

THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE

"For God so Loved the World He gave his only begotten Son", John 3:16 What a powerful illustration of the power of God's love: It goes on in Romans 8:32 "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things"? Wow God knows how to give and when God gives it's given freely through the power of His love for us. God's love isn't emotional it's not just here for today but is a constant stream flowing through humanity. God loves His Creation!

There is a very enlightening Scripture which John wrote about himself but didn't identify it was him. John 13:23 "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who Jesus was speaking of".

John had an intimacy with Jesus even greater than Peter who used John to ask Jesus for him. That shows me that God loves us to be intimate with Him. I don't believe Jesus was favouring John more than Peter, God's love is without partiality, he doesn't have favourites, but John had responded to the love of Jesus by yielding to it. Love begets love and God's kind of love embraces us to the level of our surrender.

GODS LOVE IS ETERNAL IT NEVER ENDS

THE GIFT OF LOVE The manifestation of God's kind of Love is, it is ever giving; it's giving goes on and on, giving more and more. In God's first demonstration of the depth of His love; He gave you and me His only begotten Son, Jesus. Jesus came to save us from our sinning problem; sin was a universal curse to all people, it separated mankind from God's love and nobody had immunity from it. Jesus came to make it possible through believing in Him and repentance from sin to be totally once and for all forgiven and set free of its curse. God goes even further in the next verse John 3:17

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

When we believe on Jesus He saves us and we are born into God's family, become sons and God starts our relationship with Himself. God wants a heart relationship with us; He gives us the opportunity to lay our head on His breast.

PRODIGAL SONS

Amazingly God financed the Prodigal son's trip to a far country, God never stopped loving Him. The Prodigal found out how much His father loved Him when he returned, God always saw him as His son even in the pig pen. It wasn't until he returned home that his heart was opened to his Father in relationship. God's love had engineered this by giving him his inheritance and letting him go. As far as we know the elder son never found that relationship even though God Himself entreated him. I'm sure God didn't give up because he was still a son and heir to the Kingdom. If God doesn't give up, we should never give up even when we see brothers and sisters in the pig pen, God tells me there's always hope and a way back for his sons.

HURTING PEOPLE

Many people today, because of the way that religious people have condemned them, feel unworthy because they don't have a works portfolio that they can

present to justify themselves. When asked they say, "I stopped going to church for fellowship because I have nothing to offer the Church or God." We need to get the message across that God is not expecting us to perform as so many do in church. If you're hurting, feeling bad you need to be in church. You need to come, not going through the motions of putting on a brave face, when you are in desperate need of an answer. We need to consider that going to church is a resource for us to hear God.

IMPERFECT PEOPLE

God uses imperfect people to bring His word. It's amazing when I start to give God's word in a meeting, God gives me words to say that I had no intention of saying. It's as if virtue goes out of me as it did from Jesus, it's has nothing to do with me. The hungry touch God, like the woman with the issue of blood did. God sends an anointing of the Holy Spirit; the preacher receives the word from God to inspire him and others. It's Jesus in us, giving us ability through His empowerment to feed others. A word from God is all that's needed.

The secret is in blessing others in simple ways, that's how we get blessed. We find God's blessing is parcelled in packages involving others, which we in obedience to God's prompting unwrap. We reach out with the life giving Words of God.

His Love never ends! It's our reward in heaven! Love is eternal, the only thing we can take with us to heaven. It's Gods currency on earth and in heaven.

I'm looking forward to embracing Jesus when I get there, are you?

