

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG159 – Greater Works Shall You Do

Hello, and welcome to the podcast today. This podcast is called, *Greater Works Shall You Do*. I am really wanting to get across to us this sense of how Christ moved when He was in the earth, because I believe it is a way that we are to move. I want to start by reading a Scripture to us out of John the fourteenth chapter, at verses 11-12. It says, “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. Truly, truly, 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 the Father.” When we talk about all that Christ did, we mostly refer to them as miracles. It is very common terminology within the church and within Christianity that we talk about the miracles of Jesus, or Yeshua. And yet, when He speaks about what He did, He does not use the term miracles. In fact, the term miracle, when we see it in the English version of the Bible, really comes out of the Greek from the word for power, *dunamis*. What He did, He called works – He did the works of God. And here in this Scripture in John, He is saying that those who believe in Him, the works that He did, they will do also, and greater works than these will they do.

Now the reason I think this is important is because the tendency we have when we use the term miracle, or we think in terms of miracles, is that a miracle is an amazing thing that happens, but we do not understand how it happened. We maybe do not understand why it happened. We just know that it took place; and so we think about miracles of healing; the miracles of breaking the loaves and the fishes and feeding the 4, 000, or feeding the 5, 000; the miracle of calming the storm. When we as Christians really think about our faith, and think about Yeshua as an individual, we think in terms of all the wonderful miracles that He did. Now, I think this really is problematic, in a way, because it is not giving us a clear picture. He referred to them as works. I think one of the differences, just in the terminology, is that when you talk about work, it is normally something that you understand what you are doing and how you are doing it. At least, I hope that is true; because most of us have jobs, and when we go to our job, we say, “Hey, we’re going to work.” When we get to work, we better know what it is that we are doing – why we are going to work, what it is that the work is, and how we accomplish that work. And that is what I think is important when we talk about Yeshua, because I believe He understood that He was here to work the works of the Father; and, in a sense, He came to work on the earth. When He came here, He understood the works – He knew what He was here to do, and He understood how to do it. So it was not, to Him, a miracle; to Him, it was a work, and how that work was accomplished He well understood.

Now again, when we look at the Scripture in John, it is saying in verse 12, “Truly, truly, 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 the Father.” The door was opened as Christ went to the Father for us to enter into the Presence of the Father. Therefore, that door opened the enabling for us to do, as Christ did, the works of the Father; and I think these should be works, and I think that we should understand them.

I think there is a way that Christ got into the enabling to do the works of the Father. When we think about Christ, number one, I want us to really recognize the fact that when He was here on the earth,

He was human. Now we can go into theological discussions about was He pre-existent with God? was He divine? did He exist in divinity? And all of that, to me, is important on some level, but it is superfluous to the discussion of what He was in the earth. When He came as a human, whatever attributes He had prior to Him coming to the earth He laid down; and therefore, He was born of a woman, He existed in the form of human flesh, He existed as a human, He walked with God on the earth as a human. And it is important for us to recognize this and come to grips with it in our faith, because for me, personally, at least, if He was not human, then I can't find Him being an example for me to follow. I could call Him a god, and say He was divine and did all these divine things, and He had superpowers that come along with divinity; so in a sense, I can almost dismiss what Christ did in the flesh while He was here on the earth, because if I believe He was here in a divine form, or still retaining divine attributes, then I know that I am not here in a divine form. Maybe some of you are, I don't know; if you are, I am sure there is a different podcast out there somewhere that is addressing that. But for me, the fact is that I am in human flesh, I am only the creation of God in a human being, a human flesh; and therefore, Christ coming to the earth as a human is extremely important to me, because then what He does while He is here in that form becomes an example for me. Therefore, I should be able to follow Him and follow those attributes. And I believe that is part of what He is addressing here in John, saying, "Those who believe in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father."

He went to the Father, but He left us here in the flesh. And yet, He is saying that greater works than He did will we do, because of what He accomplished on the cross, and because of His ascension into the Father. Of course, when He ascended to the Father, He was no longer in human form, in human flesh; He was in a resurrected body. So He had transformed from the time of the death of the cross into that resurrection life, that resurrection body; and even when He appeared following the Resurrection, it is obvious from the Scriptures that He was in a different form. He was no longer merely a human. He walked through the walls and appeared to them. He did things which were, again, born out of the fact that He now was in a resurrected body, which holds a different level of divinity than certainly a strictly human form does. So we recognize that when Christ came forth after the Resurrection, He walked through walls, He did things that humans do not do. As hard as you try, you do not walk through walls very easily.

