

Vintage Jesus 4

What was the secret to Jesus' success?

Q&A

- Questions. It's a little dark. You got a question, raise your hand and I'll repeat it. Yes ma'am. So you asked cessationism. So when it comes to the ministry of the Holy spirit, there are some teams, so one would be cessationism. As the name would indicate, that certain supernatural gifts, speaking in tongues, casting out demons, healing miracles, maybe other extra-biblical revelations ceased with the end of the apostolic age in the early church. Their primary proof text, which is out of context, is 1 Corinthians 13, it says that there's love and knowledge, and it says the tongues and such will cease come to an end. And they'll say, "See, it says right there." But then the next verse it says, "And we will see him." And what it's talking about is that certain gifts will cease when Jesus comes back. So gifts continue until Jesus comes back. But when Jesus comes back, do we need the gift of healing? You're like, "I have the gift of healing and now I've retired." Okay? In the kingdom, we're not going to need the gift of revelation. We need anything, we just go ask Jesus. So in the kingdom, we're not gonna need the gift of evangelism, and heaven is not like, if you died tonight, and you're like, "I got this already." How do you think I got here? I already made this decision. So there are certain gifts that need to continue until Jesus comes and the kingdom comes, and then we don't have an ongoing need for those gifts, until then, we do, okay? Cessationism comes out of the teaching of David Hume. David Hume was an enlightenment philosopher, he was a rationalist, he only believed what could be proven through the microscope or the telescope, what we now call the scientific method. As a result, he disbelieved in the miracles and the supernatural. He created a whole philosophical system that really is atheistic, and it became very prominent and very popular, especially during the enlightenment period of rationalism in academics and in the university. As certain Christian schools, and many of the first Ivy League schools, I think the first 123 colleges in the United States of America all had a Christian founding or origin, so Christians brought education really to the public. But as the Academy started to get more critical of the supernatural, thinking it was more primitive, and superstitious, and didn't fit within the, sort of the modern enlightened worldview, some of the schools that were originally started by Christians, they started to cave into this. And certain places it was soft, it's like, "Well, let's not talk about healings, and tongues, and miracles and demons, that's a little primitive, that seems a little primitive, we're a little more advanced than that." CS Lewis teaches something called chronological snobbery, "Well, that was a long time ago, and obviously we're a lot smarter than they were." And so what happens then is cessationism starts to creep into Bible teaching, and to certain denominations that require master's degrees, which is why a lot of the Protestant denominations that required master's degrees have now gone very, very liberal, they don't talk about demons, the Holy spirit, miracles, healings. Kind of the summation of this was Thomas Jefferson. When he was president, he sat down in the oval office at the white house, took out a razor blade, went through the new Testament, and cut out all of the miracles and supernatural. And he called it the philosophy of Jesus Christ, and he reduced Jesus to a philosopher. All of this would fit in my opinion, it's controversial but true, within cessationism it is a fear of, in some regards, it's a fear of appearing foolish to the world and /or struggling with the freedom that God has in the Bible. There was a man named Jack Hayford, he's a legendary charismatic Bible teacher, I would say very good Bible teacher. I got to meet him backstage at Gateway Church two of our founding overseers, Pastor Robert Morrison and Pastor Jimmy Evans, Lee Gateway Church. And it was like a dream

come true, he wrote the Spirit-Filled Life Study Bible, Jack Hayford did. And I got to meet him, he's somebody I really appreciate. And I went to meet him. First thing he said to me, he said, and I thought it'd be like a prophetic word, he said, "You have a round head like Charlie Brown." That's the first thing he told me. It wasn't, I was like, "And that's the word of the Lord." Okay, so... And then he asked me this question, because most of my Bible teaching years has been in the charismatic Pentecostal world. So there's the cessationists world, and then there's charismatic Pentecostal, I'll explain that. But most of my Bible teaching, though I am charismatic, has been in the cessationist world. I went to a conservative Baptist seminary to get a master's degree. I come from a tradition that tends to see the Trinity as Father, Son and Holy Bible. And once the Holy spirit wrote the Bible, it's like he sort of pulled back on a lot of what he was doing. So he asked me, Dr. Jack Hayford did, he basically asked, he's like, "Why are people who don't believe in the active continual ministry, the Holy spirit?" He basically asked, and I'm paraphrasing, I don't wanna dishonor pastor Jack, he said, basically, "Why are they mean?" And I never really thought of it, I was like, "Yeah, that's true." And if you're online and commenting, you can illustrate my point. I said, "Number one, because you can't be emotionally healthy without the Holy spirit." If you don't, even if you have the spirit, but you're not living by the spirit, love joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control, are not things that you manifest because that's the ministry, the Holy spirit. I said, "In addition, pastor Jack." I said, "I think the issue is this." I said, "If I believe that the Holy spirit is in you, he will convict you, he will lead you, he will guide you, he will control you. If I don't believe he's in you, then I need to do that for you." And that's where you get legalism, that's where you get religion, and that's where you get fear-based control. If I believe the Holy spirit is in you, I have so much hope for you. But if I don't believe the Holy spirit is actively at work in you, then I need to do his job, and that becomes a very abusive environment. And so that's cessationism, and then there's charismatic, which is that all of the supernatural gifts continue, but not everybody has all of the gifts, so some speak in tongues, some don't. I'll just say this publicly, I've never spoken in tongues. Somebody asked me at the Pentecostal Conference, they're like, "Why?" I said, "I think, because I've been arguing for it my whole life, but the cessationist can't say, "Well, he's just arguing from experience, 'cause I don't have the experience." I believed I got there through the Bible, I got to my convictions on the Holy spirit teaching through whole books of the Bible for most of my adult life. And then there's Pentecostalism, which is not only do all of the gifts continue, but you can have those gifts so that we can all speak in tongues and we can all have supernatural ability, okay? So I would fit charismatic, I would not fit cessationist, I love my Pentecostal friends, I feel very comfortable charismatic, and if you made me pick one of the other two, I would go this way not that way, but I'm gonna stay right here. But if you're over here, "Whoop whoop! Love you too." And what I would say is, lastly, some people come to Jesus through persuasion, some come through power. And for those who come to Jesus through power, this is where we pray over them, and God might heal them, this is where we pray and God might deliver them, this is where they ask God for something and he hears and answers and they know that God is real and alive. And so my thing is I believe God works through persuasion, good arguments, he also works through power, sometimes the Holy spirit just shows up and he does incredible supernatural inexplicable things. And let me say this too, sometimes the Holy spirit things that you were not expecting, he's very free, and he could talk through a donkey, he can get a Virgin pregnant, he's creative, super creative, okay? But I would disagree with this position wholeheartedly and fundamentally, I think biblically. Yeah. Yeah, so your question is super practical and really, really good, when you see I'm drifting, how do I plug in so

