

**I. Review – *Greater Things***

**A. John 14:12 (NKJV)** – *“Most assuredly, I say to you, 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*

**B. Previous Sessions**

- 1. Session 1 – Understanding Greater Things**
- 2. Session 2 – Greater Things – Greater Thinking**
- 3. Session 3 – Building Your New Self Image**
- 4. The Mystery of Christ In Us**

**II. Experiencing the Greater Life**

**A. John 10:10 (NKJV)** – *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

**John 10:10 (NLT)** – *The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

**John 10:10 (GNT)** – *The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life--life in all its fullness.*

**B. The “New Creation” life – is a Greater Life!**

**There are people who will debate this from a religious perspective.**

*Arguments:*

- 1. Jesus was poor.**
  - a. Jesus had a treasurer – Judas.

- b. Jesus had a home.
- c. He became poor at the cross when He took our poverty to the cross.
- d. They gambled for his clothes at the cross – *You do not gamble for garments of a homeless man – or beggar.*

**2. The Disciples did without.**

**Luke 22:35 (HCSB)** – *He also said to them, “When I sent you out without money-bag, traveling bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?” “Not a thing,” they said.*

**3. Paul was supposed to be poor.**

- a. **Paul knew what it was to be in want – but he also knew what it was like to have plenty.** *He never stayed in a place of lack – God always provided!!!*

- b. **On the island of Malta where Paul was ship wrecked, God gave Paul favor with the leader and He cared for Paul.**

**Acts 28:7-16 (MSG)** – <sup>7-9</sup>*The head man in that part of the island was Publius. He took us into his home as his guests, drying us out and putting us up in fine style for the next three days. Publius’s father was sick at the time, down with a high fever and dysentery. Paul went to the old man’s room, and when he laid hands on him and prayed, the man was healed. Word of the healing got around fast, and soon everyone on the island who was sick came and got healed.* <sup>10-11</sup>*We spent a wonderful three months on Malta. They treated us royally, took care of all our needs and outfitted us for the rest of the journey. When an Egyptian ship that had wintered there in the harbor prepared to leave for Italy, we got on board. The ship had a carved Gemini for its figurehead: “the Heavenly Twins.”* <sup>12-14</sup>*We put in at Syracuse for three days and then went up the coast to Rhegium. Two days later, with the wind out of the south, we sailed into the Bay of Naples. We found Christian friends there and stayed with them for a week.* <sup>14-16</sup>*And then we came to Rome. Friends in Rome heard we were on the way and came out to meet us. One group got as far as Appian Court; another group met us at Three Taverns—emotion-packed meetings, as you can well imagine. Paul, brimming over with praise, led us in prayers of*

*thanksgiving. When we actually entered Rome, they let Paul live in his own private quarters with a soldier who had been assigned to guard him.*

c. **Paul's rental home**

**Acts 28:30-31 (MSG)** – <sup>30-31</sup>*Paul lived for two years in his rented house. He welcomed everyone who came to visit. He urgently presented all matters of the kingdom of God. He explained everything about Jesus Christ. His door was always open.*

**4. Nobody starved to death working for the Lord.**

*The indication is that they had everything they needed for their journey. Traveling wasn't without expense. Paul and others were able to travel the known world by ship and on foot – having everything they needed for the journey. God provided generously for their journeys!!!*

**PASTOR'S NOTE: Do not allow a traditional – religious – nonbiblical view to talk you into believing that the Christian has a LESS THAN LIFE. We have GREATER LIFE!**

- *Whatever I do for a living – I do it better with Christ in me.*
- *Salesman sell better.*
- *Builders – build better.*
- *Doctors – doctor better.*
- *Whatever business I own – I do better with Christ in me.*
- *The more abundant life!*

**III. The New Creation Life sets us on the right course.**

**A. 2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV) – *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.***

1. Paul says, "I have finished my course".
2. **Course = figuratively the course of life – also a type of race course – everyone must run his own race – on his own course.**
3. Paul didn't say he finished someone else's course – he had to finish his own course.

4. Notice, there is no whine in Paul's tone about his course.  
*This man of God has enjoyed his course – WHY? It was the right course.*
5. When I am born again – not only am I recreated – but my course is re-directed. *Re-directed from my own plans – Satan's plans – toward GOD's plan – which is always the best course.*

**B. Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)** – *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them*

**Ephesians 2:10 (AMP)** – *For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, **which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].***

1. **The new creation life resets our course so we can take the paths which He set before us. *It puts us back into the plan of God!***
2. **Notice – this is the plan that God prepared beforehand.**
  - a. Before I was born God had a plan.  
*God's original plan for my life becomes altered because of my connection to Adam.*
  - b. Before I messed up God had a plan.
  - c. Before I set my own course for my life – God had a pre-planned course.
  - d. God's plan is always best.
  - e. **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)** – *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*
3. **When I am saved – I reconnect with God's plan for my life.**
  - a. I give Him my life.

