

Believing For Greater Things: I

Believing In The God Who Is Greater

John 10.29

“My Father gave my sheep to Me. **He is greater than all**, and no person can steal My sheep out of My hand” (NCV)

Totally persuaded

First things first - we must come to the place where we whole-heartedly believe that **God is greater than all**.

- He is greater than any trouble or trial you are facing at this present time.
- He is greater than sin; failure; sickness and pain; poverty and lack
- He is greater than any king, government and authority

God has given Jesus you and me and no person or thing can take us out of His hand.

Paul said in Romans 8 that he is totally convinced and persuaded that there is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the love that God has for us. Why, because he knew that God was greater than all and was with him.

“If God is for us, who can be against us?... Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (vss 31,37-39)

The apostle John put it like this:

“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them because **He who is in you is greater** than he who is in the world” 1 John 4.4

Who are the them John was writing about – the *agents of the antichrist – those things that are against and contrary to the purpose, plan and will of God*

John 8.53

“Do you think you are greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died, too. Who do you think you are?” (NCV)

Jesus went on to say (vs58) - “Most assuredly (that means without any shadow of doubt), I say to you, before Abraham was I AM”

Hebrews 11.6

“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” (KJV/NKJV)

Almost all modern translations translate the second phrase as “*for those who come to God must believe that He exists..*”

This is not an erroneous translation as the word employed here supports it, however I would suggest that those of us that approach God must believe in more than the existence of God, we must believe in what I call the is-ness of God.

To believe in the is-ness of God is to believe that God is who He says He is, and who He has revealed Himself to be. **We don't just believe in God, we believe God.**

We have just looked at the Scripture where Jesus said 'before Abraham was, I AM'

God revealed Himself to Moses as I AM. The Great I AM sent Moses into Egypt with an important message for His children and for the Pharaoh.

Exodus 3.13-15

Names were extremely important to those in Egypt. The names of the Pharaohs and the Egyptian gods were permanently etched into the stone of their temples, sacred places and tombs. And Moses pre-empts this by asking God *Who shall I say has sent me?*

God continued:

“Tell them the LORD, the God of their fathers Abraham, Isaac, Jacob .. this is my name forever” (v15)

LORD – this is the name translated as Jehovah or Yahweh and means the Self Existing One.

- This name is derived from the Hebrew word for the verb 'to be'
- When translated in the first person it becomes “I am I am”
- The name Jehovah refers to a God who is continuously becoming.

Genesis 17.1-2

In these verses God reveals Himself to Abram by the name *El Shaddai*. This is one of the compound names of God, of which there many more. It takes *El* the shortened form of Elohim and compounds it with Shaddai, the word for Almighty, hence the meaning of the name – Almighty God.

Although they are two separate words, shaddai is similar and close to the word *shad* which means 'of the breast' thus signifying that He is all that they need.

- A baby receives all that is sufficient for life, health and growth from its mother's breast.

God chose to reveal Himself by this name while Abram was facing a very difficult challenge. They had been promised a child but 24 years on and there was still no sign of that promised child.

- God reassures him that He is all that they need – He is Almighty God, the All Sufficient One.
- The God who is greater than the need – He is greater than the barrenness of Sarah's womb
- He is greater than all of their understanding
- He is greater than all of their restlessness, frustrations and confusion

God needed to instill this into Abraham because there would be more trials to come in the future where he would need to stand in faith on this truth.