

GREATER THINGS, WEEK 2

Scripture used: [Acts 2:1-4 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon continued with the second week of our “Greater Things” series. He reminded us that now is the time to petition God, even though COVID-19 seems to be threatening everything we know. This is exactly the time to think greater, to be greater, and to believe God for greater. These overwhelming times are full of moments where God will remind us that He is with us, and that we can be a part of His work. We actually face the same kind of uncertainty as the early Christians. Jesus knew they would feel overwhelmed, and spoke directly about this in [Acts 1:8 \(NLT\)](#). Despite all the challenges they would face, this small group of people would spread the Good News “to the ends of the earth.” That same message applies to us. In these chaotic times, the Holy Spirit in our lives not only makes the difference for us, He will make the difference to allow us to be a light to those around us. But we need to ask for the Holy Spirit to fill us daily!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Ask for God’s Holy Spirit.** [Acts 1:14 \(NLT\)](#) Describes how the church, even Jesus’ family, reacted in the months after His death and resurrection. They “met together and were constantly united in prayer.” They all believed the promises of Jesus in [John 14:12-13 \(NLT\)](#), that they would be able to do good works like His, and even greater than His! They had faith that God would answer their prayers so long as their motives were pure. Pastor Hurmon explained this is why they prayed “in Jesus’ name.” Even if they felt inadequate or unworthy to have their prayers answered based on their own pasts, they knew they could pray in the name of Jesus, and that God would hear their prayer for His sake. We have that privilege also! The power moving through them was the same described in [Genesis 1:2 \(NLT\)](#). It was this Holy Spirit that hovered in the darkness and sprung the entire universe into existence.
- 2) **Prepare yourself to receive something greater.** Pastor Hurmon shared the story of his great-uncle, who had been an alcoholic and womanizer for most of his life. He asked God to move in his life and was flooded with the Holy Spirit. Despite long-standing habits, he was transformed into a pillar of the community and helped many people as a pastor and mentor. God turned around his life. Many of us can identify with the feeling of being overwhelmed. We don’t see a path forward in life, especially because of the extra challenges related to COVID-19. That anxiety and fear are not from God, though. The Holy Spirit can not only shift the patterns of our lives towards greater health, happiness, and productivity, but the Holy Spirit can also radically transform the very foundation of our character and perspective on life. Nothing, not even a global pandemic, can stand in God’s way.
- 3) **Don’t judge what you don’t understand.** In order to change, we must be open to new experiences. In [Acts 2:13 \(NLT\)](#) we see how the behavior of the early Christians was considered so extreme that many people thought they were drunk. That’s just one way that the Holy Spirit can come into our lives and produce dramatic results. [Luke 4:18-19 \(NIV\)](#) lists many other examples. We should expect God to take our natural gifts and work through them in supernatural ways. That’s what happens when the Holy Spirit floods our lives! The way the Holy Spirit works in our lives may vary from how He works in the lives of others, but that’s ok. God will make it clear that He is working in all of us.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Pastor Hurmon described the Holy Spirit hovering over the darkened sea. Sometimes it can feel like we do not have any dry land on which we can rest. Everything seems unstable. Every day is full of new problems to deal with. How often are you turning to God and laying your burdens on Him? What’s the result when you offer up your concerns in prayer?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Have you experienced an example of God’s Holy Spirit in your life? If the answer is yes, share the story with others. If the answer is no, take the time to pray to God and ask Him to move in your life in a way that is both powerful and unmistakable.
- 3) **DO** - Continue the practice of reading at least 3 chapters each week in [the Book of Acts](#). Pray to God before you read “Lord, I am asking you to show me something greater!” If you know of anyone who is struggling the point of considering drastic action, share the number for suicide prevention with them. They can either call 1-800-273-8255 or text HOME to 741741.