Alan and Shirley

KJV Rom 8; 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amplified 1Cor13:8 Love never fails, never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end

KJV 1John 4;7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

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CLORY PEOPL



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The word love is one of those words that people tend to use very often to refer to a positive feeling about something; I love my job, I love Italian food, I loved that movie, I love going to the gym, etc... But what they experience is not exactly love. Because when we think of love, real love, it is described as something more than just a word. Love is actually a commanded action... 1 John 3:8 "Let us not love with words **but in action and in truth**". It is very easy to say the word and in fact, anyone can say it, but can they really feel love? The love that I am talking about is the one that its own creator has given us and the reason why we are able to love. 1John 4:1 "We love because, God loved us first;". God is the root of love. God is the reason why we love. We are the product of the love of God to us. Just as when you plant a seed and it turns out into a beautiful fruit, the seed of love has been sown on us from the moment He created us. The greatest thing is that we didn't really have to do anything to receive it or to

WALKING IN LOVE WITH GOD

deserve it ... It is God's gift to us and everything He does, He does it because He loves us and He wants us to always feel loved! The bible shows this love numerous times but his biggest show of love is probably in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Now when I think about it, I understand why I get so many different emotions. It is no longer just a four letter word; it becomes a million words or a million actions! For example, it makes me want to jump, sing, cry, shout, dance or what I enjoy the most; it makes me want to share it with others. This love also encourages me, strengthens me, it makes me patient, it gives me peace - it gives me joy!

The way of love - 1Corinthians 13 – is one of my favourite passages in the bible because it describes what real love is and what it is all about... "4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...13 so now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is Love" So walking with God is really walking in love because God is love. And love lives in the heart – ves, that is where God lives too, that is where I feel Him and that is where I see Him and that is how He speaks to me. And, because of that heart full of God, full of love, I am able to:

-Forgive: Not to keep anger against others. To not resent but to forgive, to forget and move on. It has made me understand that God forgave my sins too for His love and mercy upon me, and gave me a new opportunity. So at the end of the day, He has made me question: who am I to not forgive and give new opportunities to others? -Act loving: Be patient towards others. Recognise that not everyone

understands the love of God and as a result they feel unloved and therefore they may feel angry towards others or empty, so whenever I have a chance, I share with them how much Jesus loves them!

-Obey Him: God's love has also created fear of Him. The more I read His Word and have time alone with Him, the more I realise that without Him, I am nothing. I can do nothing. That I need Him as my life is worth nothing without Him. Therefore, I pray that I can always keep His commandments so that I can please His heart and He continues to love me.

-Trust Him: This is probably the biggest effect that God's love has had on me. I have learned to trust Him, to believe in Him and in His promises. I trust on the Lord that no matter what happens and wherever I am or whatever I am going through, He is there with me and He is in control of any situation to ALWAYS take me out of it victorious.

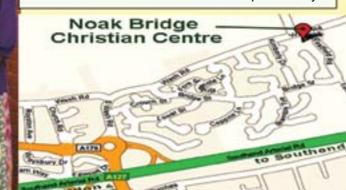
Walking in love with God means to have made that choice to walk His way. To obey Him, to know Him, to trust Him, to love others, to tell them who He is and that He loves us all. It is now my understanding that God's love is unfailing and unconditional and that we are here because He loves us. Glory be to the Lord for His amazing gift!

July Patino Basildon

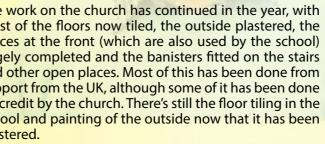
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Prayer is a gift given to us by God the Father Who longs to communicate with us and for us to share our lives with Him. Jesus taught us to pray, Our Father, a prayer beginning with the relationship He desires to have with us. How close that relationship becomes, is up to us.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son to come amongst us as a man. It is through Jesus that we can know God and draw close to Him. That He is close to us is affirmed in the Scriptures over and over again.

"The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18),

"O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise, you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways." (Psalm 139:1-3).

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THE INTIMACY OF PRAYER

Jesus Himself said, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20).

In James 4:8 we read, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you"

The writer to the Hebrews says, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (Hebrews 10:22) and here is the key to intimacy in prayer, the heart.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him".

