

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

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Review:** Jesus commanded the disciples not to let trouble dominate their hearts (Jn. 14:1).
¹***“Let not your heart be troubled...believe in Me...²⁷My peace I give to you...”*** (Jn. 14:1, 27)
- B. 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...¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in Me? ...The Father who dwells in Me does the works.”*** (Jn. 14:9-10)
1. ***I am in the Father:*** This includes Jesus’ thoughts, feelings, values, words, and acts being in the Father’s heart—in the sense of bringing great delight to the Father. Jesus was saying, “My thoughts, feelings, values, words, and actions deeply move My Father’s heart.”
 2. ***Father in Me:*** This includes the Father’s thoughts, feelings, values, words, and acts being in Jesus’ heart—in the sense of bringing great delight to Jesus. Jesus was saying, “What the Father thinks and says deeply moves Me.”
- C. The fruit of this union with God is *miracles* (14:12), *answered prayers* (14:13-14), *obedient love* (14:15), and enjoying *God’s manifest presence* (14:21-24) by the power of the Spirit (14:16-17).

II. JESUS ANSWERS PRAYER THAT AGREES WITH HIS LEADERSHIP (JN. 14:12-14)

- A. Jesus applied the truth of how He related to the Father *as a man* to His people (Jn. 14:12-14). Jesus answers prayer and uses His people to work miracles as an expression of His partnership with them.
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)
- B. Prayer is not about informing or persuading God, but about connecting with Him in relationship. Jesus spent whole nights in prayer to commune with the Father, not to get more power. We do not *earn* answers to prayers by our persistence, but we position ourselves to grow in transforming union and deep partnership with Jesus. This happens as we cultivate an ongoing conversation with Him.
- C. ***Ask:*** 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. Answered prayer causes us to know that what we say moves God’s heart.
- D. ***In My name:*** Prayer that Jesus endorses—it agrees with His leadership and expresses His heart.
- E. ***That the Father may be glorified:*** This is the primary condition for answered prayer.

III. UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT FOR THE END-TIME CHURCH

- A. 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)*
- B. **Great revival:** The greatest revival and outpouring of the Spirit in history will occur in the end times, resulting in a victorious, unified Church filled with God’s glory (Eph. 5:26-27; Rev. 15:2). The Holy Spirit will establish the first commandment in first place in the global body of Christ. There will be a great new harvest of souls—“the billion-soul harvest” (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9; 14:6).
- C. The greater works include the miracles associated with Moses in Egypt and in the wilderness.
- ¹⁵“As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.” ¹⁶The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might... ¹⁷They shall lick the dust like a serpent; they shall crawl from their holes like snakes...They shall be afraid of the LORD... (Mic. 7:15-17)*
- D. **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 when He caused *manna* to fall from the sky and caused *water* to flow from a rock in the desert (Mic. 7:15).
- E. **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.
- F. The spirit of prophecy with power will be released in a measure surpassing any time in history.
- 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)*
- ²⁶As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man... (Lk. 17:26)*
- G. The miracles in Scripture are seeds of Jesus’ power to be seen in fullness in the days of Son of Man.
- 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)*
- H. The Spirit of glory will come in a greater measure on those who are persecuted (1 Pet. 4:14).
- ¹⁴If you are reproached for...Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory...rests upon you. (1 Pet. 4:14)*

