



<b>WORKSHOPS – D4.1</b> <b>TITLE : GROWING AND MOVING IN THE CHARISMS</b>	<b>SPEAKER : MARY HEALY</b>
<b>LANGUAGE : ENGLISH – Video (En / Sp)</b>	<b>COUNTRY : USA</b>

We know well that Jesus was a man of joy. No person who ever lived was more joyful than Jesus. But did you know that only once do the Gospels explicitly mention that *Jesus rejoiced*? What made him rejoice? It must have been something significant.

Let us look at this passage in Luke 10. The context is that Jesus had sent out 70 disciples on mission, just as he had earlier sent out the twelve apostles. He told the 70 (who represent all Christians):

Whenever you enter a town and they receive you... <sup>9</sup> **heal the sick** in it and say to them, “**The kingdom of God has come** near to you.” Lk 10:8-9

He instructed them to preach the kingdom not only in words but in deeds of power that bear witness to the words. Then Luke tells us:

The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” Lk 10:17-24

The disciples returned and gave Jesus their ‘mission reports’: the presence of the kingdom was being visibly manifested through them. People were being healed, demonic bondages were being broken. They had not only witnessed the coming of the kingdom but *participated* in it. His mission was continuing in them.

<sup>18</sup> And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Jesus was overjoyed at seeing Satan fall and his dominion of darkness being broken. But he told the disciples, ‘Don’t get cocky because evil spirits are subject to you. Don’t focus on them. Let your greatest joy be that you will be with me in heaven.’

<sup>21</sup> In that same hour **he rejoiced** in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>22</sup> All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

If you are a parent, you know what it is like on Christmas morning, or on a birthday, when you have carefully chosen the perfect gift for your child. You watch them tearing off the wrapping paper, then you see their eyes light up with excitement as they say something ‘This is exactly what



I wanted!' You watch their excitement as they start to ride the bike, or build the Lego set, or play with the doll house. There is no happiness quite like it.

This was Jesus' joy at seeing his disciples open and use the gifts he had given them for the spreading of his kingdom on earth. In his human heart, the Son of God was thrilled to see his disciples receiving God's gifts like children and using them to bring God's love to others.

Do you want to make Jesus happy?

<sup>23</sup> Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see what you see!" <sup>24</sup> For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

The disciples' hearts must have been burning at those words. For so many centuries God's people had been waiting, hoping, and longing for the coming of Messiah and the visible presence of God's kingdom. What others had longed for they now *saw* with their own eyes. How privileged they were!

Jesus spoke these words not just for his disciples in first-century Galilee. They are his words to *us*, his disciples today.

Later, he taught his disciples to pray, "Our Father, hallowed be thy name...."

**"Thy kingdom come!"** What are we praying for when we pray that petition? Not just the visible coming of kingdom at the end of history, but the manifest presence of the kingdom *now*. What does it mean for his kingdom to come? Jesus himself explained it: 'thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' Wherever God's will is done, there is the kingdom.

The kingdom of God is... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Rom 14:17

We are the people who are bringing the civilization of heaven into the world. Jesus said,

As the Father has sent me, so I send you. John 20:21

We are God's secret agents, infiltrating the world with the presence of the kingdom, bringing the fragrance of Christ everywhere we go.

In our time, where countless Christians have abandoned the faith into which they were baptized, God wants to sweep as many people into the arms of Jesus as possible. And in order to do this, he wants to empower his church as never before.

I have become deeply convinced that God wants the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to be far more manifest in the Catholic Church. He wants his children to be operating in radical faith, walking in the Spirit, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and demonstrating it with signs and wonders. Indeed, such signs are necessary to the Church's mission. They are the supernatural equipment given by the Holy Spirit to enable us to bring the gospel to a lost and broken world. The supernatural is normal Christian life.



**1 Cor 4:20** The KOG is not a matter of talk but of power.

### **A shift in mentality**

So how do we learn to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit? How can the supernatural become more of an ordinary way of life? I want to share with you what I have learned as I have pursued this topic in the last few years.

### **Seven keys for walking in the supernatural**

#### **1. Intimacy with Jesus**

The spiritual gifts, including healings and miracles, are not things we own, like tools we can pull out of our pocket. They are *God the Holy Spirit acting in and through us*. They utterly depend on our relationship with God. It is as we come into intimate union with him that he can act freely through us. We receive God's love, we get filled, then we give it away.

Intimacy with Jesus happens through reading Scripture, getting to know Jesus' voice; and through Eucharistic adoration, coming into the holy presence of God. Corporate worship is also crucial. More can happen in five minutes of anointed worship than in fifty years of all our striving. This is why at every prayer meeting we need to contend for the Lord's manifest presence, and not settle for less.

#### **2. Get God's heart for the lost**

There is a connection between the bestowing of God's power and the receiving of his heart. God gives power for us to do the things that are on his heart. If we're not in tune with his heart, we may be praying for lots of things, but with little effect. Are we willing to have God's heart for the sick, the broken, and the lost? It may mean having our hearts broken.

Paul's passion for the lost was such that he gladly endured not only tiring ministry, but shipwreck, stoning, the lash, constant danger, hunger, and thirst.

I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. 2 Cor 12:15

He really meant it. You can only say this and really mean it if your heart has been conquered by Jesus, and every day you are letting your heart be formed by his.