We can come to God mentally accepting that He exists, but to diligently seek Him requires engagement of the heart if we are to truly find Him. When we are born again the Holy Spirit comes into our heart and the relationship begins. Without communication a relationship dies; we are given the Holy Spirit so that our prayer can be living, close and personal with the Lord.

Intimacy requires both love and trust between two people. Intimacy with God is no different. Spending time in the Word and prayer are the ways in which we come to know Him more. love Him more and trust Him more. The Apostle Paul, who had such revelation from God, which we benefit from today, said, 'I want to know Christ'. It is that yearning to know Him that leads us and keeps us seeking to dwell in that secret place of the Most High, a place of security in the knowledge of

His love, of peace in the knowledge of His faithfulness, of joy in the promise of eternal life and of the assurance of His grace.

There are things that are shared in a close relationship of trust and love that are not shared with everyone. Psalm 25:14 says, "The Lord confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to him".

Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." (John 14:23) God is faithful and there is no shadow of turning with Him. The way we live our lives will affect our intimacy in prayer either to enable, or disable it. Trusting God is not enough, we also need to obey His commands. This is how we are perfected in love (1John 2:5). Wherever we are in our life of prayer there is always the opportunity to draw closer to God. One of the old saints once said, 'Life is only for love, Time that we may know God'. May each of us continue to seek to know Him more, be more sensitive to His voice and to enjoy the fruit of intimacy in prayer with Jesus.

> To know Him, to know Him, Is the cry of my heart

Spirit reveal Him to me; To know what He's saying is life to my bones,

To know Him, to know Him, I pray.

BRIDGET GREENFIELD SOLIHULL

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A TESTIMONY TO THE MIRACLE WORKING POWER OF PRAYER.

Don't look at the problem, Look a little higher, Never mind the wind and rain, Never mind the fire, Jesus can do miracles, He'll turn the stones to bread, So don't look at the problems, Look to God instead.

Last January 2014. Having become very ill and taken to Darlington hospital intensive care unit, where I became unconscious which lasted nearly a month. My blood pressure went through the roof - then plummeted. I had gone into cardiac arrest and was deteriorating rapidly. The doctors took my son Matthew to one side and said he should get the family together as they had found a clot in the small bowel, which they considered (the bowel) had turned gangrenous. The family gathered together in a waiting room held hands and powerfully prayed. The medics were trying to stabilize me so that they could operate, but the chances of survival were very slim. Lily asked, "What if you do not operate". The Surgeon replied, "We will just make him as comfortable as possible". Lily said, "Go ahead". They telephoned Lily at 11pm that night with the news that they had operated and dealt with the clot and that the bowel was clear. - 'The first miracle of many'. -After the operation - for two weeks, there was no response; the medics could not bring me round. Septicaemia which also caused my limbs to fill up with fluid set in, a tracheotomy was performed as I couldn't breath on my own, heart rate was erratic and blood pressure unstable, antibiotics didn't work. Fortunately, a specialist nurse who was on secondment from a Newcastle hospital, suggested antiviral drugs, which seemed to work to some degree. Lily and the family were told to keep talking to me, and hold my hand. Lily would sing to me, one of the songs being:

The altogether lovely one is Jesus. The sweetest flower, the Rose of Sharon fair. The altogether lovely one is Jesus. The richest jewel of Heaven beyond compare. The pearl for which I'd sell a thousand mansions. The diadem far brighter than the sun. For all eternity, Jesus is to me, the altogether lovely one.

For my family, it must have seemed an interminably anxious and distressing time. Matthew and Vicky sent texts out for prayer and then one Saturday night at 9.00pm a nurse rang my wife to say that I had opened my eyes and smiled when she had asked 'can you hear me'. The same thing happened the following day with Lily. My wife tells me, that I was surrounded by all kinds of machines with tubes going in and out of me. To this day the condition has not been fully diagnosed.

