

The Family Business / John 14:12-14

Most companies have benefits for employees: things like overtime pay, health insurance, and sick pay. In 2 Corinthians 6:1, Paul calls us "workers together with Him." You might say we're part of the "family business." So what has God called us to do? And how has He provided for us in terms of resources? In short, what are the benefits of being God's employees?

1. The privilege of _____

a. The first phase of your Christianity is _____.

b. The second phase of your Christianity is _____.

2. The privilege of _____

a. Maybe Jesus means miraculous, physical works that the _____ will do.

b. Maybe Jesus is referring to miracles done by everyone who has _____ faith to believe.

c. We will do works greater in _____.

3. The privilege of _____

4. Three liberating truths:

a. You're not the manufacturer, you're just the _____.

b. God's not asking you to change the whole world, just _____.

c. Great works are done thru a combination of _____.

Discussion Questions

1. If you could work for any company in the world, what would it be and why? What benefits or perks would attract you?
2. Read John 14:12-14. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Have you ever experienced a season of "quiet desperation" where you felt uncertain about your life's purpose? What was that like?
4. Patrick described two phases of Christianity—Salvation and Service. Where would you honestly place yourself right now? What might be holding you back from moving into deeper service?
5. "Greater works" perhaps refers to greater extent, not necessarily greater power. How does this interpretation change your understanding of what God expects from you?
6. "God's not asking you to change the whole world, just yours." How are you attempting to impact the 8-15 people currently in your sphere of influence?
7. Share a story of when someone made a "small impact" on your spiritual journey. How did that small thing contribute to where you are today?
8. How have you understood "praying in Jesus' name" in the past? How does understanding it as praying according to His character and will change your prayer life?
9. Read 1 John 5:14. How can we grow in understanding God's will so we can pray more confidently "according to His will" ?

Practical Applications

- Spend a little time this week praying through your oikos. If you are unaware of what an oikos is, it is your sphere of influence. We believe God places people in our lives supernaturally and strategically. It is our privilege to impact those people with God's Word and our lives. So ... who is in your oikos? Who has moved into your life lately? Who has moved out?
- Look for opportunities to invite those people in your oikos to church or a ball game or a lunch. They are not there by accident. Take advantage of what God is doing in your life.

Daily Devotions

Day 1: Discovering Your Divine Purpose

Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10

You are not an accident. Before time began, God crafted specific good works for you to accomplish. Your salvation wasn't just about escaping hell—it was about entering into your divine purpose. Like a master craftsman, God has made you His masterpiece, uniquely designed for Kingdom impact. Today, resist the quiet desperation that comes from purposeless living. You don't have to wonder why you're here. In Christ, you have clarity: you're God's fellow worker, invited into the family business of redemption. Your life has meaning beyond your paycheck, your title, or your accomplishments. You exist to participate in God's eternal plan. What "good works" has God been preparing you for that you've been overlooking or avoiding?

Day 2: From Receiving to Giving

Reading: Acts 20:32-35

Spiritual maturity follows a pattern: first we receive, then we give. Many believers get stuck in the receiving phase—constantly being fed, always consuming, perpetually sitting. But Jesus calls us beyond spiritual obesity into active service. Paul reminds us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. This isn't just about money; it's about your time, gifts, and presence in God's mission. Are you still only coming to church to get fed, or have you discovered the joy of feeding others? The transition from spiritual infancy to maturity happens when you roll up your sleeves and engage in Kingdom work. Service isn't a burden—it's a privilege reserved for those who belong to the King. Are you in the salvation phase or the service phase of your Christian walk? What's your next step toward maturity?

Day 3: Greater Works Through Greater Reach

Reading: Acts 2:37-47

On Pentecost, Peter preached and 3,000 souls were saved in a single day—something that never happened during Jesus' earthly ministry. This is what Jesus meant by "greater works." Not greater in power, but greater in extent. Jesus ministered in a small geographical area; His followers took the Gospel to the ends of the earth. You're part of that multiplication. The same Spirit that empowered Peter empowers you. Your "greater work" isn't raising the dead—it's being part of the greatest miracle: getting sinners from earth to heaven. You don't need to change the whole world, just yours. The 8 to 15 people God strategically places in your life are your mission field. One conversation, one act of kindness, one prayer at a time. Who are the 8-15 people currently in your sphere of influence that God wants you to impact?

