

If you don't feel
like praying,
force it
because something
is also forcing
you not to pray.

FROM BELONGING TO BECOMING
A FAMILY OF FAITH THAT DOES GREATER
JOHN 14:10-16

*"The world is
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work." ---
Robert Frost*

DR.
DARRYL
T.
CANADY
RODMAN
STREET
CHURCH.
1.18.26

FROM BELONGING TO BECOMING: A FAMILY OF FAITH THAT DOES GREATER!

JOHN 14:10-16

DR. DARRYL T. CANADY

1.18.26

Title: From Belonging to Becoming: A Family of Faith That Does Greater

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the transformative journey from simply belonging to God's family to actively becoming agents of His Kingdom work on earth. Based on John 14:11-17, Pastor Canady emphasizes that faith and family are not just about connection but about commission. Jesus promises that believers who have faith in Him will do even greater works than He did because the Holy Spirit empowers them.

This isn't about performing more spectacular miracles, but rather about extending the reach and impact of Christ's ministry through the collective body of believers. The message unpacks three critical dimensions: the explicit promise that anyone with faith can participate in God's work, the expected practice of prayer that aligns our desires with His Kingdom purposes, and the exceeding power of the Holy Spirit who equips us for the mission.

We're challenged to examine whether our prayers are self-centered or Kingdom-focused, whether we're content with spiritual membership or ready for spiritual movement. Pastor Canady used the hard-boiled egg illustration beautifully to capture the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three distinct persons yet one unified God working in and through us. The message challenges the congregation to move beyond passive

church membership to active discipleship, praying bold prayers, and impacting their community.

The sermon emphasizes that "greater" refers to quantity and reach rather than power—as the body of Christ collectively extends Jesus' work throughout the world. Faith is defined as believing God's character (He is who He says He is) and His promises (He will do what He said He will do), leading to transformative action through the power of the Holy Spirit. This isn't just theological theory; it's a call to action for families, individuals, and communities to step into their divine inheritance and carry forward the family business of transforming lives and cities for God's glory.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Promise of Greater Works

We explore Jesus' promise in John 14:12 that believers will do even greater works than He did, understanding that family is not just about belonging but about becoming and being commissioned for Kingdom work.

Chapter 2: Faith as the Doorway to Greater

We discover that faith is the essential doorway to doing greater works, requiring us to believe both in who God is and what He has promised to do through us as His family.

Chapter 3: Prayer: The Expected Practice of Faith

We examine how prayer is the expected practice that releases greater works, understanding that asking in Jesus' name means praying according to His purpose, glory, and Kingdom rather than selfish desires.

Chapter 4: The Holy Spirit: Our Exceeding Power

We understand that the Holy Spirit is the exceeding power source enabling us to do greater works, serving as our helper, counselor, and strength to love, serve, reach, and build like Jesus.

Key Points:

- Family is not just about belonging but about becoming—moving from connection to commission
- Jesus promises believers will do greater works in quantity and reach, not necessarily in miraculous power
- Faith requires two components: believing God's character (who He is) and believing God's promises (what He will do)
- The Holy Spirit is the power source that enables believers to do greater works
- Prayer in Jesus' name means praying according to His purposes, glory, and Kingdom—not selfish desires
- The Community of Hope vision extends beyond church walls through Rodman Global and LIFE Male STEAM Academy
- Sermon circles are designed to extend Sunday's message throughout the week for deeper discipleship
- Greater works are released through believing prayer combined with the Holy Spirit's power
- Faith and family without the Spirit is religion; faith and family with the Spirit leads to relationship and revival
- Believers must shift from spiritual orphans to sons and daughters with an inheritance and family business to carry on

Scripture Reference:

- John 14:11-17 (primary passage)
- John 15:13-15 (friends to family transition)
- Acts 1:8 (receiving power from the Holy Spirit)
- John 20:21 (being sent as Jesus was sent)
- Romans 4:17 (calling things that are not as though they were)
- Ephesians 2:8 (salvation by grace through faith)
- James 4:3 (asking with wrong motives)

Stories:

