

Greater Works: A How-to Manual

John 14:15-20

April 12, 2026

The perils of a long-distance relationship.

What tools are in our toolbox for doing greater works?

What are the greater works?

How can we accomplish them?

1) Prayer in Jesus' name. John 14:13-14

2) Love and Obey Jesus, v. 15

Obedience isn't optional; it is the expression of our love!

Love is a commitment, an action.

The revolting nature of hypocrisy.

Obeying God is difficult.

We have the Holy Spirit in our toolbox!

What commands is Jesus talking about, in context?

3) Depending on the Holy Spirit v. 16-17

Those who love and obey God are given a great gift - the Holy Spirit.

What is a 'paraclete?'

How long will this paraclete stay with us?

As we work in God's world for God's glory, we have God's help. The Holy Spirit.

Why can't the world receive the Spirit of truth?

There is a vast difference between the church and the world.

4) Living Coram Deo v. 18-20

Living before the face of God as family! Galatians 2:20

That is how we do greater works.

1) We pray in the name of the Son, according to the will of the Father.

2) We love God, and obey His Word.

3) We depend on the Holy Spirit of Truth.

4) We live before the face of God.

The toolbox is full. The task is massive. The victory is certain.

Meditation

A Beneficial Spirit

There are at least three benefits we experience through work of the Holy Spirit. The first benefit is that we share in Christ and all His blessings. We too are looked upon with filial favor. Everything Christ accomplished is ours. All He won is ours. The promised inheritance of Abraham is ours (Galatians 3:14). All this and more because we belong to Christ and Christ's blessings belong to us through ministrations of the Spirit.

The second benefit is the Holy Spirit's comfort. Most of us have heard that the Holy Spirit is a Comforter (John 14:16 KJV). Other translations render paracletos a "Helper" (ESV), a "Counselor" (NIV), or an "Advocate" (NRSV), but the truth is still there: God comforts His people by the Holy Spirit. This happens in a number of ways. The Spirit may supernaturally strengthen your soul and give you a peace that passes understanding or a calm confidence in the work of the Lord (Acts 9:31). He may also comfort you through other Christians as you share in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

As the Spirit of Truth, He will often speak to you through the Word of God, leading you into all truth (John 16:12), encouraging you with the words of Scripture He inspired and now illuminates. He may cause you to remember a precious biblical truth or direct your thoughts to the finished work of Christ or give you eyes to see more clearly the glory of God. The Spirit may comfort you with the gift of assurance so that you more boldly embrace your new identity in Christ and more firmly trust the promise of eternal life.

The third benefit is the Holy Spirit's presence forever. Before studying the Heidelberg Catechism in depth several years ago, I had not really thought about Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit would be with us forever (John 14:16), but the promise is very good news. In heaven, the Spirit will continue to keep us holy. He will continue to teach us more about the inexhaustible riches of Christ. He will continue to be the personal bond that unites believers in fellowship. And He will continue to minister to us the presence of God the Father and God the Son, who together with the Holy Spirit are Triune God, blessed forevermore, Amen.

Kevin DeYoung