On slowly improving and regaining consciousness, I could not move any of my limbs. It was said that hospitalization rehabilitation would take a year to eighteen months. I eventually asked them to release me to my home, which the medics were loath to do, but eventually agreed. Lily and Vicky nursed me with the help of nurses and my doctor. I could not walk, feed, toilet myself or bathe. I was given many aids, a wheelchair, toilet seat, sticks, Zimmer frame and sitting cushions. My lovely wife had to change my pyjamas many times during the night. The miracle is that within three months, I could walk, dress, bathe, feed myself and write.

Hundreds of people throughout the country have been praying for me and I know personally that it is this power that has sustained me and that my ongoing testimony isn't finished yet! I thank God for giving me this extra time to testify to the love of Jesus Christ



and that I may continue in this earth realm for another season telling of His wonderful love and compassion for humanity. Having experienced many a near miss and ups and downs during my life; I have been brought miraculously through. Please read my testimony in the Glory magazine 2008 or DVD70.

DOUG

I know, that having put my hand to the plough 'so to speak', and spoken and ministered to others about the truth of spiritual redemption, that as the scripture says. Greater is He that liveth in me, than he that is in the world.

I am safely sheltered in the everlasting arms, I am safely sheltered, secure from all alarms, In the rock I'm hiding where naught can ever harm, I am safely sheltered in the everlasting arms.

You too can be sheltered in the everlasting arms, if you give your heart to Jesus.

The world today desperately needs the message of Jesus, bringing Love, Joy and Peace to those who will hear and respond to Him. They do not want a religious format of dogma, jargon, form and intellectual niceties, but a real spontaneous living transforming reality.

On reflection, a miracle has taken place. Lily and I were saying the other day. 'An absolute miracle isn't it'.

Oh! What a trying year this has been for my lovely wife and family. Thank you 'Jesus' for giving us the strength to bring us through.

Throughout this experience I have had no fear, but have felt an overwhelming power and surge of love within me, which has given me the determination to live a day at a time in Him. I will, whilst I am able, express and testify of His wonderful love.

My Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus. Thank you for your healing touch, I believe I am well, healthy, loved and blessed. I thank you for all your goodness toward me and my family, for your salvation, healing and completeness in you.

Just touch, bless and heal those who read these words of testimony. I ask, in your name. Amen.

Thank you everyone, for all your prayers, messages and gifts, and also those special people who visited me so often having travelled long distances whilst I was in hospital. May God richly bless you all, in your walk with Him in this plain of time.

DOUG AISTRUP DARLINGTON Email: douglas.aistrup@ntlworld.com



Prayer is, our direct connection with the throne room. It is the access with a personal God in our times of need, and we, as born again believers, have been given this access through the shed blood of Jesus; however some people do not see the point of praying. They say 'Why should I pray when God, who knows the end from the beginning, knows my thoughts?'. On the other extreme, some people consider prayer a bit of a nagging tool, in the hope that God might change His mind, as we twist His arm until He gives in. Those who regard prayer in either of these



Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you..." Exodus 33:18-20 When we speak about the Glory we are talking about the Goodness of God. The foundational truth that, God is good is often questioned. Our understanding of this is fundamental in determining our approach and relationship with God.

In the Garden of Eden God's integrity was under attack, His nature was challenged. So was his intent towards man. The serpent said Gen 3:1, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden"? Satan goes on blatantly contradicting God's word, Gen 3:4, "You will not certainly die,"

PURPOSEFUL PRAYER

ways are missing the point. Prayer is not about 'getting' something - it is about us'being' something; something greater than life itself. Prayer allows us to know a living, personal Creator.

Prayer is our communion with God himself. It is an opportunity for us to interact with Him in all his fulness. It is a way of loving our Saviour and savouring His presence. Last November, in Norwich, I was in a meeting where for 30 minutes, nothing much happened. There was no music, no voices, no sounds - and yet, it was a version of praying that I have seldom witnessed in over 20 years of being a Christian. It was communion with Him on another level. Just by sitting in His presence, we become purer. The God whom we serve already knows the plans He has for us; the plans are to prosper us and bring us a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). However, as we pray and commune with God, it becomes clear which doors God is leading us towards. Prayer is an illuminating light in an often dark situation.

