

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

*naturally*  
**supernatural**

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# DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

# *naturally* supernatural

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### INTRODUCTION, *40 Days of Faith 2006*

From our initial encounter with the Holy Spirit in 1977, we have known that Jesus is looking for a community of people who will believe and act on his word in John 14:12:

“The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.”

This conviction is what led us to our first Vineyard meeting in 1983, and it was there that we first witnessed a group of people who were *naturally supernatural*. We saw everyone, not just pastors or leaders, doing the works of Jesus—healing the sick, casting out demons, prophesying, etc.—all in a very natural way but with the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit! We were hooked and have never looked back. Now more than 20 years later, we are more convinced than ever that Jesus calls—no, Jesus commands—all of his disciples to do the ‘same and greater works.’

To that end, we are extremely excited that our friend and fellow Vineyard pastor, Gary Best, has written this 2005 edition of *Naturally Supernatural: Joining God in His Work*. This book is an easy-to-read manual describing ways we can all be better equipped and motivated to join in God’s work and do Jesus’ works and more. We are so excited that we want to share it with all of you. And what better way to do it than as a 40-day church-wide journey?

To facilitate our journey, we have written this devotional guide. It will help you read one chapter each week, with five days of readings, for just six weeks. We are encouraging each person to get a copy of the book and devotional guide and commit to listening to the six sermons which will expound on each of the six chapters. Every week, small groups will gather to watch a brief DVD chapter summary and then discuss, share, and pray about the week’s learning. We will even host special events where we will have a chance to put into practice what we are learning. Be ready and expecting!

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### INTRODUCTION, *40 Days of Faith 2006*

We are convinced God is wanting to do great (and greater!) things during these 40 days! We are challenging each person to specifically ask Jesus for several things:

**Ask** Jesus for one thing you want him to do **IN** you. Write it here and tell at least one person. Pray every day.

**Ask** Jesus for one thing you want him to do **THROUGH** you. Write it here and tell at least one person. Pray every day.

**Ask** Jesus for one thing you want him to do in our church community. Write it here and tell at least one person. Pray every day.

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### INTRODUCTION, *40 Days of Faith 2006*

**Write** down the names of 5 friends in the area that you would like Jesus to TOUCH over these next 40 days.

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Commit to pray for each of them every day for the next 40 days. Share their names with your small group or another friend. Pray every day. Watch what happens!

**Choose** to fast in some way each week for these 40 days. You can fast meals, activities, specific foods...whatever would be a sacrifice for you. Write down your weekly fasting plan in the space below.

Week 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Week 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Week 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Week 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Week 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Week 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to the *40 Days of Faith!* Come Holy Spirit and fill us all to be 'naturally supernatural' as we cooperate with Jesus in doing the same and greater works!

Praying with you and for you,  
Happy and Dianne Leman

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### USER'S MANUAL, *Devotional Guide*

Every day for 5 days each week you will have an assignment in your devotional. You will:

**Read** a section from *Naturally Supernatural* (page numbers listed).

**Read** a corresponding Scripture (printed out for you).

**Reflect** on what you have read in both the book and the Bible (with the help of a 'probing' question).

**Respond** with a few thoughts written down (it really helps to journal).

#### **Directions**

As you read each section of the book *Naturally Supernatural*, make sure you have a pen or marker in your hand! Circle, star, put question marks, underline...do whatever you want to indicate sections that you want to remember!

While we have printed the Scripture for each day, feel free to grab your Bible and read the passage and surrounding context! Ask the Holy Spirit to bring revelation.

Also, in the **Respond** section of your devotional, make sure you jot down a few of the things that caught your eye. Then you can bring them up at small group or share with a friend.













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READING the *Words*, DOING the *Works*

### Discuss It

Gary talks about “seeing what God is doing” and “joining him in his work.”

- How do you respond to this concept?
- Is this something you are comfortable with and practice or something that you would like to learn?
- Did God bring someone across your path this past week who may have presented you with an opportunity to do just that? Share the experience and how you responded.

If you did not respond in the way you think God may have been asking:

- What held you back? The Holy Spirit always guides his people. He will already be guiding you in areas where you need to grow.
- Are there fears you need to dare to face?
- Is there sin you need to repent of?
- Share them with your partner/group. Pray about it together.

Share a time when you did respond to God’s direction.

Why is the Good News good to you? Share specifically.

### Do It

- Ask the Lord to give you an opportunity this week to practise what you have been learning.
- Whether you are just growing in this or are seasoned in it, it may be helpful to have a buddy join you when you offer to pray for someone.