- b. Just as I am given access to Him – He is given access to my life.
- c. He now has the right and ability to lead me – to direct me.
- d. He now can empower me.

### **C. My Cooperation Required.**

#### **1. This is the year of greater things for those who will cooperate with the God of greater things.**

- a. When God directs a church toward a theme for the year, we must believe for it – and move toward it in our actions.  
*This is cooperating with His instructions in faith.*
- b. God told Noah to build an ark – Noah had to do the building.
- c. God told Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt – Moses had to cooperate through action.
- d. Jesus called his disciples – but they all had to choose to follow.
- e. The Lord was always revealing His plan but the choice to cooperate was left to the individual.

#### **2. God has a Great Plan/Great Things planned for your life but you will have to follow his directions/COOPERATION.**

He has set *Paths Before Us* – Let's cooperate with the path.

#### **3. Defining Moments**

- a. A fork in the road.
- b. A time in your life when you must react to go one direction or another.
- c. A time in your life where you are urged to make a pivotal decision.
- d. Defining moments often come without any warning.
- e. Elisha's defining moment came when he was following his daily routine without thinking that He was about to become the double portion prophet.
- f. None of Jesus' disciples were planning to become involved in ministry – they had a sudden/defining moment.
- g. Ruth had a defining moment when Boaz saw her gleaning from his field – *she had no idea she was being watched.*
- h. Defining moments come when:
  - God sets you up.

- Someone is watching you when you don't know you are being watched.
- God has set up a meeting on your behalf for you to get acquainted with someone you have never met – that person is a key to your future.
- Abraham's servant was on a mission to find Isaac's wife.  
*Rebecca had no idea that she was being watched when she was watering camels.*

#### 4. Pastor's personal defining moments

##### a. An unusual encounter with two young men.

This relationship would redirect my steps toward other steps that would bring me to where I am today.

**NOTE: Some defining moments will lead you directly into your future (like Elisha). There are other defining moments that set things into motion to move you toward your future.**

My encounter with these young men that day would not take me directly into God's plan for my life – but they were instruments **being used to move me one step in the right direction.**

***Remember – as long as you're moving in the right direction you can get to your destiny.***

##### b. A crossroads – all night singing.

##### c. Meeting Patty

d. All of these were stages – where God was setting me up to make the right choices – leading me step by step closer to “Greater Things” – The “Greater Life” that He had preplanned for me.

e. I had to cooperate with each defining moment.

#### 5. Preparing for defining moments

a. **Receive Christ – God has set everyone up for a defining moment of encountering him.**

b. **When we get saved – we embrace our first defining moment – which sets us up for God's future defining moments that will lead us forward into His plan.**

c. **God never forces anyone to accept him. Our first act of cooperation with God is to receive His son as savior. If you have**

never done this, He cannot work in your life as He desires to. You are still connected to the agenda of Satan for your life.

d. **Once we are saved – pray for God’s direction for every issue of life.**

- The greater life – includes finding the right spouse.
- The greater life – includes choosing the right career path.
- The greater life – includes making right investments.
- The greater life – includes living in the right place.
- The greater life – includes making right choices every day.

**PRAY OVER THESE CHOICES**

e. **James 1:5 (AMP)** – *If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him.*

f. **Trust God to direct your steps – to lead you to the right defining moments and to keep you from harmful defining opportunities that are not from him.**

**NOTE: A closed door can be as much of a blessing as an open door when the closed door was not part of God’s plan.**

g. **Putting God first is key to allowing Him to set you up.**

**Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)** – *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

**6. The Greater Life is a process.**

- a. It is a series of steps and events that are ever leading us toward and into God’s greatest life.
- b. Take time to enjoy the journey and refuse to hurry ahead of his plan.
- c. Follow HIS peace for every decision.

**IV. Closing Thought.**

**I didn’t arrive at GFC overnight.**

**A. The decision to follow God’s direction into ministry.**

**B. There were five other churches leading me toward this ministry.**

**C. Cooperation brought me here.**

1. Moving when required.
2. Taking what seemed to be a demotion vs promotion.
3. Some sacrifice required.
4. You can deal with sacrifice if you can believe for the harvest attached to it.