***Session 9 Answered Prayer and the Greater Works (Jn. 14:12-14)***

1. Introduction
   1. ***Review***: Jesus commanded the disciples not to let trouble dominate their hearts (Jn. 14:1). We are responsible to align our mind with the truths and promises that Jesus set forth in John 13-17.

1“Let not your heart be troubled…believe in Me…27My peace I give to you…” (Jn. 14:1, 27)

* 1. One of Jesus’ primary themes in John 14 is what the Father’s personality is like and how God’s people are to relate to the Father. We are called to *participate in the family dynamics of the Trinity* as described by Jesus in John 14:7-24. Jesus described His relationship with the Father *as a Man* (14:7-11) and applied it to His people who are to relate to the Father in a similar way (14:12-24).

9“He who has seen Me has seen the Father…11I am in the Father and the Father in Me…  
20At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” (Jn. 14:9-20)

1. Jesus Answers prayer that agrees with His leadership (Jn. 14:12-14)
   1. In John 14:12-14, doing “His works and even greater works” is the first application that Jesus gave for those who believe in Him according to the truths He set forth in 14:1-11.

12“…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. 13And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” (Jn. 14:12-14)

* 1. Prayer is not about informing or persuading God, but it is about conversation with Him in a deep relationship. Jesus spent nights in prayer to commune with the Father, not to get power. He answers prayer and uses people to work miracles as an expression of His partnership with them. God knows all our needs (Mt. 6:32) yet requires that we ask Him for them. Asking causes us to connect with His heart and to associate specific blessings from God as His answer to prayer.
  2. ***He that believes in Me***: This includes relating to God in ways that Jesus related to the Father.
  3. ***Because I go to the Father***: The result of this is that they would receive the indwelling Spirit.
  4. ***In My name***:Prayerthat Jesus endorses—it agrees with His leadership and expresses His heart.
  5. ***That the Father may be glorified***:This is the primary condition for answered prayer.   
     John Piper says, *“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”*
  6. ***Greater works than these he will do***: Such a remarkable promise is difficult to grasp. We need the Spirit’s help to believe it—He will teach us (14:16, 26). The greater works will happen in fullness in final 3½ years of this age when there will be more of God’s family on the earth than in heaven. Thus, this promise will be witnessed by the majority of the body of Christ from history since they will be on earth. Jesus spoke on the end times in Matthew 24-15 (Tuesday). In His next teaching (Thursday), He referenced various end-time topics in John 13-17—complimenting and amplifying what He taught on Tuesday (Mt. 24-25).

1. Understanding the context for the end-time Church
   1. Jesus is returning for a spiritually vibrant church that walks in victory as a prepared Bride   
      (Jn. 17:21-26; Rev. 19:7; 22:17). This implies millions of “weak” people will be empowered in a   
      great measure to walk in mature love, peace, joy, courage, unity, and power by God’s grace.

7…for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)

22The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one… (Jn. 17:22)

* 1. ***Great revival***: The greatest revival and outpouring of the Spirit will occur in the end times. The miracles that the Lord has done throughout history are down payments or prophetic seeds of what He will do in fullness in the final years of this age
  2. ***Greater works***: This includes the miracles associated with Moses in Egypt and in the wilderness. Moses’ generation witnessed more dramatic manifestations of miracles than any other time in history. The Moses story is “a template” for the end-time revival. The miracles in Exodus and Acts will be combined and multiplied on a global level in the end times (especially in the 43rd month).

15“As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.”   
16The nations [under the Antichrist] shall see and be ashamed of all their might… (Mic. 7:15-16)

* 1. ***Supernatural provision***: There will be occasions when the Lord will supernaturally provide food and water like He did when His people left Egypt and journeyed through the wilderness (Mic. 7:15).

13When the dragon [Satan] saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman…  
14The woman [remnant of Israel] was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into  
the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for [3½ years]… (Rev. 12:13-14)

* 1. ***Supernatural protection***: There will be occasions when the Lord will supernaturally protect His people in the end-time shakings. God did not allow His judgments to touch Goshen, where His people lived (Ex. 9:4-6; 8:22; 9:26; 10:23). This *“Goshen Principle”* will be operative in places.
  2. The spirit of prophecy with power will be released in a measure surpassing any time in history. This happens ***before*** the “Narrow day of the Lord” which speaks of the 24-hour day that Jesus enters Jerusalem to begin His 1,000 year millennial reign. This is different from the “Broad day of the Lord” that begins with the final 3½ years and includes “the day” that is like 1,000 years (2 Pet. 3:8).