And so, we see here that Christ was strictly human, strictly in the flesh. And maybe I am overkilling this point, I don't know; but I think you almost have to, because I think it creeps in to the mind of believers that Christ, while He was here on the earth, was something different than what you are while you are here in your time on this earth. And I think that it is a way that our minds, in a sense, excuse ourselves from being like Him, or following Him, or doing the works that He did. It doesn't seem strange that we are not performing the works of God, it doesn't seem strange that we are not doing greater works than He did, if in our minds we are relating to ourselves as being a different form than He was while He was on the earth. And that is not true – He was here as a human. God drove that point home by having Him born of a woman, and having Him be a baby and grow up as any human does. That to us is a signal from God that He was human. He brought Him here to be human. He brought Him here to manifest Himself in human form, to make Himself more relatable to us. And this is what Christ did.

Yet at the same time, we see these works that He did. Now as I said, it is interesting, because we tend to relate to these things as miracles. But Jesus didn't; Yeshua did not relate to them as miracles. In John 10:25, "Jesus answered them, 'I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me.'" So He was doing works. He called them works, He did not call them miracles. They were not something, then, that was outside the ability for a human to accomplish or do.

And this is something to begin this conversation, with which I am hoping to begin some level of teaching that really gets through to us this nature that we do have. As limited as it may seem in its human form, there is that which we exist in as a human that has way more capacity than what we give credit for – or what we give faith to, or understanding of, that we are able to do in doing the will of God – because of this limitation in our mind where we are separating ourselves from Christ and all that He did.

In Luke 19:37, the Scripture says, “As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen.” So again, even while Yeshua was here in the flesh, the works that He did – and He kept saying it – you can go through the Scriptures and you cannot find one place where He refers to what He was doing as a miracle. He always referred to what He was doing as works. And yet, the people who were around Him and witnessing the works were referring to them as miracles. That is what we see here in Luke 19. It says, “They were praising God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen.” So again, they were separating themselves from the ability to do these things within themselves, because they were seeing Him as someone who was not merely human.

I think that we need to, if we are really going into this idea of what Christ said, that we will do the works that He did, and greater works – which, let’s face it, if we are in the end days, we are in a time where we need the enabling; we need the ability to work the works of God. And part of what is difficult about the days that we are living in is that we do not see people working the works of God on the level that Christ did; even on the level that Christ did. But remember what Christ said, “Greater works than these will you do.” And I think the end time events that we are facing even right now in the world around us call for a need of those who are walking with God, who are serving God, who are doing the will of God in the earth, to be able to work the works of God. It was those works that got attention from people and drew people to Christ. We need the ability and the enabling, I think, in the end time. This is just a problem that we face. And somehow, what I want to do in this podcast is say, let’s wake up to the reality that the works of God by us in our existing human form are within our ability; and not only within our ability, they are within the context of what Yeshua said that we, as humans following Him, serving Him, would do.

We have to remove the blocks out of our own understanding where we let ourself off the hook, so to speak, and go, “Well, we’re not expecting to be that way. That was Christ, you know. I’m just a human.” No, He was just a human. But in His relationship to the Father, He had this enabling within His flesh to accomplish the works of God. And what He said was, since He is now with the Father, the door is open for us to have this relationship with Him and the Father which will allow for us doing the works of God as He did the works of God; and even greater works than He did will we be able to do. Now I know this is difficult for us, and I know that it shakes us, and I want it to. I want it to shake me to my core, because I want to stop excusing myself. I want to stop excusing the body of Christ, I want to stop excusing all of Christianity and the church, for what we are not doing right now in our part of being manifest on the earth as the works of God.

In Psalm 103, verses 6-7, we see the same concept. It says, “The Lord performs righteous deeds and judgments for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.” This is a great delineation here, and it is what we are facing. We see that for the sons of Israel, what Moses was doing was miraculous. He was performing miracles. They were in awe, they were astounded by the miracles that Moses was performing. But He made known to Moses His ways. Moses understood what he was doing, and he understood how to do it; he understood that it was the ways of God, it was

the works of God. When God would speak to Moses and say, "Go turn the River Nile into blood," along with that direction from God the Father came the enabling and the enduing of the power upon Moses, and the understanding of how to do that. Moses didn't just go stand by the edge of the Nile and go, "Uh, umm, how do you turn water into blood? I'm not sure what I am doing here." He didn't go just pray to the Father, "God, please turn the water into blood." No. God had commanded him. With the command came the enabling, and the knowledge and the understanding. So Moses was working, as Christ did, the works of God. They were God's works; but he was performing those works through the enabling and the empowerment that was placed upon him by God directing him to do what he was doing. And as God leads us and directs us, it should be the same way. We should have the power that enables us to accomplish the things that God is directing us to do; and, again, with a clarity of understanding. This is what Yeshua had.

