

I. Opening Scriptures and Introduction

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NKJV) *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”*

A. We are now members of the household of God.

B. v. 21 – In Whom the “WHOLE BUILDING”, being fitted together grows into a holy temple of the Lord.

C. A dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

D. Other Temptations

1. A habitation for God in the Spirit.
2. A place where God lives.

E. Notice the phrase – “Being Built” > *This is a work in progress.*

1. **Personally** – you are a work in progress becoming a personal dwelling place for God’s Spirit to work.
 - **1 Corinthians 6:19 (NKJV)** *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”*
2. **Corporately** – As a church, we are being built together – progressively becoming a local body of believers where the Spirit of God dwells, can move, can heal, can save, can work as God desires.
 - **Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)** *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till 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; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”*

NOTE: THE CHURCH IS GROWING! Growing into a body or dwelling place where the Spirit of God is. A place where the Spirit of God can do everything that is needed.

- **This is the desire of God for GFC.**
- **This is my desire as Pastor of GFC.**
- **This a the making of a “Greater Things Church.”**

II. **Becoming a Greater Things Church**

A. **Jesus Inspects His Church**

1. **The seven churches in Revelation Chapters 2-3**

a. **Example of what He said to the Ephesus Church:**

- **Revelation 2:2-5 (NKJV)** *“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. **Nevertheless I have this against you**, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place— unless you repent.*

- He inspects people and churches.
- He KNOWS!
- He corrects!

b. **Why does He inspect?**

- *Inspection is Good – it allows for needed changes and corrections that will improve success.*
- *Failure to inspect and correct will lead to weakness and potential destruction.*
- *God is always about taking us forward – into Greater things – greater realms – to do so, he must INSPECT and CORRECT! > PERSONALLY and CORPORATELY*

c. **What shows up in your INSPECTION REPORT?**

- I know.
- I have some things – a few things that need attention.

2. **God’s purpose for inspection and correction is to restore proper alignment and order.**

- a. Six churches were out of divine alignment and order.
- b. If these six churches are going to proceed into INCREASE – GREATER THINGS – *They must be brought back into divine alignment and order. GODS WAY OF DOING THINGS!*

3. **God is always working on His Churches.**

- a. Why? To Bring them into a place of growth and preparation so He can move at a greater level in their midst.

- b. There are different levels of how God can move in a person's life. Mainly because of their cooperation or lack of it.
- c. There are different levels in which God can move in a local church.
- d. Greater levels of healings, miracles, deliverances, blessings, etc.
- e. It's all contingent upon us!

B. Three Required Components in becoming a greater things church.

1. **God's Part** – There is no lack in God's part.
 - a. He desires to move greatly in every church.
 - b. He is willing to pour out of His Spirit and supernatural power in every church.
 - c. There is NO lack on God's part.
2. **The Pastor's Part**
 - a. The Pastor must desire for the church to move into greater things.
 - b. The Pastor must desire to be led of the Spirit in directing the affairs of the local church.
 - c. The Pastor must be willing to do whatever the Spirit says.
"Willing and obedient will eat the good of the land."
3. **Our Part** – *The People in the Church.*
 - a. **God can only take the church as far as the church (People) are willing to go.**
 - b. Although God wants to – He cannot override the want to of the people (*Nazareth*).
 - c. *There are local churches that have been inspected by Jesus – the report is – "I can do no mighty works here".*
4. **Remember the parable of the soil and seed:**
 - a. *Some would receive nothing – the seed couldn't even get into enough right conditions to produce anything. There are churches like this.*
 - b. *Some received 30 – 60 – 100-fold. This was spoken to individuals, but it also applies corporately to every local assembly. Some churches can receive a 30-fold harvest – some churches can get to a 60-fold harvest – some can arrive at a 100-fold harvest.*
 - c. *Which would be a "greater things" church? 30-60-100?*

C. The determining factor is found in the supply.

1. **God brings 100% of HIS supply to us.**
 - a. He has already given 100% when He gave Jesus.
 - b. Jesus was "ALL IN" – 100%.
 - c. No lack here!
2. **Pastors must bring their supply.**
 - a. Supply of preparation to teach, preach, instruct, equip.

- b. If a pastor is only giving 30% supply - the church will never grow beyond that.
 - c. If a pastor is committed to bring his best supply – give his best – prepared to bring meat – and not milk, the church will grow to another level.
 - d. Most churches are focused on God’s supply and the Pastor’s supply.
3. **People must bring their supply.**
- a. It is possible that the supply of the people is the greatest factor that determines where that church is going.
 - b. God is willing and able.
 - c. You can have a willing pastor, but unwilling members.
 - d. When the people are:
 - Not interested in growing.
 - Not interested in increasing.
 - Disengaged.
 - Stagnant and satisfied.
 - Focused on carnality more than spiritual things.
 - It doesn’t matter if God is willing and the Pastor is willing, the local assembly will never arrive at 100-fold – or “Greater Things” status.
 - e. The SUPPLY of the people determines more regarding what will happen in a service that all of the preparation the Pastor has done throughout the week leading up to that service.

NOTE: *Even if the Pastor has had a tough week and little time to prepare, when the People bring a FULL supply on Sunday, their supply will make up for what lacked during His week.*

- f. **Reminder of what our supply is:**
 - Showing up
 - Engaged
 - Praise and Worship
 - Hunger – Come hungry.
 - Giving
 - Serving
 - Amen – Even our “AMENS” are bringing a supply – *they create a flow!*

D. The Example of the Corinthian Church

1 Corinthians 1:4-10 (NKJV) *“I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, **so that you come short in no gift**, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

*God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **all speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions** among you, but that you **be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment**”*

1. **Paul is praying for this church – That they will be a “Greater Things Church”.**
 - a. Don’t come short in any gift.
 - b. Speak the same things.
 - c. No divisions.
 - d. Be perfectly joined together in mind and judgment.

2. **1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)** *“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?”*
 - a. **There are things God has ready to release to you.**
 - b. **There are things that I have ready to release to you.**
 - c. **BUT I COULD NOT!**
 - d. **You were not able to receive it! And you are still not able!**
 - *When the inspection declares – we are not able to receive, we need to QUICKLY correct and do whatever necessary to get back into “Receiving Position”!*
 - e. **God was ready to release His supply – it was perfect.**
 - f. **Paul was ready to release his supply – he had been in a place of great revelation – and wanted to share revelation that would take them into GREATER THINGS beyond anything they had ever heard or imagined.**
 - g. **The People – their supply was the wrong supply.**
 - *They were so focused on petty issues, strife, contention, and division.*
 - h. **Their supply of carnality overrode God’s supply and Paul’s supply – so – they were stuck at one level – and couldn’t move to the next.**

III. Closing Thoughts

- A. **Greater Things Churches are more interested in what God wants than what the flesh wants.**

- B. **Greater Things Churches are hungry churches – filled with desire for God and more of God.**

- C. **Greater Things Churches are filled with the life of God.**
 - *There is joy in the house – peace in the house – excitement in the house.*

- D. Greater Things Churches have a presence!**
 - *There is presence in this house – LIFE!*

- E. Greater things churches are faith churches – believing for the impossible.**

- F. Greater Things Churches are supernatural churches – *Healings and miracles are expected.***

- G. Greater Things Churches are growing churches.**

- H. Greater Things Churches are united churches.**
 - *United in God’s vision, purpose, and desires for the local church.*

- I. Greater Things Churches expect the unexpected.**
 - *While we expect God to move in our services, we always anticipate the unexpected – when God decides to move in a way that was not on our program.*
 - *There is excitement when the unexpected things of the Spirit override our expectation.*