

Title: What if there is so much more IV - overcoming lost hearts
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The Presence of God

Joy magazine September issues, page 12. *Indonesian churches explode with growth. "We don't have the best programme, we don't have the best methods. What attracts them is the presence of God. We always pray, "God open Heaven for Jakarta, let Your Spirit touch the people, even those outside will get healed, will get saved," he said.*

The pursuit of the supernatural is a pursuit of God's manifest presence. *Nothing that's truly valuable comes easily.

The greatest miracle - the miracle of salvation

The greatest miracle is salvation.

Luke 5:30–32 (NLT) ³⁰ *But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus' disciples, "Why do you eat and drink **with such scum?**"* ³¹ *Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—**sick people do.**"* ³² *I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who **know they are sinners and need to repent.**"*

- **Such scum:** The religious crowd looked down upon "outsiders". Jesus loved them.
- **Those who are sick:** Sinners are sick. Sin makes people sick.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

- **New Creation!** *Scum, become sons of God.*
- **Miracle of salvation:** The blind receives sight, the dead come alive, the lost are found, the sick is healed (made whole), receive a new nature and your name is written in the book of life.

Great grace - It's purpose?

Acts 4:33 (ESV) ³³ *And with **great power** the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and **great grace** was upon them all. [believers were of one heart and one soul]*

- **Great grace** - The empowering presence of God.

Acts 5:12 (ESV) ¹² *Now **many signs and wonders** were **regularly done** among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.*

Acts 5:14–16 (ESV) ¹⁴ *And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, **multitudes** of both men and women,* ¹⁵ *so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by **at least his shadow might fall** on some of them.* ¹⁶ *The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, **and they were all healed.***

Love conquers disease. If we fear disease we cannot conquer it.

Love conquers evil. If we fear evil we cannot conquer it.

Love conquers lost hearts. love never gives up.

Jesus raised the standard - empowerment to live differently

Jesus came to lift the standard much higher.

Matthew 5:27–29 (ESV) ²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.

- Jesus lifted the standard way out of our reach. Yet He gave us the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live at that standard. This is supernatural living. This is obedient living.
- Grace isn't license to sacrifice less, but power to sacrifice more. Grace is power to obey, not license to disobey.

Preaching the gospel with power

Acts 8:5–8 (ESV) ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

- **Miracle signs.** God was present!

Acts 8:14–17 (ESV) ¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

- First salvation, then baptism in water and then empowerment of the Holy Spirit. This is normal Christianity.

Jesus the door

John 10:9–11 (ESV) ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

- Jesus Christ is the door. Only Jesus saves. **May have life** - salvation, name written in heaven.
- **Abundant life** - The power of the Spirit brings abundant life.
- Are we living for Christ? Are we willing to sacrifice as Jesus sacrificed? Or do we deny Christ by our lifestyle?
- Will we be motivated by love to seek God with everything with us? For the sake of the lost?