- Michelle Obama's journey from sharing a bedroom with her brother to becoming First Lady of the United States, illustrating that it's not where you come from but where you're going
- The hard-boiled egg illustration explaining the Trinity—three parts (shell, white, yolk) representing Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet one egg
- Pastor Canady's practice of praying with his children in the car before school and coaching the "God Squad" soccer and basketball teams, demonstrating faith in family life
- The story of Pastor Canady's father's last words to Major before dying: "You don't hit blood," emphasizing the importance of family unity
- Personal testimony about LIFE Male STEAM Academy where all scholars call him "Pastor Canady" regardless of church affiliation, demonstrating faith in action

- The illustration of asking in Jesus' name being like signing a check—your name represents your authority and what's in your account
- References to the "Block of Hope" in Wilson transforming to the "Community of Hope" in Pittsburgh, showing God's expanding vision

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned Scripture References

1. **John 14:11-17** - Main sermon text (read at beginning)
2. **John 14:12** - "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing"
3. **John 15:13-15** - "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down his life for his friends"
4. **John 1:1** - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God"
5. **John 1:14** - "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"
6. **John 20:21** - "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you"
7. **Acts 1:8** - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you"
8. **Romans 4:17** - Faith is "counting those things that be not as though they were"
9. **Ephesians 2:8-9** - "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith"

10. **James 4:3** - "When you ask, you do not receive because you ask with the wrong motive"
11. **Deuteronomy 28:2** - "All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God"

Scripture Allusions and Paraphrased References

12. **Psalms 121:1-2** - "I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence cometh my help"
13. **Isaiah 54:17** - "No weapon formed against me shall prosper"
14. **Philippians 4:13** - "I can do all things through Christ"
15. **Psalms 23** - References to "valley of the shadow of death," "rod and staff," "dwell in the house of the Lord"
16. **John 14:1-3** - "Let not your heart be troubled... In my Father's house are many mansions"
17. **1 John 4:4** - "Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world"
18. **Romans 10:9** - Confession and belief for salvation
19. **Ephesians 3:20** - Benediction: "Now to him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all"

Relevant Supporting Verses for Main Themes

Theme: Doing Greater Works

- **Matthew 28:19-20** - The Great Commission
- **Mark 16:15** - "Go into all the world and preach the gospel"

Theme: Faith and Family

- **Galatians 3:26** - "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus"
- **1 Peter 2:9** - "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood"

Theme: Prayer in Jesus' Name

- **John 16:23-24** - Asking in Jesus' name
- **Matthew 18:19-20** - Agreement in prayer

Theme: The Holy Spirit's Power

- **Luke 24:49** - Promise of power from on high
- **John 14:26** - The Holy Spirit as Helper/Comforter

Theme: From Belonging to Becoming

- **2 Corinthians 3:18** - "Being transformed into His image"
- **Philippians 1:6** - "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion"

QUOTES:

Family is not just about belonging, family is about becoming. Family isn't about a connection, family is about a commission. Family isn't just about being loved, family is about being sent.

Faith is believing that God is who He says He is and God would do what He said He would do.

We don't just come to church; we carry on the family business.

Jesus doesn't just save us, He adopts us. He does not just forgive us, He families us. He doesn't just call us servants, but He calls us His sons and His daughters.

Faith is not silent, faith is not passive, faith is not theoretical. Faith prays.

When a family prays together, they stay together. But when you pray together as a family, you move heaven.

We are not just a church of individuals; we are a believing family.

Faith gives us the promise, prayer gives us the practice, and the Spirit gives us the power.

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5-Day Devotional: From Belonging to Becoming

Day 1: The Promise of Greater Works

Reading: John 14:12-14

Devotional: Jesus made an astounding promise: "Anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these." This isn't about our own power, but about Christ living within us through the Holy Spirit. When Jesus ascended to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in every believer, multiplying His reach across the earth. We are not called to merely admire Jesus from a distance but to carry on His work—loving the broken, healing the hurting, and proclaiming the Kingdom. Today, consider what "greater works" God is calling you to accomplish. Your faith is the doorway to the impossible.

Reflection Question: What "greater work" is God inviting you to believe Him for today?

