

The Power Promise – John 14:9-14
Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades
February 27, 2011
Shawn Gendall, Pastor of Student Ministries

Title: “The Power Promise”
Passage: John 14:14-19

John 14: “whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these.”

John 14:9-14 **9** Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

7 Questions for Us:

1 – Will you share the good news of Christ’s sacrifice?

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

On the day of Pentecost alone, more believers were added to the little band of believers than throughout Christ’s entire earthly life.

2 – Will you allow the Holy Spirit to produce fruit in you?

Galatians 5:22-25 **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, and self-control.

3 – Will you commit to greater unity with God’s family?

Acts 4:32 “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.”

4 – Will you grow in sensitivity to the Lord’s leading?

Question 3 had to do with oneness of mind and purpose between ourselves and fellow believers. This one has to do with oneness of mind and purpose between ourselves and God.

Immediately after the promise that we will do greater things, Jesus says, at the end of verse 12, I am going to the Father.

13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

Thy will be done!

It means that prayer is to be in accordance with all that the name stands for. It is prayer proceeding from faith in Christ, prayer that gives expression to a unity with all that Christ stands for, prayer which seeks to set forward Christ himself, and the purpose of it all is the glory of God. Leon Morris, from the NICNT Gospel of John

5 – Will you seek God’s truth?

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”

Meditation, reading and reading again, conforming to his will by knowing what his will is; honoring God’s truth in our conversation and our decision-making.

The night sky and the magnifying mirror.

6 – Will you actively use your gifts in the church family?

7 – Will you forsake sin and pursue purity?

Hebrews 12:1-2 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author a perfecter of our faith.”

The Power of the Church: *the conveying to people the spiritual realities of which the works of Jesus are signs*

A well known pastor traveled monthly to Washington DC to serve as a spiritual advisor to our nation’s highest elected officials. He remarked, in the end, not how powerful those people were, but how limited their power really is. He said this, “All they can really do is rearrange the yard markers on the playing field of life. They can’t change a human heart. They can’t heal a wounded soul. They can’t turn hatred into love. They can’t bring about repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, peace. They can’t get to the core problem of the people we see every day” (in rebellion, defiance, brokenness, bitterness, loneliness, hopelessness, and denial) “And what grips my heart every day – this pastor said – is the knowledge that the radical message of transforming love has been given to the church.”

“There is nothing like the local church when it is working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. It comforts the grieving and heals the broken in the context of community. It builds bridges to seekers and offers truth to the confused. It provides resources for those in need and opens its arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden, the disillusioned. It breaks the chains of addictions, frees the oppressed, and offers belonging to the marginalized of this world. Whatever the capacity for human suffering, the church has a greater capacity for healing and wholeness.”

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these (v12)