**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | A Spirit-Filled Church |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 14:12-18 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2497 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. When some people go to church, they simply go in one door and out the other.
      1. There is no radical, dramatic change in their lives.
      2. But when you worship God, you ought to be changed.
   2. John 14:12
      1. When Jesus says, “*Verily, verily*”, that means to pay attention.
   3. There are only two classes of people:
      1. Believers
      2. Unbelievers
   4. If you believe, then you ought to be doing the works of Jesus and greater works.
      1. John 14:12
      2. If you believe but are not doing this, then there is something wrong.
   5. When we read a Scripture like John 14:12, we are tempted to dumb it down so that it fits our experience.
      1. But Jesus said that if we believe in Him, then the works that He does, we will do; and greater works than those, we will do.
         1. John 14:12
   6. In today’s message, we will look at the following four aspects of a Spirit-filled church:
      1. Its exciting program.
      2. Its explicit promise.
      3. Its expected practice.
      4. Its exceeding power.
2. The exciting program of a spirit-filled church (john 14:12)
   1. The exciting program is not an activities program, a music program, an educational program, or a benevolent program.
      1. It is to do the works of Jesus and to excel the works of Jesus.
         1. John 14:12
   2. How can we do the works of Jesus, much less excel them?
      1. Jesus walked on water and raised the dead.
      2. What can we do that is greater than what Jesus did?
         1. What the Lord was talking about was not raising the dead.
   3. When He talked about greater works, He was not talking about quality but about quantity.
      1. He was talking about leading people to Himself.
      2. He was talking about evangelism, soul winning, and multiplication.
   4. Bringing a soul to Jesus Christ is greater than raising someone from the dead.
      1. John 5:20, 24
         1. Again, this is talking about greater works.
      2. Even the people whom Jesus raised, they died again.
      3. But when we believe on the Lord Jesus and trust Him, we have everlasting life.
         1. John 11:26
   5. These greater works refer to the salvation ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. John 4:34
         1. What did God send Jesus to do?
            1. God did not send Jesus to heal the sick nor to feed the hungry.
            2. He did these things, but “*the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which is lost*.”

Luke 19:10

* + - * 1. Jesus came not as the great healer or the great teacher, but as a Savior.
    1. Jesus said that He had finished the work that the Father gave Him to do.
       1. John 17:4
    2. John 17:1-4
       1. The Lord Jesus has given us eternal life.
          1. That is the work that God sent Him to do.
       2. The work of God is to bring souls to Jesus Christ, and this glorifies God.
  1. John 14:12
     1. Jesus was not talking about greater in quality but in quantity.
  2. As a church, we are to do far more than Jesus did when He was here on this Earth walking in the flesh.
     1. On the Day of Pentecost, more souls were saved in one day than came to Jesus in His entire ministry.
        1. Acts 2:41
     2. The Lord wants multiplied souls coming to Jesus, and He wants us to be a part of it.
     3. God wants our churches to be Spirit-filled, doing the works of Jesus.
        1. Giving eternal life.
     4. What Jesus did is to be miniscule compared to what needs to be done and what ought to be done.
  3. The choir, orchestra, preaching, and educational programs of a church are fine, but they are only a part of a great program.
     1. And that program is doing the works of Jesus.
  4. What are the works of Jesus?
     1. John 17:4
     2. Luke 19:10
  5. Never minimize bringing souls to Jesus Christ.
     1. There is no substitute.
     2. If a church moves away from evangelism, then it signs its death warrant.
        1. A church exists by evangelism like a fire exists by burning.