Day 2: Faith That Moves From Belonging to Becoming

Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10

Devotional: Salvation is a gift—we belong to God's family by grace through faith, not by our works. But belonging is just the beginning. God saved you not only to rescue you from sin but to prepare you for good works He planned in advance for you to do. Like Michelle Obama moving from sharing a bedroom to becoming First Lady, God wants to take you from where you are to where He's calling you to become. It's not about where you came from; it's about where you're going. You are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for a divine purpose. Today, embrace both your belonging and your becoming.

Reflection Question: How is God calling you to grow from simply belonging to actively becoming who He created you to be?

Day 3: The Power of Praying in Jesus' Name

Reading: John 14:13-14; James 4:3

Devotional: Praying "in Jesus' name" is not a magic formula to get whatever we want. It means aligning our prayers with His character, His will, and His Kingdom purposes. When we pray selfishly, we ask amiss. But when we pray for God's glory, for families to be restored, for the lost to be saved, for our cities to be transformed—we pray with power. God promises to answer prayers that bring glory to the Father. Are your prayers big enough for the big God you serve? Stop asking for small things and start praying Kingdom-sized prayers. When faith and family come into agreement through prayer, chains are broken, and heaven moves.

Reflection Question: Are your prayers focused on God's glory and kingdom purposes, or are they centered on your own desires?

Day 4: The Holy Spirit—Our Helper and Power Source

Reading: Acts 1:8; John 14:16-17

Devotional: Before Jesus ascended, He promised to send "another Helper"—the Holy Spirit—to be with us forever. The Spirit is our Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby. He gives us power to love when it's hard, serve when it requires sacrifice, believe when it's dark, and build when it's difficult. Faith and family without the Spirit is just religion; with the Spirit, it becomes relationship and revival. You cannot do spiritual work without being spiritual. The same Spirit that

raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, empowering you for greater works. Today, surrender afresh to the Holy Spirit's leading in your life.

Reflection Question: In what area of your life do you need the Holy Spirit's power today?

Day 5: Living as Family on Mission

Reading: John 15:12-17; John 20:21

Devotional: Jesus doesn't just save us; He families us. He calls us friends, sons, and daughters—not to simply enjoy His love, but to extend it to others. "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." Family is not just about connection; it's about commission. We are called to carry on the family business—demonstrating God's love, leading people to salvation, and doing greater works together. When families pray together, they move heaven. When believers work together in faith, cities are transformed. You are not alone in this mission. You belong to a family of faith called to do greater things. Today, commit to being part of God's kingdom work.

Reflection Question: How can you actively participate in God's family mission this week—in your home, workplace, or community?

Closing Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank You for calling me from belonging to becoming. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, align my prayers with Your will, and empower me to do greater works for Your glory. Help me live not as a spiritual orphan but as Your son/daughter with an inheritance and a mission. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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Small Group Guide: From Belonging to Becoming

A Family of Faith That Does Greater

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin with prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to guide your discussion.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share a time when someone believed in you and helped you become more than you thought you could be. How did that impact your life?

Sermon Recap (5 minutes)

Pastor Canady taught from John 14:11-16 about moving from simply belonging to God's family to becoming agents of God's greater works. Through faith, prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are equipped to do greater things than we ever imagined.

Key Takeaways

1. The Explicit Promise (John 14:12)

"Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these."

2. The Expected Practice (John 14:13-14)

Prayer in Jesus' name—not selfish requests, but prayers aligned with God's purpose and Kingdom.

3. The Exceeding Power (John 14:16)

The Holy Spirit is our Helper, Counselor, and Power Source to accomplish God's work.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding "Greater"

1. What does it mean that believers will do "greater works" than Jesus did? How does this challenge or encourage you?
2. Pastor Canady explained that "greater" means greater in quantity (reach), not greater in power. How does this understanding change the way you view your role in God's kingdom?
3. The sermon emphasized that family is not just about belonging but about becoming. What does it mean to "become" in God's family? What areas of your life need transformation?

Section 2: The Power of Faith

4. Pastor Canady said, "Faith is believing that God is who He says He is and God will do what He said He will do." What promises of God are you currently holding onto?

5. The message distinguished between saying "God can" versus "God will." Which phrase best describes your current faith? What would it take to move from "can" to "will"?
6. How does knowing that the Holy Spirit lives inside you (not just alongside you) change your perspective on what's possible in your life?