### Pray About It

*Lord, I give you my next week. I ask you to guide my steps. I will keep my eyes open to see what you are doing. I ask for strength to respond with boldness, offering to pray for whatever situation you bring across my path. I give my brothers and sisters the right to hold me accountable next week. I will try to enjoy this adventure, not just enduring or resenting it. Amen, let your kingdom come!*

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READING the *Words*, DOING the *Works*

### **Think About It**

To develop a listening ear to God's voice, you will need time in God's Word, time alone focused on listening to his voice and time to pour out the desire of your heart to him. Don't be afraid to ask for big answers for your desires to learn his kingdom ways. Let him teach you over the course of the rest of your life!













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READING the *Words*, DOING the *Works*

### **Discuss It**

What are some strengths you have that God may want to use?

- Help each other. As a group, point out each other's strengths.
- Make a list of ten ways or times God has used one of your gifts to bring his kingdom to a person or situation.

Have some fun! Dramatize the feeding of the 5,000 in a storytelling style to communicate Gary's point. Ask two people to retell the story. Highlight the strengths of each.

### **Do It**

In what ways do you long to see God's kingdom come?

- Pray about one or two of these specific desires with your partner.
- Make a commitment to listen to the Spirit this week and to obey each time you hear him give directions.

### **Pray About It**

"O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them...give your servants great boldness in their preaching. Send your healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."  
(Acts 4:24, 29-30)

- Commit to continuing to pray for your prayer partner this week about his or her specific desires.
- Exchange phone numbers and connect during the week.
- Pray the prayer of the believers in Acts 4 for great boldness and obedience.
- Share next week what happened.

### **Think About It**

Reconcile yourself with the fact that you will sometimes feel and look stupid if you do what is outlined in this book (Matthew 10:39).



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### WEEK THREE, *Day One*

**Read** “Gifts in a Gathered Church Setting,” “The Purpose of Gifts,” and “A Lifetime of Service” (pages 83-90) in *Naturally Supernatural*.

**Read** Romans 12:3-8.

“As God’s messenger, I give each of you this warning: Be honest in your estimate of yourselves, measuring your value by how much faith God has given you. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.

“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out when you have faith that God is speaking through you. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. If your gift is to encourage others, do it! If you have money, share it generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.”

**Reflect:** Which of these gifts do you see in yourself? How have you served others with these gifts?

**Respond** by recording your thoughts in the space below.

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# DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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### WEEK THREE, *Day Three*

**Read** “Prophecy in the Church” and “Prophecy Outside the Church” (pages 100-112) in *Naturally Supernatural*.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 14:1-4, 24-25.

“Let love be your highest goal, but also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives, especially the gift of prophecy. For if your gift is the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking to God but not to people, since they won’t be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious. But one who prophesies is helping others grow in the Lord, encouraging and comforting them. A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally in the Lord, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church...

“But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don’t understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin, and they will be condemned by what you say. As they listen, their secret thoughts will be laid bare, and they will fall down on their knees and worship God, declaring, ‘God is really here among you.’ ”

**Reflect:** How does prophecy help believers? Unbelievers? Why do you think this is a gift to be desired?

**Respond** by recording your thoughts in the space below.

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### WEEK THREE, *Day Five*

**Read** “A Practical, Prophetic Prayer Model” (pages 115-129) in *Naturally Supernatural*.

**Read** Matthew 17:14-20.

“When they arrived at the foot of the mountain, a huge crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, ‘Lord, have mercy on my son, because he has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn’t heal him.’

“Jesus replied, ‘You stubborn, faithless people! How long must I be with you until you believe? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.’ Then Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and it left him. From that moment the boy was well.

“Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, ‘Why couldn’t we cast out that demon?’

“‘You didn’t have enough faith,’ Jesus told them. ‘I assure you, even if you had faith as small as a mustard seed you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.’”

**Reflect:** Jesus ‘scolds’ the disciples, not those desiring healing, for lack of faith. How do you think we receive faith for ministry to others?

**Respond** by recording your thoughts in the space below.

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# DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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READING the *Words*, DOING the *Works*

### **Discuss It**

In this chapter, Gary tells stories of some of the unexpected tools of revelation that came during prayer times.

- Share a story about some of the tools you have used to see God's kingdom come in a prayer situation.

Are there other tools that you “earnestly desire”?

- Pray for each other.

Have you seen God's miracles come in the marketplace?

- Share to encourage each other.
- If not, ask God for situations this week and pray for each other.
- Keep your eyes open and go for it when an opportunity comes along.
- Check with each other next week and share your stories.