I want to go to John chapter 6. This is the story of the feeding of the 5,000. I encourage you to go back and read all of it, but I am just going to read a few verses, starting at verses 4-5. It says, "Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near. Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?'" Now get verse 6: "This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do." See, the feeding of the 5,000 was not just some miracle where they came up with the little fish and bread from the kid and said, "Well, here, we've got this," and then Christ blessed it and all of a sudden it became. No. He knew what He was going to do. He understood how to do it. It says that He took the loaves, and having given thanks – that's verse 11: "Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated." So it does not say that He blessed those little fish. The lad had the five barley loaves and the two fish; it does not say that He blessed those five barley loaves and the two fish and turned them into a multitude of fish and bread. Does it say that? No, it does not say that. It says He took the loaves in His hands and He gave thanks. He gave thanks to God, then He began to distribute it. He created, He pulled out of the heavens, He manifested bread and fish, and put it in the baskets and fed the people. And before He did it, it says He knew what He was going to do. If He knew what He was going to do, that infers to us that He knew how to do it. The only person there that was not surprised about what happened was Yeshua, because He knew beforehand what He was going to do; and He was testing Philip to see if Philip had faith to believe that God is capable of anything, therefore, there is nothing impossible to God. In fact, the Scripture says that God calls into being out of nothing that which we see. So, God made the whole heavens and the earth, human beings, everything in it, out of nothing. He created it. How did He do it? He said, "Let there be." Through His power, His divine power and energy, God brings forth out of nothing. And that is what Yeshua was capable of doing here, was manifesting loaves and fish. Now, to everyone else, it was a miracle. But to Him, He knew what to do – He knew what He was going to do, and He knew exactly how to do it.

In Luke 5 we begin to get an insight into the moving of Yeshua. Luke 5:15-16 says this: "But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray." Verse 17, "One day He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing." Isn't this beautiful? It is very clear: Yeshua went out to pray. He had this ability. What was He doing? Wouldn't it be great if there were video cameras watching Him? I am sure they had a bunch of security cameras in the wilderness, because there is so much you can steal when you are in the wilderness – not really, just a bunch of rocks. But He went out to the wilderness to

pray. He connected with the Father. He got into the Presence of the Father. He knew the Father, and because of His ability to immerse Himself into the Father – remember, one of the things we have to do here, we have to stop thinking of the Father in terms of anthropomorphism. In other words, we see Him as a person. He is an old guy with white hair and a long white beard, and He is sitting on a throne, and we humanize God so we can relate to Him. That is anthropomorphic thinking. God is not that. God is spirit; they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. Yeshua knew how to be in the Spirit and relate to the Father. And when He came out of that time of prayer, resting on Him was the power of the Lord to heal. Now, if we are going to do greater works, we are going to have to do them just like He did. He knew how to draw the power, how to immerse Himself into the Spirit. It says God is spirit, and He is love, and He is power. He is all power, and He is invisible. That power is an invisible reality that exists everywhere. Even theology recognizes that – He is omnipotent. He is all powerful. He is everywhere, all at once. You start relating to that, and you begin to wait upon the Lord, you begin to meditate upon the Word, you begin to draw, immerse yourself into that energy, until that energy is resting upon you. And then you are able to move, not in miracles; you are able by that power to move in the works of God. This is exactly what we see Yeshua doing, and this is exactly what He said would happen for us.

I know this is a little long, but we are not going to leave this subject in future podcasts, so I will try to cut it short. I am going to read this last Scripture in Acts 1, verses 6-8. It says, “When they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.’” The Scripture here points to the fact that they were to do the works that Christ had done, and greater works than these were they to do. Why? Because the same power was to rest on them. Were they now superhuman? No. They were still humans, just as Christ was a human when He did the works of God. And so, Christ is saying, the Holy Spirit will come upon you. This is how we move. We must know how to immerse ourselves into the Holy Spirit. We cannot keep sitting here in a physical world, relating to ourselves as physical bodies and as matter only, and expect for anything to happen; and pray that somehow God will drop a miracle out of the sky. It is not going to happen that way. You are going to do the works of God because the power of God is resting upon you as it rested upon Him when He was in human flesh – as the disciples did when they were in human flesh, as Moses did when he was human flesh – and the power of God rested on humans. This ability exists, and we have to have it in our minds that this is not only a possibility, this is the way we should, as believers, live in our daily lives.

As we conclude this podcast, I want us to remember key points. Christ was human as we are human; and yet, He was able to do the works that everyone else called miracles. Point three, to Christ they were not miracles, they were the works of God. And lastly, He knew exactly how to perform them, and He knew that they were the result of the power of God that rested upon Him.

We are going to have the same experience, and we believe for it to happen. We give ourselves to this relationship with Yeshua and with the Father in these days. Amen.