Section 3: Prayer That Moves Heaven

7. What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name"? How is this different from just adding His name to the end of our prayers?
8. James 4:3 says we sometimes don't receive because we ask with wrong motives. How can we examine our prayer motives to ensure they align with God's will?
9. Pastor Canady asked, "Are your prayers big enough?" What would "big prayers" look like in your life right now?

Section 4: Family on Mission

10. The sermon circles are designed to extend Sunday's message throughout the week. How can your small group become a "sermon circle" that applies God's Word to daily life?
11. What does it mean that "we don't just come to church; we carry on the family business"? What is God's family business, and how are you participating in it?
12. Pastor Canady shared that when families pray together, "chains are broken" and "heaven moves." How can you incorporate more prayer into your family or community relationships?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

1. **Pray a "Greater" Prayer:** Write down one big, Kingdom-sized prayer request. Share it with someone in your group for accountability and pray about it daily.
2. **Join or Start a Sermon Circle:** Commit to gathering with at least one other person this week (in person or via Zoom) to discuss Sunday's sermon and pray together.
3. **Examine Your Motives:** Before you pray this week, pause and ask yourself: "Am I praying for God's glory or my comfort?" Adjust your prayers accordingly.
4. **Activate Your Faith:** Identify one area where you've been saying "God can" and shift to declaring "God will." Take one practical step of faith in that area.
5. **Family Prayer Time:** If you have a family, institute a daily prayer time this week. If you're single, invite a friend or mentor to pray with you regularly.

Reflection Questions for Personal Journaling

- Where am I in my spiritual journey: belonging, becoming, or doing greater works?
- What is holding me back from believing God for "greater"?

- How can I use my influence, resources, or gifts to help someone else in God's family?
 - What would change in my life if I truly believed the Holy Spirit's power lives in me?
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Scripture Memory Verse

John 14:12 (NIV) "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."

Closing Activity (10 minutes)

Prayer Partners: Break into groups of 2-3. Share one "greater" thing you're believing God for. Pray specifically for each person's request, declaring God's promises over their situation.

Closing Prayer

Close by thanking God for His explicit promise, expected practice, and exceeding power. Ask Him to shift each person from belonging to becoming, and from becoming to doing greater works for His glory.

Leader Tip: Create a safe space where people can be honest about their doubts and struggles with faith. Encourage testimonies of answered prayer to build group faith. Consider following up with group members during the week about their commitments.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Canady says faith is not just believing in Jesus but believing God for something specific. What are you actively believing God for in your life right now, and how does that belief shape your daily actions?
2. The sermon distinguishes between Jesus as Savior versus Jesus as Lord, suggesting many people accept salvation but don't submit to His lordship. In what areas of your life have you made Jesus Savior but not yet Lord?
3. The message emphasizes that family is not just about belonging but about becoming, and that we're called to 'carry on the family business.' How does viewing your faith as a family business rather than just church membership change your sense of responsibility?
4. Jesus promises that believers will do 'greater works' than He did because the Holy Spirit now lives within us. Why do you think many Christians today aren't experiencing or expecting to do these greater works?
5. The pastor challenges the congregation about praying 'big prayers to a big God' rather than small, self-centered prayers. What would change in your prayer life if you truly believed God wanted to answer prayers that are city-shaping and Kingdom-building?
6. The sermon explains that asking 'in Jesus' name' means praying according to His character, will, and purpose, not using His name like a genie. How can you evaluate whether your prayers align with God's Kingdom purposes rather than just your personal desires?
7. Pastor Canady illustrates the Trinity using a hard-boiled egg with three distinct parts that form one whole. How does

understanding the distinct roles of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit deepen your relationship with God?

8. The message states that 'faith talks to God and families who pray together' release greater works. What practical steps can you take to establish or strengthen a culture of prayer within your household or spiritual community?
9. The pastor says that some prayers aren't answered because we ask with wrong motives, wanting to spend what we get on ourselves. How can you discern whether your requests are motivated by selfishness or by a genuine desire to advance God's kingdom?
10. Michelle Obama's journey from sharing a bedroom with her brother to becoming First Lady illustrates that 'it's not where you came from, but where you're going.' What limitations from your past are you allowing to define your future, and how does faith in God's promises challenge those limitations?

