

“Glorifying God, part 7”

John 14:12-14

INTRO:

The last several weeks we have been on a spiritual journey focusing upon the reason for our existence. We have discovered that we exist **“to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.”** We learned a little bit about what glory is. Glory is the summation of all that God is. Everything that makes God, God, is His glory. We also learned why it is important that we glorify God.

I. THE PROMISE (v. 12)

II. THE PRACTICE (v. 13-14)

I. THE PROMISE (John 14:12)

John 14:12 *“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 My Father.”*

A. As always, when we come to **John 14:12**, we are entering into a context that we must understand, if we are going to really grasp the truth in these three verses.

1. Jesus instructed His disciples in the hours before His arrest, tried, and crucified. These words are being spoken in the very shadow of the cross.
2. The discussion already passed through some traumatic events. They experienced the Lord washing His disciples' feet, through Judas' departure to betray Jesus, through Peter's assertion he will follow Jesus unto death. They sailed through the full spectrum of emotions. Now Jesus continues to prepare them for His departure. He will no longer be with them like He was before. Life would be radically different. He spoke of His leaving in **John 14:1-6**. In response to Philip's statement in **verse 8**, our Lord, asserted, He and the Father are one.

B. Jesus explained His union and unity with the Father. We come upon this marvelous promise in **verse 12**. What did Jesus mean when He said that the work that He is doing we also will do and even greater works?

1. Some think this means we are to do miracles, speak in tongues, and receive special revelation from God. *“What works did Jesus do?”* Clearly there were miracles that He did. He turned the water into wine at Cana of Galilee. Do you regularly turn water into wine? He caused blind people to see. Is that a regular part of your life? He also taught in the temple and preached the Gospel to the

upwardly mobile like Nicodemus and the down and outer like the woman at the well. Much of His life and ministry was devoted to training His disciples and preparing them to carry on His ministry after He was gone. Do we do this?

2. We also need to see here that what Jesus is not saying. He did not say *“a few of the really spiritual believers will do the greater miracles and the others will just stand by and marvel.”* He said, *“the one”* believing in me will do these works. These works are for all believers. All of us are not told to speak in tongues. All of us are not to turn water into wine or to raise people from the dead. Yet, all of us are to proclaim the Gospel to those in our world. All of us are to disciple new believers and teach them how to live and minister for Jesus.

3. The Lord Jesus said, *“Greater works.”* How are there going to be greater works? Peter saw three thousand people saved as Jesus worked through Him. Jesus never saw that many folks saved! Paul journeyed through out the known world birthing baby churches. Jesus never did that while He was incarnate on earth. Jesus is still working, He is doing that work through us.

II. THE PRACTICE (v. 13-14)

John 14:13–14 *“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”*

A. Having stated the promise, our Lord now lays down the practice that makes the promise a reality in our lives. The practice is prayer. Keep in mind the last phrase of v.12. This all will happen because Jesus is going to the Father.

“And because I am going to the Father, whatever you ask in my name I will do.”

B. The point being, the power line transferring the power of the Lord into our lives and ministries is prayer. Too often, the reason we don't see great blessings in our ministries is because we do not pray. I am positively haunted by the statement that James made in **James 4:2** *“You have not because you ask not.”* The biggest reason for unanswered prayer is that we didn't pray at all. Sometimes, we are too proud, too stubborn, or too stupid, to admit to God that we need His help to do the work we are doing for Him. We should never be guilty of not asking.

C. Our Lord said whatever we ask in Jesus name Jesus will do it. However, asking in Jesus name is more than tacking the words *“in Jesus' name, Amen,”* to the end of our prayers. Jesus' name is more than a phrase. It means we ask in view of all our Lord is, and all for which He stands.

1. Remember what the Apostles said in **Acts 4:12** when they were told that they could no longer preach in the *“name”* of Jesus?

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Peter and John were not saying there was some kind of magic in the name Jesus. They said, by believing in all that Jesus is and did, we can be saved. We must believe Jesus is God in human flesh, that He died on the cross for our sin, and rose again the third day, then we can be saved. This is part of believing in *‘His name.’* The name means all that Jesus is as the Son of God.

2. A second aspect to the name concept we see in **Jeremiah 14:14**.

“And the LORD said to me, “The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.”

These prophets spoke to the people as representatives of God Himself, but God did not send them. They claimed the authority of the God of the Universe, but they were not sent by Him. When we ask in Jesus name, we are asking as if the Lord Jesus Himself were asking for these requests. We must ask in accordance with His character and nature. Would Jesus ask for these things we are asking for? Asking in Jesus’ name is saying, *“These things I ask, because I believe they are my Savior’s will for me.”*

D. **Verse 14** is the principle, ***“This will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”*** The purpose of this promise is not to give us a neat way to twist God’s arm and get what we want from Him. The principle of the promise is that what we ask for needs to be aimed at the glory of the Father.

This came home to me in a big way several years ago in praying for a lady in the church who had cancer. I prayed for her and was sure that God once more would grant a miracle and clear her body of cancer. When it was obvious that it wasn’t going to happen, I became very upset with God. The Lord brought this verse to my mind. The issue, Gommesen, is not what you want. It is what will bring the most glory to Me!”

Do we pray so the Son can glorify the Father?

Hymn #435 ***What A Friend We Have in Jesus***