There is a false idea that has infected the world and even the church: the idea that practically everyone is going to heaven. 'I'm OK, you're OK, we're all basically good, God wouldn't let nice people go to hell.' This is contrary to the gospel, and it seriously undermines the urgency of the call to evangelization.

Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. <sup>14</sup> How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few. Mt 7:13-14



In many cases, those walking on the wide, easy way are baptized Catholics. Many are walking in deep moral and spiritual darkness, and God weeps for them. We need to beg the Lord to deliver us from our complacency and give us his burning zeal for the lost.

The more we have God's heart for the lost, the more we will be filled with desire to be a conduit of his overwhelming love and mercy for them.

### **3. Ask, seek, knock**

We may feel hesitant to ask big things of God. As if God were limited! Jesus said,

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.... If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:9-13

St. Teresa of Avila said, 'You pay God a compliment by asking great things of Him.' We have not been asking for too much, but too little. And we have not been expecting too much of God, but too little.

In particular, Scripture affirms that there is nothing wrong in asking for spiritual gifts. On the contrary, it is wrong not to! '*Strive eagerly* for the greatest spiritual gifts.... strive eagerly for the spiritual gifts, above all that you may prophesy' (1 Cor 12:31; 14:1).

But if you do want spiritual gifts, you should also consider whether you are willing to be seriously inconvenienced for the rest of your life. Of course this *doesn't* mean compromising other responsibilities God has given you, such as raising a family. It does mean a deeper surrender of self, a willingness to spend ourselves for others. When we ask for gifts, we need to ask for humility, generosity and love as well.

### **4. Know your authority in Christ**

In recent years I have seen far more healings and miracles than I used to. I had prayed for people many times before. What changed? There was a shift in my understanding: a deeper revelation of Jesus, and of our authority in him.

At Jesus' baptism a voice came from heaven: 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased' (Mk 1:11). Jesus was utterly secure in his identity as God's beloved Son. His identity was rooted, anchored, and secured in the Father's love for him. He lived his whole life with his eyes fixed on the Father.

Because Jesus knew who he was as the beloved Son of the Father, sent to inaugurate the kingdom of God, he carried out his mission day by day with absolute authority.

The centurion understood it: 'I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go," and he goes, and to another, "Come," and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this," and he does it' (Mt 8:9).



Consider the example of two different elementary school teachers. One walks into a classroom full of boisterous children and tells them to quiet down, but they ignore her. She is insecure and does not carry a sense of authority. She raises her voice. She begins to cajole, then to threaten: No recess! Extra homework! You'll be sent to the principal! But it has little effect. The children continue being disruptive and disobedient.

The other teacher walks into the same classroom and the children instantly begin to quiet down and pay attention. She carries a sense of authority. When she tells them to behave, they obey instantly.

Christians are meant to walk with the kind of confident authority held by that second teacher. We are heirs of the kingdom. The Lord has given us a share in his own kingly rule. Each one of us has a part in Christ's mission to dismantle the kingdom of darkness and make the kingdom of God present wherever we are.

Where are greatest number of raisings of the dead taking place today? In Mozambique, among people who live in remote jungle villages, are dirt poor, uneducated, have nothing, think nothing of themselves – but they know who they are in Christ.

Notice how Satan began his temptations of Jesus: *'If you are the Son of God...'* – trying to sow doubt about the very truth that God had just affirmed. Satan uses the same tactic with us. He tries to undermine our identity so he can derail our destiny.

### **5. Step out in faith**

Faith is not simply passive assent to a truth. Faith is dynamic; it is expressed in action. Growing in faith means taking risks, and sometimes failing. The first miracle after Pentecost happened when Peter not only prayed for a lame man, but commanded him to walk and then actually grasped his hand and pulled him up. What a risk!

My experience giving three words of knowledge at a prayer meeting: a man with a skin condition and same-sex attraction, a woman who had spent time in jail and was ashamed, a person with pain in the left ankle.

### **6. Do whatever he tells you**

Mary at Cana gave us the secret: "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). What Jesus told the servants didn't make sense from a human point of view: "Fill the jars with water." The problem was not a lack of water but a lack of wine! But Jesus knew what he was about, and their obedient response made way for him to work his first miracle.

How often the Lord tells us to do something that doesn't make sense in the natural realm. 'Stretch out your hand.' 'Pick up your mat and walk.' 'Give me your five loaves and two fish.' 'But, Jesus! That doesn't make sense.' Yet it is that step of obedient faith that makes way for a miracle.



How often the Holy Spirit gives us light impressions or promptings that we ignore because they don't seem to make sense. We need to decide to be radically obedient and trust that the Lord will use us, and even at times use our mistakes.

## **7. Take it out**

A prayer ministry that stays enclosed within four walls of the church will die out, as the water of the Dead Sea has no outlet and stagnates.

If our prayer group or community has become a closed circle, ministering to the same people week after week, we are not being the ambassadors of the kingdom the Lord calls us to be. Your faith will diminish, and it is likely that you will see few manifestations of God's power.

The signs and wonders Jesus gives are given to accompany evangelization. No evangelization, no signs.

Ask the Lord to lead you in making evangelization in the power of the Spirit lifestyle. Look for opportunities such as:

- A phone conversation when someone mentions they have a headache or any kind of pain.
- A visitor to your home, or service person, who has an illness or injury.
- A waitress or flight attendant, or person next to you on the plane.
- A business colleague or customer.

Prayer for empowerment.