Day 4: Praying in Jesus' Name

Reading: 1 John 5:14-15; John 15:7-8

"In Jesus' name" isn't a magic formula that guarantees whatever you want. It's a declaration of alignment with His character and purposes. To pray in Jesus' name means to pray according to His will, asking for things consistent with His Kingdom mission. When you pray for resources to accomplish greater works, for opportunities to share the Gospel, for boldness to speak truth—these prayers align with Christ's heart. God isn't a cosmic vending machine; He's a Father equipping His children for family business. The privilege of prayer isn't about getting what you want, but about partnering with God in what He wants. Ask yourself: are your prayers self-centered or Kingdom-centered? How would your prayer life change if you focused primarily on Kingdom purposes rather than personal comfort?

Day 5: You're Just the Distributor

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

The pressure is off. You're not the manufacturer of salvation—you're just the distributor. You don't have to create the Gospel or make it more palatable. You're simply one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. The treasure of the Gospel is held in clay pots like you, so the power is clearly God's, not yours. You don't need eloquence, charisma, or a theology degree. You just need availability. Like Linda the babysitter who taught a child to pray, your small acts of faithfulness contribute to God's greater work. Stop waiting until you feel adequate—you never will. God specializes in using ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. Your part may seem small, but when combined with others' parts, it becomes the greater work Jesus promised. What small act of obedience is God asking you to do today that could have eternal significance?

Deacons on Call

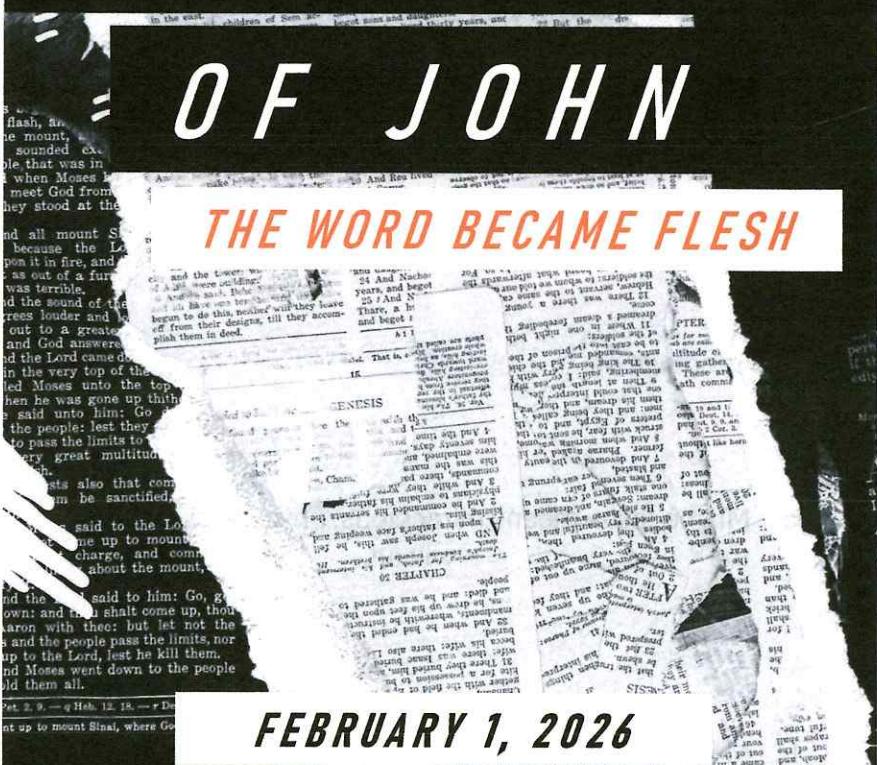
Johnny Davis and Ed Watson

Weekly Events

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Wednesdays at 5:30
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Wednesdays - MS 5:30 PM; HS 6:45 PM



THE GOSPEL



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