### **Do It**

Take Gary's two-step prayer model and unpack it.

- What are the ingredients or aspects of Step 1 (Listen) and Step 2 (Obey)?
- See if you can reduce all Gary says to a simple statement that you will always remember.

Purpose to pray for anyone God brings across your path.

- Try to focus on the person and not on your doubts and insecurities as you listen to God.
- If no opportunity comes this week, ask again next week.
- Continue until you see something happen in this regard.

### **Pray About It**

Are you tempted to stop short when praying for people?

- Purpose to catch God's heart for the person you are praying for.
- As you pray in teams, share with the others what you are hearing so that the whole picture can become clearer and the gifts can help one another.

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### **Think About It**

Is the enemy holding you hostage by intimidating you as you pray for healing? Is he threatening you with penalties for your prayers? Face the threats and go straight towards the enemy just as David headed towards Goliath. Gary talked about his dad's healing. We may never have experienced this miracle if we hadn't faced the threat of death.



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### WEEK FOUR, *Day Two*

**Read** “The Baptism of the Spirit” (pages 139-145) in *Naturally Supernatural*.

**Read** Luke 24:47-79.

“With my authority, take this message of repentance to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me.’ You are witnesses of all these things.

“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

**Read** Acts 1:4-8.

“In one of these meetings as he was eating a meal with them, he told them, ‘Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you what he promised. Remember, I have told you about this before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

“When the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, ‘Lord, are you going to free Israel now and restore our kingdom?’

“‘The Father sets those dates,’ he replied, ‘and they are not for you to know. But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’”

**Reflect:** How important is the Holy Spirit for doing the ministry of Jesus?

**Respond** by recording your thoughts in the space below.

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### WEEK FOUR, *Day Five*

**Read** “The Spirit’s Presence Today” (pages 152-154) in *Naturally Supernatural*.

**Read** Acts 4:24-31.

“Then all the believers were united as they lifted their voices in prayer: ‘O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor King David, your servant, saying,

Why did the nations rage? Why did the people waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.

“That is what has happened here in this city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. In fact, everything they did occurred according to your eternal will and plan. And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give your servants great boldness in their preaching. Send your healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’

“After this prayer, the building where they were meeting shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And they preached God’s message with boldness.”

**Reflect:** These believers were being RE-filled with the Holy Spirit. Why did they need that? What is your experience in needing to be filled again and again with the Holy Spirit?

**Respond** by recording your thoughts in the space below.

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READING the *Words*, DOING the *Works*

### **Do It**

All the seemingly great men and women of “power for the hour” that Gary talks about started by just doing the works. That is all we are going to do in our study time this week.

- If you are in a large group, divide into smaller groups of six or seven people.
- Invite the Spirit together and then listen for one or several people that he indicates he would like to touch today. Begin by just observing whom the Spirit seems to be visiting.
- Once you’ve identified a person (or persons), try to listen to what God may be saying about the person, to prophetic invitations to pray over the person, etc. Work together in the group to discern common themes the Lord seems to be highlighting, using the insights he gives through each person.
- Take your time. Pray everything you believe the Lord is giving you for the person. He will work very creatively. The bit we may want to throw out or think is insignificant or off the wall may be the very thing that really touches the person’s heart.
- Don’t force anything down someone’s throat. Check to see if the things that are prayed/spoken over the person have any significance or are meaningful to them. Don’t worry if what you think you heard seems to be wrong. This is a learning process. There are bound to be some glitches or things that don’t seem to “land” at the time. (Sometimes things become significant later).
- Be as grateful for anyone the Lord touches or anything he does as if he has done it for you. We are a community; when one benefits, we all share the blessing. Learn to celebrate others’ joy as your own!





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### WEEK FIVE, *Day Two*

**Read** “The Fall from Grace” (pages 161-170) in *Naturally Supernatural*.

**Read** Genesis 3:1-7.

“Now the serpent was the shrewdest of all the creatures the LORD God had made. ‘Really?’ he asked the woman. ‘Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?’

“‘Of course we may eat it,’ the woman told him. ‘It’s only the fruit from the tree at the center of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God says we must not eat it or even touch it, or we will die.’

“‘You won’t die!’ the serpent hissed. ‘God knows that your eyes will be opened when you eat it. You will become just like God, knowing everything, both good and evil.’

“The woman was convinced. The fruit looked so fresh and delicious, and it would make her so wise! So she ate some of the fruit. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. Then he ate it, too. At that moment, their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they strung fig leaves together around their hips to cover themselves.”

