

Doing what Jesus did

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I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things because I go to the Father. John 14:12

This is pretty amazing! Jesus is saying that we will do the same things that He did, and even greater things!

Let's explore the things that Jesus did, and see how we can do them too.

What were the things that Jesus did? (ie. the things that we are to be doing)

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised Him.

He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. And He stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him, and He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:14-21

(Quoting from Isaiah 61:1,2).

In His time on earth Jesus was involved in:

<i>teaching</i>	<i>healing</i>	<i>fasting and praying</i>
<i>helping</i>	<i>delivering from demons</i>	<i>miracles</i>
<i>caring</i>	<i>encouraging</i>	<i>confronting</i>
<i>proclaiming the Kingdom of God</i>	<i>loving</i>	<i>servicing</i>
<i>studying God's Word</i>	<i>saving</i>	<i>being an example</i>
<i>challenging people and authorities</i>	<i>telling stories</i>	<i>baptizing</i>
<i>recruiting disciples</i>	<i>bringing justice</i>	

In all of these Jesus was

- doing what the Father wanted
- emphasis standards of righteousness
- proclaiming the Kingdom of God (ie. that God should be King in our lives)
- focused on bringing salvation from sin and eternal life in relationship with God.



We are to do the same things that Jesus did! (Bringing life and hope into our needy world).



Do you feel equipped for this? Are you nervous? Scared? Feel inadequate?

Don't worry!

There is a key to being effective in our task. **The key is the Holy Spirit.**

He enabled Jesus to make such a powerful impact in His ministry and He will do the same for you.

The Holy Spirit is given to help us; equip us; empower us; work through us; make us bold; encourage us

And He does it from within. He lives in us and will work through us so we can share the gospel, heal, deliver, work miracles, lead people to Christ

In other words, do the same things that Jesus did!

You may feel weak, helpless, ill-equipped and nervous but remember:

the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4.

The Holy Spirit is more willing to help than you are to do the things you are called to do! He loves to help!

Even though you may feel inadequate, when you start to share Jesus with others you'll find it exciting, challenging and fulfilling. The Holy Spirit will be working in and through you! Amazing things will start to happen. You'll be doing the same things that Jesus did, and even greater things!

*The Spirit of the Lord is now upon me
To heal the broken heart and set the captive free
To open prison doors and make the blind to see
The Spirit of the Lord is now on me.*



All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:18-20

The Holy Spirit will be with us as we fulfill the Great Commission. He has been with Christians down through the ages as they have shared the Gospel with their generation (which is why we are here today!) and He will be with us as we share then Gospel with our generation. More than half the people who have ever lived are alive today. This is our time!

We can use all sorts of styles, methods and approaches as we seek to reach people with the Gospel:

- Media: radio, TV, books, literature, internet
- Church: meetings, programmes, outreaches
- Para-Church: programmes, outreaches
- Missions: local and overseas
- Campaigns: local and overseas

We can support many of these in prayer and financially, but we can only be involved in a few.

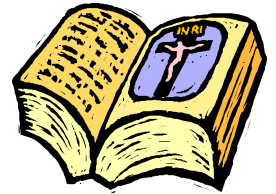
In addition we can all share Christ naturally with the people we contact every day:

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:14-16

In all of these we will only be effective in the power of the Holy Spirit!

See John Chapters 14-17. In these chapters Jesus explains how the Holy Spirit will:

- be with us and live in us 14:15-17
- show us what we need to know 14:26, 16:13
- glorify Jesus 15:26, 16:14
- convict people about sin, righteousness and judgement 16:7-11
- guide us into the truth 16:13
- give us what we need 16:23, 24



The Holy Spirit gives us the power we need. We won't be effective in our own strength!

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

Let's open ourselves up to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to fill us so we can be His witnesses in a needy world.

Then we will be able to do the things that Jesus did, and even greater things than these!

Discussion questions

Read Isaiah 61:1,2. Did Jesus carry out all of the actions mentioned in this prophecy? Which of them have you been involved in?

- How can we be -
- led by the Holy Spirit?
 - equipped by the Holy Spirit?
 - empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Describe situations when you had the opportunity to do the things that Jesus did. Did you obey or disobey the Lord? What happened? What did you learn from the situation?

Why do we see so few miracles today?

Some say that the Church is responsible for carrying out the Great Commission, rather than individual Christians. What do you think?

What would happen if all of the Christians in your area were 'doing the same things that Jesus did'?

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things because I go to the Father. John 14:12 What can you do so that this is worked out in practice?