spirit to help our church become a supernatural church. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

*The preceding transcript was completed using raw audio recordings. As much as possible, it includes the actual words of the message with minor grammatical changes and editorial clarifications to provide context. Hebrew and Greek words are spelled using Google Translator and the actual spelling may be different in some cases.*