

Stepping Into The Season Of Greater Things

John 14.12

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father”

- Towards the end of last year God impressed on me that we are entering a season of greater things.
- His word to me was based on this scripture in John 14. In this verse Jesus said that we would do the same works that He did – but not only do the same, we would do greater works.
- He confirmed this during the Equipping Weekend with Jonathan Conrathe last November
- This has since been confirmed through the prophetic word received in this house

If we believe what Jesus said, and we believe that we are stepping into a season of greater things there are some things we should know.

- Greater things are manifestations of God’s glory
- Greater things are born out of our relationship with God
- Greater things flow out of obedience

Introduction - Greater things are manifestations of the Glory of God

- **Jesus’ conversation with Nathanael**

“Jesus said to Nathanael, 'Do you believe simply because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than that'” John 1.50 (NCV)

In this passage (verses 43-51) we read that first Jesus found Philip, then Philip found Nathanael – reaching out to others, fulfilling the commission to evangelise, “**We have found Him.. Jesus of Nazareth.. Come and see**” (vs45-46)

Nathanael is unsure of this man - Can anything good come out of Nazareth?

- Nazareth a place of outcasts – not a good place to live
- No prophet ever came from the region of Galilee (John 7.52)

Jesus sees Nathanael approaching and remarks that he is an honest man, in whom is no guile or deceit or falsehood nor duplicity.

- Nathanael wants to know how Jesus knew him seeing they had never met.

Jesus then says something that amazes him – '**before Philip called you, while you were under the fig tree, I saw you**'

- something significant that went straight to the heart of the matter for Nathanael
- what was he doing sitting under the fig tree – thought processes: plans or frustrations, discouragement, hiding.
- Jesus saw him right at the point of his need
- Where are you right now, what fig tree are you sitting under – Jesus sees you under your fig tree

To this statement Nathanael responds favourably and in faith – You are the Son of God.

- **Greater things are manifestations of the glory of God**

Jesus told Nathanael (and the other disciples – you is plural in vs 51) that they would see something greater than what had just been manifest to him.

They would see the angels of God ascending/descending on the Son of Man - “..you will all see heaven open and angels of God going up and coming down on the Son of Man” (NCV)

I believe Jesus is saying here that because they had put their faith in Him that they would see greater manifestations of the power of God at work – they would see miracles, receive revelation and experience God to a greater extent than any of the prophets who were before.

Three days later Jesus began His miraculous ministry at the wedding feast in Cana, the home town of Nathanael (John 21.2). This miraculous event sealed their belief in Jesus as He manifested His glory (John 2.11) as a confirmation of His words a few days earlier. The greater things He spoke of are connected to His Glory

At a much later stage in His ministry, Jesus reminded Martha of Bethany - “... Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God” (John 11.40)

What is understood to be 'the glory of God' ?

- Glory - (Heb. *kabod, tip'eret* ; Gk. *doxa* - meaning heavy, weighty, honour, splendour, brightness, pre-eminence, majesty). When we speak of 'the Glory' it is the full weight of God Himself and His power manifested in tangible form eg a cloud in 2 Chronicles 5.14 & Mark 9.7
- Moses asked to see the glory of God (Exodus 33.18)
- God shows him His glory – He makes all His goodness pass before him (Exodus 33.19; Exodus 34.5-7)

Believers will see God's glory – the greater things that Jesus spoke of to Nathanael - the opened heavens and God's goodness being poured out – personally and corporately

Greater things born out of our relationship with God

Before we can go on and believe God for greater things we must come to the place where we whole-heartedly believe that **God is greater than all.**

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

- **Trust in the Is-ness of God**

Who do you believe He is?

“Nothing twists and deforms the soul more than a low or unworthy conception of God”

A. W. Tozer

Greater things are born out of a revelation of who Jesus is

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** (without any doubt/you can take it to the bank/you can pin all your hopes on this), **I say to you, before Abraham was I AM**”

I AM – the covenant name of God, (the root of the name Jehovah)

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)

For me, this is a verse that really has to be understood from the AV or 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 to approach God we 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.**

Just prior to being shipwrecked on Malta, Paul stated “**I believe God.**” (Acts 27.25)

Amplified translation: “*So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith (complete confidence) in God that it will be exactly as it was told me*”

- We can have total and complete confidence that it will be exactly as God says it will be. If we have the promise, then it cannot fail.
- **Unwavering faith in the Word**

God and His Word are inseparable.

Because God and His Word cannot be separated, we find all that God is, is contained in His Word.

- His Word reveals the nature and character of God – everything we need to know about God, His nature, His character has already been spoken and given to us. We get to know God through His Word
- His Word reveals His will to us – the Bible is divided into two parts, the Old & New Testaments. A testament is a legal declaration of someone's will, purpose and intent; a covenant. God's Word is His revealed will for us.

God Has Magnified His Word Above His Holy Name

Psalm 138.2

“**I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your Word above all Your name**”

- God reveals Himself to us through His Word – Even though His name is high and holy, God has magnified His Word above His own name.

- God's Word is the benchmark by which we test those who come in 'His name' (see Matthew 24.5, 1 John 4.1). All prophecies and other 'words' from God must be tested against the Written Word. Peter called the written word a more sure word of prophecy (2 Peter 1.16-21)

God's Word Has First Place

Proverbs 4.20-21

We must give the Word our full attention. It must be kept before our eyes and in our hearts. The people of God were told to keep hearing it, reading it, speaking it, wherever they went and whatever they did (Deuteronomy 6.6-9, 11.18-20).

- God's Word is true and should be desired more than gold, more than life itself (Psalm 19.7-9)
- God's Word has been given to us so that we can live by them (Matthew 4.4)
- God's Word is solid foundation on which we can base our whole life (Matthew 7.24-25). We build by being obedient to it, being a doer of the word (James 1.22)
- We do not build our lives on the teachings of a church, the words of some preacher, the writings of some author, or the words of the latest song (songbook theology) – unless those areas are based on the Word.
- Disregard anything that does not line up or agree with God's Word – that includes the reports we receive through the world - media, politicians, doctors, professionals or even well-intentioned individuals. Believe God's report – His Word! (Numbers 13.30-33, Numbers 14.1-11; Isaiah 53.1; Psalm 1.1-2)

Abraham Fully Trusted the Word – Romans 4.18-21

- He believed when everything was contrary to the fact (v18)
- He did not consider his own body – he did not listen to the natural (v19)
- He did not waver at the promise of God (v20)
- He was FULLY CONVINCED that God would perform His word (v21)

In order to believe for greater things you must settle in your own heart that God's Word is greater than any other word – it must be our first resource rather than our last resort. It cannot fail!

We get to that place where we are like Abraham – fully convinced

Greater things flow out of obedience

- **Following the example of the Master**

If you want to be great in the kingdom, or to see and do greater things then:

- listen to what God says through His word
- don't be a hearer only, but be obedient to the Word of God
- follow the example of Jesus – who is greater than all.

Jesus Himself followed this same pattern - (John 8.28-29; John 12.49-50; John 15.15)

- He heard from the Father
- He said only what He heard His Father speak
- He did only what He His Father showed Him

- **Reliance on the Holy Spirit**

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.

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) through the signs.

As we go forward into this season, let's go believing God for greater things, greater victories, greater revelation, greater experiences of God.

Covenant Life Church, Leicester 19 March 2023

www.voice-faith.com