17“…in the last days…I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy…19I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath:   
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. (Acts 2:17-20)

3And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy [42 months]…6These have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues… (Rev. 11:3-6)

* 1. ***The days of the Son of Man***: “Jesus’ days” include what happened during the 3½ years of His earthly ministry and again in the final 3½ years of this age when He is openly magnified on earth.

26As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man… (Lk. 17:26)

* 1. The 5-fold ministry will function until “we all”—the global body of Christ—walk in a measure of maturity that reflects the fullness of Christ. There is a season of fullness that is yet to come

11He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets…12for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry…13till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ… (Eph. 4:11-13)

25…blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.   
(Rom. 11:25)

* 1. Many of the miracles described in Scripture are “seeds” of God's power to be seen in fullness in   
     “the days of Son of Man.” I view the miracles done through Jesus, Moses and the apostles as “prophetic statements”—that give insight into the one season in natural history when the Spirit will move in fullness in context to Jesus partnering with the body of Christ just before He returns to Jerusalem to rule the millennial earth. These miracles inform our “holy imagination” of what it looks like when God's power will be manifest in “fullness” in the end times.
  2. The Spirit of glory will come in a greater measure on those who are persecuted. The Tribulation will be the most intense time of persecution and thus the greatest measure of the Spirit of glory.

14If you are reproached for…Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory…rests upon you.   
(1 Pet. 4:14)

1. the Miracles of Jesus: about 40 miracles
   1. ***Only one miracle of Jesus is reported in all four Gospels***: Jesus miraculous fed 5,000 people from 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes (Mt. 14:13-21, Mk. 6:30-42; Lk. 9:10-17; Jn. 6:1-13). The miracles highlighted in several of the Gospels give insight into what the Spirit wanted emphasized.

17…that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark…of the beast… (Rev. 13:17)

