

# Believing For Greater Things: 6

## Greater Things Attest the Claims/Words of Jesus

In the previous lesson in this study series we saw how Jesus said we would see and do greater things. This lesson we will see that these greater things attest (*to validate, certify, provide evidence for*) the claims and words of Jesus, about who He is.

### John 5.20, 36

“The Father loves the Son and shows the Son all the things He Himself does. But the Father will show the Son even greater things than this so that you can all be amazed.... But I have a proof about Myself that is greater than that of John. The things I do, which are the things My Father gave Me to do, prove that the Father sent Me” (NCV)

This whole passage (John 5.15-47) is talking about the authority and authenticity of Jesus' testimony – that He is who He claimed to be. It is in response to the Jews outrage that Jesus had healed the man at the poolside on the Sabbath

Jesus makes several points here:

- The Father and the Son are one (vs 17-18) - John 10.30
- He only did what He saw the Father do – the Father showed Him what to do and told Him what to say (vs 19).
- The Father would show Him greater works so that people would believe in Him (vs 20). John Gill (18<sup>th</sup> century theologian & Bible expositor) states “*these greater works shown to, and done by Christ.. were to prove his divine sonship, his proper deity, his true Messiahship, to confirm the faith of his followers in him, and for the glory of God*”.
- To honour the Father, you must honour the Son (vs 23).
- All who hear what Jesus says and believes in Him will have everlasting life (vs 24).
- Jesus is the Life-Giver (vs 25-26)
- The Father has given authority (Gk. *exousia* - right, power of jurisdiction) to Jesus (vs 27).
- His judgements are righteous and just because He judges in accordance with the will of the Father (vs 30).
- He was unable to bear witness of Himself (vs 31). The words '*not true*' here have nothing to do with being false but rather unbalanced, they imply that self evidence was not permissible or admitted as valid in law (see Amplified translation). Every testimony had to be authenticated in the mouth of two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 19.15; Matthew 18.16; John 8.13-18).

Do not confuse what Jesus said here with **John 8.14** where He states that His witness is true, this latter verse is a statement of personal competency to speak about Himself. Jesus then introduces four other witnesses to substantiate His testimony.

- a) second witness – John the Baptist (vs 33).
- b) third witness, greater than John – the works that Jesus did, shown Him by the Father (vs 36).

- c) fourth witness – the Father Himself (vs 37).
- d) fifth witness – the Scriptures, Moses, the prophets (vs 39).

There are an additional two witnesses (not mentioned in this chapter) they are:

- e) The Holy Spirit (John 15.26) who had not yet been poured out on the church
- f) The disciples (John 15.27) who would be His witnesses after the Holy Spirit had come upon them - Acts 1.8

Jesus did many works which elicited from the people a belief in Him.

John 2.11	John 4.50-53	John 10.41-42
John 2.23	John 7.31	John 11.45
John 4.39-41	John 8.30	John 12.9-11

### **John 14.11**

“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. Or believe because of the miracles I have done.” (NCV)

“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me; or else believe Me for the sake of the [very] works themselves. [*If you cannot trust Me, at least let these works that I do in My Father's name convince you.*]” (Amplified)

The greater works testify to the Sonship and Lordship of Jesus

### **Mark 16.15-20**

Mark 16.15-16

Jesus left us, the church, with the awesome responsibility of going and preaching the good news of the gospel to all creation.

How do we convince them that Jesus is the Lord and Saviour? We don't! Our responsibility is to tell them; the Holy Spirit will convince them (John 16.8-11 NCV)

Mark 16.17-18

The greater works, the signs that accompany believers as they preach the gospel, attest to the Lordship of Jesus.

These signs will follow those who believe – in My name (believe in His name and use His name)

- Cast out demons
- speak in new tongues
- pick up deadly snakes or drink any deadly poison and not be harmed
- lay hands on sick and see them recover

The NCV says that these things will be done as proof.

Mark 16.20

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs”

The believers did what Jesus had asked them – they went everywhere preaching the good

news. In Jesus name they wrought greater miracles – God attesting (confirming, proving) the Word (*Jesus is known as the Living Word*) through the signs.

“The followers went everywhere in the world and told the Good News to people, and the Lord helped them. The Lord proved that the Good News they told was true by giving them power to work miracles.” (NCV)

“And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the attesting signs and miracles that closely accompanied [*it*].” (Amplified)

### **Exodus 4.1-9**

#### ***How do we convince them?***

- Moses asks 'what if they don't believe me'
- God tells him to perform certain signs

“that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.” (vs 5)

Signs are given that men may believe in God and turn to Him.

John writes: “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these (*the signs that have been recorded*) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20.31)

- The world needs to be evangelised so that Jesus can return for His church.
- We need to see and do the greater works today in our evangelism - these greater works will help usher in the return of Jesus (see Matthew 24.14)  
“And this Good News of the Kingdom shall be proclaimed throughout the whole world to set the evidence before all the Gentiles; and then the End will come” (Weymouth)