IV. THE MIRACLES OF JESUS: ABOUT 40 MIRACLES

- A. ***Only one miracle of Jesus is reported in all four Gospels:*** Jesus miraculously 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).
- B. ***The miracles of Jesus reported in three Gospels:*** Jesus healed a leper (Mt. 8:2-4, Mk. 1:40-45; Lk. 5:12-15), Peter's mother-in-law (Mt. 8:14-15; Mk. 1:29-31; Lk. 4:38-39), a paralytic man on the Sabbath (Mt. 9:2-8; Mk. 2:3-12; Lk. 5:17-25), a woman who had hemorrhaged for 12 years (Mt. 9:20-22; Mk. 5:25-29; Lk. 8:43-46), a man with a withered hand (Mt. 12:9-13; Mk. 3:1-5; Lk. 6:6-10) and raised Jairus' daughter from the dead (Mt. 9:23-26; Mk. 5:35-38; Lk. 8:49-52). He calmed a violent storm (Mt. 8:23-27; Mk. 4:35-41; Lk. 8:22-25), 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 walked on water during a storm on the Sea of Galilee (Mt. 14:24-27; Mk. 6:47-50; Jn. 6:18-21).
- C. ***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 a man at synagogue in Capernaum (Mk. 1:23-26; Lk. 4:33-35) and out of a blind man (Mt. 12:22; Mk. 3:10-11) and out of the daughter of a Canaanite woman (Mt. 15:22-28; Mk. 7:24-30). He healed a centurion's servant (Mt. 8:5-13; Lk. 7:2-10) and the two blind men who were sitting by the road on the way to Jericho (Mt. 20:29-31; Mk. 10:46-48). Jesus cursed a fig tree when entering Jerusalem (Mt. 21:18-20; Mk. 11:12-14).
- D. ***The miracles of Jesus unique to Matthew:*** Jesus healed 2 blind men (9:27-31), caused Peter to walk on water (14:28-31), caused a coin to be in a fish in order to pay the temple tax (17:24-27).
- E. ***The miracles of Jesus unique to Mark:*** He healed a deaf man (7:31-37) and a blind man (8:22-26).
- F. ***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), raised the dead son of the widow of Nain (7:11-18), cast the demons out of woman that had caused her to be crippled for 18 years (13:11-17), healed a man with dropsy (swelling of his body; 14:2-6), healed ten lepers (17:11-19), a blind man on the road to Jericho (18:35-43) and the right ear of the High Priest's servant that Peter had cut off with his sword (22:50-51).
- G. ***The miracles of Jesus unique to John:*** Jesus turned water into wine (2:1-11), healed a royal official's son (4:46-54); healed a man who suffered from an infirmity for 38 years (5:1-9), a man born blind (9:1-7), raised Lazarus to life though he had been dead for 4 days (11:38-44), and miraculously caused 153 fish to fill Peter's net (21:1-14).
- H. ***Other miracles in the Gospels:*** Miracles done by the apostles and the 70 (Mt. 10:8; Lk. 10:17-20).
- I. ***Miracles associated with Peter:*** Peter healed a man who had been crippled from birth (Acts 3:2-11), Aeneas who had been bedridden for 8 years (Acts 9:34), and he raised Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:36-42). He spoke to Ananias and Sapphira who were struck dead for lying (Acts 5:1-10). He and other apostles were delivered by an angel who opened the prison door (Acts 5:17-20), and later he was again supernaturally delivered from prison (Acts 12:1-11).