1. the explicit promise of a spirit-filled church (John 14:12-14)
   1. Verse 12 speaks of greater works.
      1. Verse 12 is conjoined with verse 13.
         1. “And” means that it is part of the same thing.
   2. We do these greater works through believing prayer.
      1. 3,000 people were saved in one day on the Day of Pentecost.
         1. Acts 2:41
      2. They prayed for ten days and preached for fifteen minutes.
         1. But today, we pray for ten minutes, preach for ten days, and only a handful of people are saved.
      3. This exciting program is based upon the promise that God will answer our prayer.
   3. Prayer is not a substitute for our work, and prayer is not preliminary to our work.
      1. In many senses, prayer is our work.
         1. Do you believe that God will do greater things through your prayer?
            1. John 14:12, 14
   4. We can do a lot without prayer.
      1. The pyramids were built without prayer to our true God.
      2. But in order to do the greater works that Jesus commands us to do, we must do it by prayer.
   5. What kind of prayer must we have?
      1. There must be the right people.
         1. John 14:12
            1. We must believe.
         2. If you are not a believer, then your prayer does not get any higher than the lightbulbs.
         3. If you are a believer and know the Lord Jesus Christ, then God sends forth His Spirit into our hearts crying, “Abba, Father”.
            1. Galatians 4:6
            2. If you don’t find in your heart an earnest desire to pray, then evaluate whether you are saved.
      2. There must be the right power.
         1. John 14:14
         2. We cannot forge Jesus’ name to a prayer.
         3. What does it mean to ask in His name?
            1. The name stands for authority.
            2. If we ask anything in His name (that is, with His authority and His approval), then He will do it.
         4. As believers, we have authority.
            1. We don’t have to have physical strength, monetary strength, or intellectual superiority.
            2. We have the authority of Jesus Christ.
         5. We cannot take that authority and apply it to something where it does not belong.
            1. We cannot just tack “In the name of Jesus” on a prayer and get our prayer answered.
            2. “In the name of Jesus” means for the right purpose.
      3. There must be the right purpose.
         1. John 14:13
         2. The purpose of prayer is to glorify God.
         3. It is not to have selfish desires met.
   6. When we get the right person praying with the right power for the right purpose, then our prayers get answered.
   7. We are to do greater works than the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. The way we do this is through believing prayer.
   8. God has given us an explicit promise.
      1. Don’t take from it, and don’t add to it.
      2. Believe it, and practice it.
2. the expected practice of a spirit-filled church (john 14:15)
   1. All of these things are conjoined:
      1. Greater works
      2. Prayer
      3. Keeping His commandments
         1. John 14:15
   2. If we say that we love the Lord Jesus Christ but do not keep His commandments, then we are not telling the truth.
      1. If we don’t keep His commandments, then it is no wonder that we are not doing greater works.
      2. His commandment is the Great Commission.
         1. Matthew 28:18-20
         2. Go and make disciples.
   3. The greater works are bringing people to Jesus Christ.
   4. Acts 1:8
      1. We don’t have to be educated or know a lot of theology to witness.
      2. Anyone who is saved can witness.
         1. You can tell someone how you were saved.
      3. The Lord has not called us to be lawyers but to be witnesses.
         1. A lawyer argues a case; a witness tells what he has seen and heard.
            1. The only reason why some people don’t witness is that they have not seen or heard anything.
      4. If Jesus Christ has saved you, then can’t you tell someone else?
         1. All we have to do is tell how we were saved.
      5. The word “witness” and the word “martyr” are the same word in the Greek language.
         1. Some people say that they will die for Jesus, but will you live for Jesus?
   5. John 14:15
      1. This is our expected practice.
         1. We are to share the Lord Jesus Christ.
   6. Some people think that they have done God a favor when they go to church on Sunday morning.
      1. When asked if they serve Jesus, they say that they go to church.
   7. But we are to do the works of Jesus and greater works.
      1. John 14:12
      2. We are expected to obey the Lord if we love the Lord.
3. the exceeding power of a spirit-filled church (john 14:16-18)
   1. For an excelling purpose, an exciting purpose, and an expanded purpose, we will need an exceeding power.
   2. John 14:16-18
      1. Jesus was dwelling with them.
      2. Jesus would be in them.
      3. The Holy Spirit is Christ in the Christian.
      4. We have a mission impossible.
         1. We are to do the works of Jesus and greater works than these.
            1. John 14:12
      5. The word “Comforter” means someone who will come alongside of us, someone who will get into yoke with us to empower and strengthen us.
         1. We will never be alone.
      6. Jesus used the word “another”.
         1. The word that Jesus used was not the word that means “another of a different kind,” but it means “another of the same kind”.
         2. He will send another Comforter.
            1. Jesus is with us, and He is also sending the Holy Spirit.
      7. In a Christian, Jesus lives again.
         1. This is how we can do the works of Jesus and greater works.
   3. John 14:13
      1. He didn’t say that He would help us to do it; He said that He would do it.
   4. Galatians 2:20
   5. God moves in and begins to work in us, through us, and with us when we believe Him for greater works than raising the dead and when we pray believing prayer in the name of Jesus with His authority for the glory of God.
      1. When we obey Him and are witnesses for Him, then God will empower us.
         1. Acts 1:8
         2. God sends the Holy Spirit (another Comforter), who is Jesus Christ in us.
   6. There is only one who has ever lived the Christian life, and His name is Jesus.
      1. If the Christian life is lived in your house, on your team, or in your choir, then there is only one person who will be doing it, and it is Jesus.
      2. We are not to be imitations of Jesus.
         1. It is Christ in us.
   7. John 14:14
      1. He is the one who steps in.
      2. This is the exceeding power that we have to do these greater works than the Lord Jesus Christ.
   8. John 14:16
      1. “The Comforter will abide” means to dwell forever.
   9. John 16:7
      1. Many of us think that it would have been better to have been here when Jesus was on the Earth, but it wouldn’t have been better.
         1. Jesus said, “*It is expedient for you that I go away*.”
      2. When Jesus left this Earth and went back to Heaven, He sent the Spirit to take His place.
         1. What is the difference?
            1. When Jesus was here on Earth, He was limited by time and space.