* 1. ***The miracles of Jesus reported in three Gospels***: Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead (Mt. 9:23-26; Mk. 5:35-38; Lk. 8:49-52), cast a legion of demons out of two men that went into a herd of pigs (Mt. 8:28; Mk. 5:1; Lk. 8:26) and cast a demon out of a boy that had caused him to be deaf and to have epilepsy (Mt. 17:14-18; Mk. 9:14-18; Lk. 9:37-42). He calmed one violent storm (Mt. 8:23-27; Mk. 4:35-41; Lk. 8:22-25) and walked on water in another (Mt. 14:25; Mk. 6:48; Jn. 6:19).
  2. ***The miracles of Jesus reported in two Gospels***: Jesus fed 4,000 people near to the Sea of Galilee   
     (Mt. 15:32-38; Mk. 8:1-9). He cast a demon out of the daughter of a Canaanite woman (Mt.15:22-28; Mk. 7:24-30) and healed a Roman centurion’s servant (Mt. 8:5-13; Lk. 7:2-10).
  3. ***The miracles of Jesus unique to Matthew***: Jesus caused Peter to walk on water (14:28-31) and caused a coin to be in a fish in order to pay the temple tax (17:24-27).
  4. ***The miracles of Jesus unique to Mark***: He healed a deaf man (7:31-37) and a blind man (8:22-26).
  5. ***The miracles of Jesus unique to Luke***: Jesus escaped an angry crowd who sought to kill Him by throwing Him off a cliff (4:28-30), miraculously caused Peter’s net to be full of fish (5:4-11) and healed the right ear of the High Priest’s servant that Peter had cut off with his sword (22:50-51).
  6. ***The miracles of Jesus unique to John***: Jesus turned water into wine (2:1-11); raised Lazarus to life on the 4th day (11:38-44), and miraculously caused 153 fish to fill Peter’s net (21:1-14).
  7. ***Miracles associated with Peter***: Peter healed a man who had been crippled from birth (Acts 3:2-11), and raised Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:36-42). He was delivered by an angel who opened the prison door (Acts 5:17-20), and later was again supernaturally delivered from prison (Acts 12:1-11).
  8. ***Miracles associated with Paul***: Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-18).   
     Paul and Silas were miraculously set free from prison in Philippi (Acts 16:22-40). He did unusual miracles even praying over handkerchiefs that were used in healing the sick (Acts 19:11-12).
  9. ***Other miracles highlighted in the book of Acts***: Stephen did great miracles (Acts 6:8). Philip cast demons out of people; many were healed (Acts 8:6-7, 13). Philip was transported to Azotus after sharing with an Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:39).
  10. ***Miracles through Moses in Egypt*** are in Exodus 7-11: The Nile river turned to blood (7:20-25),   
      the multiplication of frogs (8:5-14), lice (8:16-18), flies (8:20-24); diseased livestock (9:3-6), boils (9:11), locusts (10:3-15), the release of thunder, hail, and fire (9:23-24) and darkness (10:21-23), and death of the first-born sons (12:29-30) and splitting the Red Sea (14:21-31). The “Moses story” is the template for the end-time miracles against the Antichrist as “the end-time Pharaoh.” The Moses story is re-told in Revelation. The plagues of Egypt parallel the trumpet and bowl judgments.
  11. ***Miracles while Israel was in the wilderness***: bitter waters were healed (Ex. 15:23-25), bread came from heaven (Ex. 16:14-15), water flowed from a rock (Ex. 17:6; Num 20:11), fire burned some who complained against God (Num. 11:1-2; 16:35), and the ground swallowed those in Korah’s rebellion (Num. 16:31-34); Balaam’s donkey spoke to him (Num. 22:28).
  12. ***Miracles after Israel entered the Promise Land***: The Jordan River divided (Josh. 3:16); the walls of Jericho fell (Josh. 6:20); Joshua commanded the sun to stand still (Josh. 10:12-13); God sent thunder that caused the Philistine army to panic leading to Israel defeating them (1 Sam. 7:10-12).
  13. ***Miracles associated with Elijah***: Elijah’s prayers led to food being multiplied for the widow of Zarephath (1 Kgs. 17:12-16) and her son being raised from the dead (1 Kgs. 17:20-23), and fire from heaven consuming the sacrifice at Mt. Carmel (1 Kgs. 18:36-38) and dividing the Jordan River so he and Elisha crossed on dry ground (2 Kgs. 2:8); Elijah outran Ahab’s chariot (1 Kgs. 18:46).
  14. ***Miracles associated with Elisha***: Elisha’s prayer led to dividing the Jordan River (2 Kgs. 2:14), healing the bitter waters at Jericho (2 Kgs. 2:19-22), water being supernaturally provided for Jehoshaphat’s army (2 Kgs. 3:14-20), the multiplication of a widow’s oil (2 Kgs. 4), the healing of a poisonous stew (2 Kgs. 4:38-41), the multiplication of 20 loaves of bread to feed 100 men (2 Kgs. 4:42-44) causing an iron axe head to float in the Jordan River (2 Kgs. 6:5-6), and the Syrian army being struck with blindness (2 Kgs. 6:14-18); Elisha’s bones revived a dead man (2 Kgs. 13:20-21).
  15. ***Miracles after kings were established in Israel***: On one night 185,000 Assyrian soldiers were killed by an angel (2 Kgs. 19:35-36); Isaiah’s prayer affected the sun—the shadow of the sun went back 10 degrees (2 Kgs. 20:8-11); Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were delivered from a furnace in Babylon (Dan. 3:19-30); Daniel was delivered from the lion’s den in Babylon (Dan. 6:18-23).

1. Miracles performed by Satan in the Last Days
   1. We have confidence because *“Jesus is a much better leader than Satan is a deceiver.”*
   2. Satan will perform miracles as a major part of his plan to deceive people in the generation the Lord returns. Jesus warned us more about deception than persecution or tribulation (Mt. 24:4, 5, 11, 24).
   3. Signs and wonders are not a sure sign of God’s activity, since false prophets may perform them.

24False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive,   
if possible, even the elect. (Mt. 24:24)

* 1. The Antichrist and the False Prophet will do great miracles. This alerts us not to make signs and wonders the proof of the truth. These will be lying wonders, not because they aren’t real or miraculous—but because they don’t point to truth and convince people of lies. Some Cessationists only see the demonic miracles in the future, so they dismiss all miracles as demonic.

