



20

DAY 20

GOD PROMISES TO DO GREAT THINGS THROUGH YOU

JANUARY 27, 2024

Justin Driedger

KEY SCRIPTURE

JOHN 14:12-14

Recently in my downtime I've been bingeing documentaries on sports legends. I've been struck by our collective fascination with greatness. Whether it's shelling out big bucks to see a favourite athlete or musician or diving into biographies of culturally significant figures, there's a magnetic pull toward their greatness. We yearn to understand what sets them apart, how they achieved greatness, and whether that same potential resides within us.

Now, consider Jesus—the ultimate GOAT (Greatest of All Time). What sets Him apart is not just His greatness but the promise that we, through belief in Him, can do even greater things than He did.

Let's unpack this promise together found in John 14:12-14: *"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."*

When I read this promise it reveals three key aspects of greatness:

#1 BELIEF. This word believe is from the greek word *pisteuó* and it's where we get our word for faith. So it's not just believing that God exists because the bible says even the demons believe and shudder. This is talking about the simple act of a loving trusting relationship with Jesus which opens us to receiving His power and presence to then reside inside of us.

This relationship is kind of like a faucet. You can turn it all the way on and experience a greater trust in Jesus but you can also limit it and as a result experience a lack of faith which is why Jesus often talked to the disciples about their lack of faith. It's important to note faith doesn't come from us so no man/woman can boast but it comes from opening up that spiritual tap to receive Jesus power and presence and to give Jesus our whole lives.

#2 GREATER THINGS. The second part of this promise is that you will do not only the same things Jesus did but even greater things. Now we just have acknowledge that's a wild statement and this is where a lot of people have confused and questioned what this means. In order to better understand this passage we have to look at what are these greater things? How do

you define them? To be honest I think we have a narrow view on this. Our first thought is typically of the physical things Jesus did: turning water into wine, healing the official's son, feeding the 5000, walking on water, and/or reading the mind of the woman at the well.

Now there's no doubt those signs/wonders are amazing but follow for me a second. In verse 11 Jesus says to: follow me on account of my works and that my works are to lead people to faith (belief). So therefore the greater work that Jesus did was to lead people to faith in Himself. So Jesus is saying whoever believes in me will do the works I do - the works that point people to faith. If you are a believer that is the true definition of greatness - your life is a putting on display the trustworthiness of Jesus. Today my hope is you'd be reminded you are a co-heir with Christ meaning - your heart should break for injustice in the world as it does for Jesus but you also because of the Holy Spirit you get to experience His power and love and a bright hope.

#3 BECAUSE I'M GOING TO THE FATHER. The power in this statement is simply that Jesus going away meant He could send His Holy Spirit to live in every single one of us who believes. So the reason you can do greater things is on account of the all-powerful Spirit who will supply everything you need in order to bring glory to the Father.

This is why Jesus said whatever you ask in my name it will be done. Not because his name is some kind of magical incantation but rather it speaks of an endorsement (like a bank cheque) and a limitation (requests must be made in accordance with his character) meaning everything we ask or do in His name must come in alignment with His mind and motive and we know that is that everything we do is so that Jesus would be high and lifted up not only in our lives but in our world!

REFLECTIONS

- ▶ On a scale of 1-10, how is your loving, trusting relationship with Jesus? Ask him to soften your heart and to fill you with faith to believe for His very best. Acknowledge it, take responsibility and surrendered it to God?
- ▶ Assess whether your life points others to faith and ask about the work God wants to do in you for His glory.
- ▶ Examine where you need Jesus to be lifted up, align with His will, and invite His power into your life.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I open my heart to a deeper, stronger, and more loving relationship with you. Fill me with faith for greater things in my life and the lives around me. I choose to follow you again and ask to be used to lead others to faith. Thank you for making me a co-heir with Christ. Break my heart for what breaks yours, and empower me to bring hope and reconciliation by the strength of your Holy Spirit. Today, I invite you to work greater things in me and through me for Your glory. Amen.

20