Mary and Martha said to Jesus that if only He had been there, then Lazarus would not have died.

John 11:21, 32

He was at one place at one time.

* + - * 1. When He comes into us with the Holy Spirit, then Jesus is with each one who is saved.

He is no longer limited by space or time.

He lives and dwells in all of us through the Holy Spirit of God.

* 1. The church is the body of Jesus on this Earth.
     1. The church is the visible body of the invisible Christ.
     2. Christ is the invisible person of the visible church.
     3. John 14:14
     4. We can do the works of Jesus and greater works because He will still be the one doing them, but He will now do them in us.
        1. This is the work of the whole church for the whole age.
  2. There are three miracles that deal with our lives:
     1. The first miracle is when we are saved.
        1. The new birth is a miracle.
     2. The second miracle is when we are glorified at the rapture and are made like the Lord Jesus.
     3. The third miracle is when we live day-by-day empowered by the Holy Spirit.
        1. Galatians 2:20

1. CONCLUSION
   1. The Lord will empower us with His Holy Spirit to do greater works than Jesus did.
      1. We cannot all do it the same way.
         1. We can’t all be preachers, but we can all be reachers.
      2. Try and bring souls to Jesus Christ.
   2. If you are not a Christian, then you cannot be a part of this program until you first give your heart to Jesus.
      1. John 14:12
   3. There are some facts that you need to know:
      1. We are sinners.
         1. We are sinners by birth, nature, and practice.
         2. We are sinners under condemnation.
         3. God will never overlook anyone’s sins.
            1. Romans 6:23
            2. Ezekiel 18:20
      2. Jesus Christ took the penalty that our sins deserved, and He carried them to the cross.
         1. Jesus was our substitute.
         2. He took our sins and suffered, bled, and died alone on the cross.
      3. You must receive that.
         1. If you don’t receive it, then it does you no good.
            1. It only increases your judgment.
      4. You receive it by faith.
         1. Acts 16:31
            1. He doesn’t say to feel a certain way.

The word “feeling” is only used twice in the New Testament.

* + - * 1. The emphasis is on faith, trusting Jesus.
      1. It is not an emotional thing.
         1. It may show emotions, but the emotions are secondary.
      2. Put your faith where God has put your sins: on the Lord Jesus Christ.
  1. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
  2. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
     1. Romans 3:23
     2. Romans 10:9-10
     3. Romans 10:13
     4. John 3:16