9The coming of the lawless one [the Antichrist] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth…. (2 Thes. 2:9-10)

13He [the False Prophet] performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven…15He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image…should both speak and cause as many as would not worship [the Antichrist] to be killed. (Rev. 13:13-15)

13I saw three unclean spirits…14For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth…to gather them to the battle of that great day of God… (Rev. 16:13-14)

* 1. God’s people must test the spirits since there will be lying miracles and messages (1 Jn. 4:1).

1Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits…2By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. (1 Jn. 4:1-3)

3…no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:3)

* 1. The youngest believer can discern the truth and avoid being deceived by confessing Jesus as Lord and that He came is the flesh, and by honoring the Scripture as the final authority for faith and practice (sola scriptura, “by scripture alone”), and by seeking to cultivate an on-going conversation with Jesus and walking in a spirit of obedience and fellowshipping regularly with godly believers.

1. The end-time miracles in the book of Revelation
   1. I see the book of Revelation as the ***“end-time Book of Acts.”*** It describes the works of the Spirit released by Jesus in partnership with His praying Bride. The book of Revelation is a ***canonized prayer manual*** that equips the Church to partner with Jesus in confronting Satan’s authority.
   2. The most dramatic miracles in human history are yet in the future when the miracles of the book of Exodus and the book Acts are combined and multiplied on a global level.
   3. As Moses released God’s plagues on Egypt through prayer, and as the apostles released His power in the book of Acts through prayer, so the Tribulation judgments will be released by Jesus in partnership with His praying Bride (Rev. 5:8; 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 9:13; 10:6; 14:18; 16:7; 19:2).

3Another angel…was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar…4The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God…5Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. (Rev. 8:3-5)

* 1. Many of God's end-time judgments have been written down in the Old and New Testaments. The “written judgment” that pertains to the end times will be executed by the prayer and high praise of the saints. They will be executed against the nations that are aligned with the Antichrist's empire.

6Let the high praises of God be in their mouth…7to execute vengeance on the nations…  
9to execute on them the written judgment—This honor have all His saints. (Ps. 149:6-9)

* 1. God’s judgments against Harlot Babylon and Antichrist’s empire include the 3 numbered judgment series—***the*** ***7 seals*** (Rev. 6), ***the 7 trumpets*** (Rev. 8-9), and ***the 7 bowls of wrath*** (Rev. 16).

***1st seal***: white horse—Antichrist’s political aggression (6:1-2)

***2nd seal***: red horse—bloodshed and final world war (6:3-4)

***3rd seal***: black horse—famine and economic crisis (6:5-6)

***4th sea***: pale horse—1/4 of humanity is killed (6:7-8)

***5th seal***: prayer is strengthened by the martyrs (6:9-11)

***6th seal***: cosmic disturbances and God’s glory (6:12-17)

***7th seal***: prayer is strengthened by the angels (8:1-6)

***1st trumpet***: 1/3 of the earth’s vegetation is burned (fire and hail 8:7)

***2nd trumpet***: 1/3 of the sea turns to blood (mountain of fire 8:8-9)

***3rd trumpet***: 1/3 of the water becomes bitter (star burning like a torch 8:10-11)

***4th trumpet***: 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened (8:12)

***5th trumpet***: demonic locusts from pit that torment for 5 months (9:1-12)

***6th trumpet***: 200 million demonic horsemen kill 1/3 of humanity (4 angels at Euphrates; 9:13-21)

***7th trumpet***: the rapture and the return of Jesus (11:15-19)

***1st bowl***: loathsome sores on the Antichrist worshippers (16:1-2)

***2nd bowl***: the sea turns to blood killing all sea life (16:3)

***3rd bowl***: the earth’s fresh water turns to blood (16:4-7)

***4th bowl***: men are scorched with great heat by the sun (16:8-9)

***5th bowl***: darkness with pain on the Antichrist’s empire (16:10-11)

***6th bowl***: Euphrates dried up to deceive the kings to come to Armageddon (16:12-16)

***7th bowl***: earthquake, hail, and the final fall of Babylon (16:17-21)

***See my updated handout with many passages in the OT prophets indicating miracles in the end times.***