God has been unfolding His purpose

Adam and Eve ate from the tree and this caused them to retreat from God, because of their disobedience, shame and guilt they hid, however God did not hide. He pursued Adam, Gen 3:9, "saying where are you"? -

Naturally being conscious of our failure causes us to withdraw from God. In contrast the revelation of truth of His Goodness will cause us to draw closer to Him; He looks for worth in all His Creation.

The Lord's affections towards us do not change according to our behavior because goodness is his nature. We need that inner knowledge within our spirits to sustain us, it becomes our strength. Christians are positioned in His goodness and enjoy the benefits of His Glory producing the fruit of, Love, Joy and Peace. There is no need to hide like they did in Eden no matter how we feel about our failure. God reaches out to us and clothes us with the Glory of His goodness, Jesus. In Genesis with Joseph, God's

character and nature is clearly seen, Joseph faced many challenges. temptation and trial to discover God's master plan. One particular verse underpins the whole story throughout the earth for thousands of years. By us praying, we join with the saints past, present and future in bringing about the plan of God here on earth. I want to part of establishing His kingdom here on earth and I am sure you do as well

I believe that the coming times will cause us to do marvellous and great things however those who are praying will hear the abundance of rain first. It is those who pray whom become attuned to what the Spirit is saying to the church. This is not a quick fix solution - To commune with God through prayer involves detaching ourselves from our daily lives, and going somewhere quiet to listen to the still small voice. Jesus took himself away so He could hear the Father's voice. How much more do we need to hear the voice of the Spirit, in this world that we live in today?

It is my desire that we realise that prayer is so much greater than just bringing our needs to God. It is an edifying experiencing that equips us for the current world and prepares us for the next.

DAVID SHIPMAN COVENTRY

THE COODNESS OF COD

Gen 50:20 Says, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." - He said this to his brothers to show it was all in God's plan for their good.

We can live out our whole lives under the banner of his love and goodness. It is so extravagant, and intensely rich despite our failures. It gives us such assurance and security. Nothing else can satisfy the human spirit, and fulfill the soul of man like the Love and Goodness of God. This is our defence against the demands of the world. We have the incomparable goodness of Jesus. His Goodness and Love brings a paradigm shift in our understanding. Paul says this in Philippians 3:8 "I consider everything to be a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ"

How great is This Goodness of God that it can completely change a man's perspective on what he once treasured. This can't be taught but has to be experienced through Jesus!

LUKE & ADANNA JOHNSON BASILDON

NORMAL FOR NORFOLK

Many, many years ago I was working as a Mental Health Nurse. Again and again I would see the expression "NFN" written in people's notes. This was an abbreviation of "Normal for Norfolk". Medical professionals would write this to describe people they thought were a little backward, a little slow or even those with borderline learning difficulties. It wasn't a good expression. This language, rightly so would not be tolerated today.

Recently I was reminded of this in my Christian Walk. I am pastoring a Church called "Radical" which reaches out to the broken and marginalised in society. These broken include the homeless, sex workers; those with addictions, those coming out of prison and the Gypsies, to name a few.. Our church is different and we often joke that if you have passed your CRB check you are not allowed in.

God has been doing some incredible transformations through his blood. And ALL the Glory belongs to Jesus. When I was given the vision to reach out to this group (and give them Salvation, Discipleship, Housing, Employment and Family) I argued with the Lord and said "People will think I'm stealing other peoples sheep". Immediately I heard the voice of the Holy Ghost say that "The most on Fire, Radical members of the church are yet to be Saved" they are still on the street. That was two years ago and I am only now walking in this revelation.