**Reflect:** What are the enemy (Satan’s) tactics? What are the consequences?

**Respond** by recording your thoughts in the space below.

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READING the *Words*, DOING the *Works*

### **Discuss It**

Have you had any experience in praying for those oppressed by the demonic?

- Share briefly.
- Have any of these experiences left you discouraged, disillusioned, or jaded? Share briefly.

Are there ways that you have been influenced by Satan's deception?

- Has that resulted in separation from God in any way?
- Is there any bondage that has come to you as a result of the deception and separation?

### **Do It**

Keep your eyes open this week for people seeking freedom from bondage.

- Share with them the Good News you have read in Chapter 5.
- Be open to pray for them.
- Also be open to journey with them long-term if that is what they need.

### **Pray About It**

- Pray for one another using your authority given by Jesus.
- Rather than demon hunting or pouncing on someone in your group, allow the person to come forward for prayer as seen in the story of the Gerasene man.

### **Think About It**

The stories of liberation show how the kingdom is about spiritual warfare—about God's rule coming against the power of darkness. Your involvement on God's side changes everything. Imagine how living out this truth could change your life.





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### WEEK SIX, *Day Two*

**Read** “The Mystery of the Kingdom” and “Is More Power the Key?” (pages 213-219) in *Naturally Supernatural*.

**Read** Luke 10:5-16.

“Whenever you enter a home, give it your blessing. If those who live there are worthy, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you. When you enter a town, don’t move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide you. Don’t hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay.

“If a town welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you and heal the sick. As you heal them, say, “The Kingdom of God is near you now.” But if a town refuses to welcome you, go out into its streets and say, “We wipe the dust of your town from our feet as a public announcement of your doom. And don’t forget the Kingdom of God is near!” The truth is, even wicked Sodom will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.

“What horrors await you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have sat in deep repentance long ago, clothed in sackcloth and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse. Yes, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on the judgment day than you. And you people of Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to the place of the dead.’

“Then he said to the disciples, ‘Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God who sent me.’”

**Reflect:** Why do you think some people accept the power ministry of Jesus and others reject it?





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### WEEK SIX, *Day Four*

**Read** “The Authority of Jesus” and “Authority, Not Power, Is to Be the Pattern” (pages 224-226) in *Naturally Supernatural*.

**Read** Luke 10:21-24.

“Then Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit and said, ‘O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding the truth from those who think themselves so wise and clever, and for revealing it to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way.

“ ‘My Father has given me authority over everything. No one really knows the Son except the Father, and no one really knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.’

“Then when they were alone, he turned to the disciples and said, ‘How privileged you are to see what you have seen. I tell you, many prophets and kings have longed to see and hear what you have seen and heard, but they could not.’ ”

**Reflect:** What clues can you gain from this passage about the way authority works as a disciple of Jesus? How is our authority tied to our relationship with God?

**Respond** by recording your thoughts in the space below.

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READING the *Words*, DOING the *Works*

### **Discuss It**

As you have read and practised these six chapters,

- Share what you have learned with the others in your group.
- Spend time together thanking the Father for his graciousness. (Remember to be just as excited about others' answers to prayer as your own!)

What opposition have you faced to keep you from persevering?

- Share with your partner.

Gary uses the Charles Atlas illustration to show the difference between power and authority.

- Can you think of other useful illustrations to demonstrate this difference?

Examine the circles of influence that God has given you.

- This can be in your home, workplace, or church.
- Can you think of a current situation in which you are feeling “powerless”? Share honestly.

### **Do It**

We all love to be in control.

- This week, when you are in a situation where you are tempted to use power plays, consciously surrender the situation to the guidance of the Lord.
- Ask God to give you the determination to walk into any situation into which he calls you with courage, relying on his strength and ability to give you authority, rather than relying on your own abilities and power.

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### **Pray About It**

This is a prayer that Gary and I feel is to be prayed for our lifetime. We invite you to pray it with us:

*Dear Father, we long to see your kingdom come to this world as many times and in as many ways as possible during our lifetime. We ask for healing, deliverance, salvation, and the dead to be raised. We choose to plant as many seeds as we can in our lifetime, so that the crop you harvest will last for eternity.*

*Knowing this will neither be quick nor easy, we ask you for the courage and strength to follow you for a lifetime. May the glory be yours!*

### **Think About It**

Though we may have read the words of a book, often the content needs to be worked into us with constant use. For some of us, the principles that have been talked about here may be new. The goal of this book is not just to gain more information, but to live a transformed life. Consider reading the book a second time in order to review the material and be encouraged as you put it into practice.