that the power of the Holy spirit can create the best version of me for whatever situation I'm in. And really this is where it says that Jesus often withdrew to lonely places. Sometimes it's just getting the break and getting away. For a lot of people, this is regularly scheduled meetings with God. How many of you, you've almost got a little routine for your phone, I plug it in at night and then I use it during the day. Do you have a plan for your soul? Like when do you plug it in? You plug it into the scripture, so when you're in the word of God, when is the word of God in you, you plug it in through prayer when you spend time in prayer, you spend time in worship. And what I would simply say is, number one, just like you would do for anything else in your life that needs power, you need to have a plan of when you're gonna power it so that when you use it, it's fully charged, your soul, okay? And most people don't have, they have a plan for their phone, they don't have a plan for their soul, you gotta make a plan for your soul. And you could start to tell when you're running out of power, when you're grumpy, when you're tempted, when you're frustrated, when you're angry, when you're curt, and you're like, "Okay, I could see, I'm running out of power here." Now the flesh is showing up, I'm no longer living out of the power of the Holy spirit, now the flesh is starting to show up. Is this just me or has anyone experienced this? You're like, "I was living by the spirit, and then apparently I wasn't powered up and the flesh picked up where the spirit left off." It's in those moments, consciously stopping and inviting the Holy spirit. Jesus says even a bad father knows how to give good gifts to his children. He says, "How much more will the father in heaven give the Holy spirit to those who want, go ask." If my kid comes up that I'm thirsty, "Dad, I'm thirsty, can I get a drink?" "Yeah." If I go to the father and say, "My soul is thirsty, can you give me the spirit? the streams of living water?" His answer is, "Yeah." And so it's just as simple as a childlike faith, just when we see kids go to their dad and say, "Hey dad, I need, whatever, food, drink." Go to the father and say, "I need the spirit." Okay? Just like your body needs food, it needs water, your soul needs the Holy spirit, that's the fuel, the nutrition that God has provided for the soul. And you could stop anywhere you're at, you're like, "Okay, I need to have a conversation with my spouse, or maybe I'm frustrated by my kids, or both of them at the same time. Before I deal with you, I gotta meet with him, I'll be back in a minute." I gotta go pray, I gotta invite the Holy spirit, I gotta ask him to regulate my emotions, I gotta ask him to flow through me so that the character of Christ shows up in this conversation. And it's very, very practically inviting the Holy spirit into very specific moments in situations. It's like, "God, we got a decision to make, we're gonna pray and invite the Holy spirit to lead and guide us." "God, we're having conflict, we're gonna stop and pray for the Holy spirit to give us the power to forgive one another." "Holy spirit, I'm really tempted, and my flesh is voting yes, I need the spirit to vote no, and to override the decision that my flesh will make." And this is practicing the presence of God. There was an old monk named Brother Lawrence, He wrote a little book called "Practicing the Presence of God." And that's what he was talking about, is inviting God practically into all the really practical, mundane stuff of life, and not losing sight of the presence of the Holy spirit at work in and through us in the daily things life. And so what it's amazing to me, and I just wanna so encourage you, some of you are in a hard season, but the Holy spirit is there to help. Some of you are really tempted, but the Holy spirit is there to help. Some of you don't know where to go or what to do, the Holy spirit is there to help. Some of you are emotionally anxious or unhealthy, the Holy spirit is there to help, right? When he says, "I will not leave you nor forsake you, I will never abandon you." He says that he'll send us the Holy spirit. When he says in John's gospel, he says, "I will not leave you as orphans, I will send the spirit." What it means is wherever we're at, or whatever we're going through, just as he was there for Jesus, the Holy spirit is there for us, okay? And so I think that the ministry of the Holy spirit

is far more practical and daily than many people would assume. And I believe when you forgive somebody, that was a miracle of the Holy spirit, when you were really frustrated and what comes out of you is love joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control, that was the Holy spirit. And a lot of it has to do with our character and our relationships, and our conduct, and our forgiveness, and our emotional health. And so that's why even in writing the book, and thank you for letting me give the lecture, I wanna take the ministry of the Holy spirit, and I wanna connect it to the life of Jesus, so that we don't, again, just admire his life, but we experienced it, right? And that's what he has for you, 'cause he loves you. And he sent the Holy spirit, he sent the Holy spirit.