The bible says in Hebrews 7:25, **"That He is able to Save to the UTTERMOST.".** One definition of "uttermost" says to the farthest degree possible; that is Jesus: He is so Radical, so Extreme and He likes to show off and not just Save a little bit; but give total transformation. I love that. I have dreamed about days like this. I used to read about it in books and desire it but now I am seeing it first-hand. Thank you Jesus.

Steven attended the service by mistake in St Stephen's Church as he was on the way to the Soup Run. He came in and listened to the service. He then came back the next day. Being homeless and an alcoholic life was limiting. He, gave His life to Jesus, however, and was immediately set free from alcohol. Several days later he was given accommodation and today 4 or 5 months later he has his own flat and is full of joy and love, bringing others to church. Many secular agencies have asked him what he did and he just said" I gave my life to Jesus and all the blackness left me." He said to me he thought it was normal to be set free instantly. Extreme Salvation, extreme Deliverance; Normal for Jesus.

Rick was depressed and suicidal and was conned into coming to church being told he was going to a community centre to have a coffee. But after hearing the mighty Shippo (David Shipman) preach he felt the sermon was for him and that he was wearing prison garments on the outside and he wanted true freedom. He gave his life to Jesus and was radically changed. Two nights later he had a dream and saw himself going back to drink, drugs and violence. But in the dream there was a light and a voice that said read Acts 3. When he woke up he thought to himself "Is there a book called Acts in the bible?" So he looked and there was and the verse that jumped out to him was repent that times of refreshing may come; so he did. He has never been the same since. Extreme encounter, extreme dream Normal for Jesus.

Anita was on 75 tablets a day for a number of conditions. She got Radically Saved and healed and has come off all her tablets. Anita like many of our congregation is not used to church and had no concept of God. She phoned me and the conversation went: something like this. Anita "Matthew is it normal to wake up at 0530 and feel a desire to pray" Me " Well it's not average but it's quite

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normal" Anita "Is it normal to have such joy and feel such life that I want to sing and dance?" Me "Well it's not average, but normal. The conversation went on and on praise God, as Anita described warmth like a river in her tummy when in church. "Yes that's not average, but normal".

Two weeks after being Saved, she was in a pub having a meal and a friend was feeling very sick. Anita reached over to her and laid hands on her and prayed for her. (Because she had seen this happen in church and it worked for her) Her friend was healed and jumped up and said what have you done. Extreme Healing, extreme Joy, Normal for Jesus.

Is this Normal? Absolutely!! No one has got to these young Christians and told them it's not and you can't do that. Oh that the whole church was Jesus Normal.

I don't know about you but I'm sick of average. Average is overrated .Give me more of this any day. I'm sick of playing church, I'm sick of people saying a prayer after me and there being no change. I just love this new breed of Radical Christian. In the Church generally we are so far removed from "Normal" Christianity that when we hear stories like this they seem abnormal and extreme. This should, however, be the Norm. It's not average... but it's Normal.

In Norfolk there was a survey that found Norwich to be the most "Godless City" in our country. People said of Jesus" could something good come out of Nazareth." But it did and He did. God is changing atmospheres and cultures because He can; and as a prophetic word recently came forth He is changing the expression "Normal for Norfolk." The same is true for the church. Instead of normal being no difference from the world, compromised and lacking power; Normal will mean on fire, for Jesus, free from addictions fully restored, full of the Holy Ghost, and doing the stuff in the book.

We are in the book of Acts chapter 29. Its wild, it's adventurous but perfectly normal. Salvations, healings, deliverance from demons, visions, dreams all in the book all normal". The definition we've adopted as Normal is changing. Normal For Norfolk? Normal for Radical? No, Normal for Jesus. He used to do it in times of old but you know what, He still does. He's still the same, He Saves to the Uttermost, He Heals and Delivers.

Are you Average? Are you Radical? Are you Normal for Jesus?

MATT RICHARDS NORWICH