

KEYS TO GREATNESS

God created you for greatness. Look Up. Step down. Look out. Look in. Move forward. The Great God will work through you.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ What is greatness? 'Basic greatness' is having the impact – the effect – that you want your life to have. And that is really not easy to do.
- ❖ But having the desired impact is not all there is to greatness. It's good to have it – in fact, your achievements might be significant and enduring.
- ❖ But what transforms human greatness into amazing eternal greatness is when the nature of God...the purposes of God...the power of God...enabled it.
- ❖ 'Amazing greatness' is when the light of the glory of God shines through it all – your mind; your motivations; your actions; the way God worked with you; and the amazing eternal results!
- ❖ This true, complete greatness happens when God is the theme of our efforts and the enabler of our achievements. We share in the joy of it with our smiling Creator. And the glory is all His.
- ❖ *Greatness....* Can we do it by ourselves? That question brings us to these "Keys to Greatness".

KEY #1: LOOK UP

- ❖ As strong and capable as you might feel, or as weak and incapable as you might feel, Look Up – until you are engulfed in the realization of the great almighty God, feeling and knowing the reality of God, the power of God, the love of God, the working of God all around us in ways and places and dimensions that our minds can't comprehend.
- ❖ That is the start of greatness: reverence to God – being in awe of His greatness – is the beginning of wisdom (see, e.g. Job 28:28). Look Up.

KEY #2: STEP DOWN

- ❖ In Matthew 23 Jesus was talking to those who liked to be seen as great by others. They liked status and respect. In verse 5 Jesus described these people: "all their works they do to be seen by men". Then, in verse 11, He recommended a different approach: "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant." Step Down.
- ❖ According to Jesus, greatness is not in the obvious places: the position you gain or the compliments people give you. Greatness lies in serving well.

3 MORE KEYS

- ❖ Look Out. (What are the needs that call to me?)
- ❖ Look In. (What do I have/want to offer? What am I willing to build?)
- ❖ Step Forward. (Do something now.)

KEY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8:3-4; Jeremiah 10:23; Job 32:8; 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

- ❖ If you're going to be great, you'll have to grow. You'll have to do things tomorrow that you're not doing today. (Read James 1:21-26. Verse 25: "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.")
- ❖ The effect of the Word of God should be to get us to change, to be more in His image. Reflecting the image of God more and more is a pretty good definition of greatness!
- ❖ Greatness will not "just happen". And it won't transpire overnight. But it will happen if you take one step today, and another tomorrow, and then another... You might be fast. Or you might be slow. But you must be relentless.
- ❖ You only develop the muscles you use. But whichever muscles you *do* use every day are the ones that will grow.
- ❖ Look Up. Let God talk to you. Let Him show you the greatness He's created you for. Then don't hold back. Make a covenant with God; make sure that it's anchored in God's Word. Get it clear in your mind. Declare it. Then start to do it. God will work with you, and He only does 'great'.
- ❖ Your experience of life can be like that of the apostles in Mark 16:20. "And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed."
- ❖ Amen. Let it be so.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What are some things that might hinder us from directing our lives toward living for God and accomplishing a godly vision? Share.
2. What would enable or support us to combat the things just mentioned? What needs to be true about our environment? About us?
3. Read the Key Scriptures and those within the lesson. What do they teach us about greatness?
4. 'You can't boil the ocean with a little kettle.' So start small. Choose that one thing you'll focus on first. Will it be your talk? Actions? Your time? Your mental diet (what you feed your mind)...?
5. Make sure you touch base with your vision or purpose and take some action – every day.

Prayer Time

Jesus, I commit that one day at a time, one step at a time, I will pursue You and Your vision for my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What would need to be true in your life for you to feel that you accomplished something "great"?