- J. ***Miracles associated with Paul:*** Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus—he was later healed of blindness (Acts 9:3-18). He spoke words of judgment to a sorcerer named Bar-Jesus who then was struck blind (Acts 13:6-11). He healed a man who was born crippled in Lystra (Acts 14:8-10). In Philippi, he cast a demon out of a slave girl (Acts 16:18). 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). He raised Eutychus from the dead after he fell out a window (Acts 20:9-12). While in Malta, Paul was personally healed of a viper's bite (Acts 28:3-6), and he healed the father of Publius (Acts 28:8-9).
- K. ***Other miracles highlighted in the book of Acts:*** The apostles did many miracles (Acts 5:12-16). 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).
- L. ***Miracles through Moses in Egypt:*** Aaron's rod changed (Ex. 7:10-12); waters turned to blood (Ex. 7:20-25), multiplication of frogs (Ex. 8:5-14), lice (Ex. 8:16-18), flies (Ex. 8:20-24); disease on cattle (Ex. 9:3-6), boils (Ex. 9:11) and locust (Ex. 10:3-15), the release of thunder, hail, and fire (Ex. 9:23-24) and darkness (Ex. 10:21-23), and death of the first-born (Ex. 12:29-30) and the splitting the Red Sea (Ex. 14:21-31)
- M. ***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), Nadab and Abihu were stuck dead (Lev. 10:1-2), fire burned some who complained against God (Num. 11:1-2) and others who rebelled (Num. 16:35), the ground swallowed those in Korah's rebellion (Num. 16:31-34); serpents bit those who spoke against God. (Num. 21:5), those who looked to the bronze serpent were healed (Num. 21:9); Aaron's rod budded (Num. 17:8); Balaam's donkey spoke (Num. 22:28).
- N. ***Miracles after Israel entered the Promise Land:*** The Jordan River divided (Josh. 3:16); the walls of Jericho fell down (Josh. 6:20); Joshua commanded the sun to stand still (Josh. 10:12-13); the Spirit strengthened Samson, and he killed 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey (Judg. 15:14-15); water flowed from a rock to revive Samson (Judg. 15:18-19); he pushed down the pillars of the temple of Dagon at Gaza (Judg. 17:30); the idol of Dagon fell before the ark twice in Ashdod (1 Sam. 5:3-4); the Philistines were killed before the ark (1 Sam. 5:3-4); God stuck the Philistines with tumors in Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron (1 Sam. 5:6-12), and killed Philistines for looking into the ark (1 Sam. 6:19); God sent thunder that caused the Philistine army to panic leading to Israel defeating them (1 Sam. 7:10-12); Samuel called on God to send thunder and rain to confirm his message (1 Sam. 12:17-18).
- O. ***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 Mount Carmel (1 Kgs. 18:36-38), the beginning of a 3½ year drought, and its end by a heavy rain (1 Kgs. 18:42-45; Jas. 5:17), and fire from heaven killing 50 of Ahaziah's soldiers on two occasions (2 Kgs. 1:9-12) 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).

- P. **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 in Moab (2 Kgs. 3:14-20), the multiplication of a widow's oil (2 Kgs. 4:1-7), raising the Shunammite's son from the dead (2 Kgs. 4:32-35), 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), the healing of Naaman's leprosy (2 Kgs. 5:9-14), striking Gehazi with leprosy (2 Kgs. 5:25-27), 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).
- Q. **Miracles after kings were established in Israel:** Uzzah was struck dead for touching the ark (2 Sam. 6:7). Jeroboam's hand withered and then was healed at Bethel (1 Kgs. 13:4-6); On one night 185,000 Assyrian soldiers under Sennacherib 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 on a sundial (2 Kgs. 20:8-11); King Uzziah was struck with leprosy for violating God's law related to burning incense on the altar of incense (2 Chr. 26:16-21); Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were delivered from a fiery furnace in Babylon (Dan. 3:19-30); Daniel was delivered from the lion's den in Babylon (Dan. 6:18-23); Jonah was delivered out of the belly of a whale after three days (Jonah 2:1-10)

V. MIRACLES PERFORMED BY SATAN IN THE LAST DAYS

- A. We have confidence because "*Jesus is a much better leader than Satan is a deceiver.*"
- B. 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).
¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many...²⁴False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. (Mt. 24:11, 24)
- C. Signs and wonders are not a sure sign of God's activity, since they are performed by false prophets.
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, that they might be saved. (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)
- D. God's people will discern spirits operating in false miracles and messages (1 Jn. 4:1). Some Cessationists only see the demonic miracles in the future, so they dismiss all miracles as demonic.
¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits...because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 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. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist. (1 Jn. 4:1-3)
³...no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:3)

VI. THE END-TIME MIRACLES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- A. I see the book of Revelation as the **“end-time Book of Acts.”** It is the acts of the Spirit released through 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.
- B. 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...should offer it with the prayers of all the saints...⁴The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God...⁵The angel took the censer...with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. (Rev. 8:3-5)
- C. The end-time judgments are written by the OT prophets, but Revelation gives the most detail.
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)
- D. Jesus’ end-time judgments against the Antichrist’s kingdom will 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 seal: 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.