

Chapter 3:

Greater Things

It seems almost preposterous that we elevate the biblical writers to a plane of holiness or perfection that we can never attain. To imagine that the Old Testament prophets or the New Testament apostles had a kind of inspiration unavailable to us today is to miss the very heart of the gospel.

If the writers of scripture were inspired, it was not because they were flawless, but because they were human vessels yielded to God's Spirit. They were not exempt from error, culture, or misunderstanding. Their greatness was not in perfection—it was in surrender.

Yet we often imagine that Isaiah wrote with a divine authority that no poet today could ever carry. Or that Paul's pen was guided in a way that makes every modern reflection pale in comparison. This thinking does violence to Jesus' promise: "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."

Greater things. That is the expectation, not lesser. Inspiration did not freeze in time when the canon closed. The Spirit who breathed into Ezekiel, Mary, and John of Patmos is the same Spirit who breathes in us. To say otherwise is to deny Christ's words. The truth is inspiration continues, it has to—because God is not a monument of the past but the Living One. To canonize the writers as unreachable is to silence the Spirit in our own generation. But to open ourselves to inspiration is to trust that God still speaks, still writes, still moves in the hearts of His people.

The earmark of inspiration remains the same now as it was then: love. Not accuracy, not perfection, not flawless theology. Love. If it breathes love, it carries God's Spirit. If it reeks of hate, fear, or control, it does not. So, we must not ask, "Could I ever be as inspired as Isaiah?" Instead, we must ask, "Am I willing to love enough to let the Spirit breathe through me?" That is the greater thing Jesus promised.

Journal Prompts:

- 1.) Have you ever been told that inspiration "ended" with the Bible? How did that shape your faith?
- 2.) What does Jesus' promise of "greater works" stir in you—hope, doubt, possibility?
- 3.) Where in your life have you sensed the Spirit breathing through you, even in small ways?

4.) How might you live differently if you truly believed you could be inspired as deeply as the writers of scripture?

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