



Discipleship Guide

Sermon: The Year of Greater Works

Speaker: Pastor JohnEric Zayas

Date: January 11, 2026

Key Scripture

John 14:12-14

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

John 12:24-25

“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

Key Takeaway

1. Greater Works Begin With Surrender

- Jesus teaches that fruitfulness comes after surrender, not self-effort
- Following Christ requires letting go of control and pride

- The greatest works in our lives start when we yield to God's plan
- This year can be a season of greater works because God is inviting us to surrender

2. Death Brings Resurrection and Multiplication

- The kernel of wheat illustrates the principle: death precedes multiplication
- God often calls us to let go of old habits, comfort, or fear to see growth
- Greater works are rarely instant; they grow from obedience and sacrifice
- When we die to self, God's purposes increase in and through us

3. Love Drives Fruitfulness

- Jesus says, "Anyone who loves their life will lose it"—love for God and others fuels greater works
- Self-centered living limits impact; sacrificial love expands it
- Greater works flow from a heart aligned with God's love and mission
- Living for Jesus shifts our perspective from temporary gain to eternal significance

4. God's Timing Produces the Harvest

- Surrendering and stepping out in faith doesn't mean immediate results
- John 12 reminds us that God's work may start small but grows into abundance
- Patience and trust are essential; God multiplies what is faithfully yielded
- This year is about walking in God's timing, knowing He produces fruit beyond

Discussion Questions

Opening Questions

- What stood out most from today's sermon? Why?
 - How do you usually define "great works"? How is God's definition different?
 - What fears or comforts might be holding you back from surrendering fully?
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Going Deeper

On Surrender and Fruitfulness

- Why is surrender necessary before God can do greater works?
- What areas of your life is God calling you to lay down this year?

On Death Leading to Multiplication

- What "kernel of wheat" in your life is God asking you to let die?
- How might God use your obedience to impact others around you?

On Love and Sacrifice

- How does sacrificial love expand the works God can do through you?
- Where have you seen love produce growth or blessing in unexpected ways?

On God's Timing

- Why is patience essential when pursuing greater works?
 - How can you cultivate trust in God's unseen process this year?
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Personal Reflection Questions (10 minutes)

Take time to pray or journal through the following:

- Where have I been holding back out of fear, comfort, or pride?
 - How is God calling me to surrender to Him this year?
 - What does “losing my life” look like in practical, everyday steps?
 - Where can I love more sacrificially to see greater works multiply?
 - How does trusting God's timing give me confidence to step out in faith?
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Practical Applications

- **For Those Hesitant to Surrender**
 - [] Identify one area of life to fully give to God this week
 - [] Pray daily, “Lord, use me for Your greater works”
 - [] Journal where fear or comfort has limited fruitfulness

- **For Those Seeking Multiplication**

- ☐ Take one practical step of obedience that requires faith
- ☐ Serve in a way that stretches your comfort for someone else
- ☐ Share your testimony of God's work in your life with someone

- **For Everyone**

- ☐ Read John 12 slowly and reflect on Jesus' call to die to self
 - ☐ Pray for God to reveal unseen opportunities for greater works
 - ☐ Practice sacrificial love in one intentional act this week
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Group Prayer (10 minutes)

Prayer Points

- Thank God for calling us to bear fruit in His kingdom
 - Pray for courage to surrender fully this year
 - Pray for hearts ready to love sacrificially and serve boldly
 - Pray that our church would be a community marked by greater works
 - Pray for faith to trust God's timing and multiplication
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Additional Resources

Recommended Reading

- *The Purpose Driven Life* – Rick Warren
- *Multiplication* – Francis Chan
- *Radical* – David Platt

Scripture for Further Study

- *John 12:20–26 (Jesus’ teaching on dying to self)*
- *Galatians 5:22–23 (Fruit of the Spirit)*
- *Matthew 13:31–33 (Parables of growth and multiplication)*
- *Philippians 1:6 (God completes the good work in us)*
- *Colossians 3:23–24 (Working for the Lord, not men)*

5-Day Devotionals

THIS WILL BE THE YEAR OF GREATER WORKS

Day 1: Surrender to Begin

Reading: John 12:24; Romans 12:1–2

Devotional:

Fruitfulness begins when we surrender. Jesus teaches that the kernel must fall to the ground and die. Let go of pride, control, and fear—yield yourself fully to God. Greater works flow from hearts willing to be planted and broken.

Day 2: Letting Go to Multiply

Reading: John 12:24; 2 Corinthians 9:6

Devotional:

God’s multiplication comes after surrender. What dies in obedience allows His purposes to grow exponentially. Step into faith, trusting God to increase what seems small or impossible in your hands.

Day 3: Love as the Driving Force

Reading: John 12:25; 1 Corinthians 13:1–3

Devotional:

Selfish living limits fruitfulness. Sacrificial love fuels impact. Greater works are born when our hearts prioritize God and others above comfort or recognition. Let love lead your obedience this year.

Day 4: Trusting God's Timing

Reading: John 12:27–28; Ecclesiastes 3:1

Devotional:

God's works often begin in hidden ways. Trust the process, even if the results aren't visible yet. The harvest comes in God's perfect timing, and every act of obedience contributes to it.

Day 5: Living in Expectation of Greater Works

Reading: John 12:31–32; Philippians 1:6

Devotional:

Greater works are not only for the future—they begin now. Live expectantly, pray boldly, and act faithfully. Your surrender, love, and obedience position you to see God do immeasurably more than you can imagine this year.

Reflection Questions for the Week

- What areas of life require surrender for God to produce greater works?
- How can love and sacrificial living expand your impact this year?
- Where are you trusting God's timing instead of forcing results?

- What small steps of obedience could multiply into lasting fruit?
- How will you step into God's call for greater works in 2026?