

**Living Life For His Glory #1**  
**Living in Greater Works**  
John 14:1-12

**Here at Mountain Grove Church we believe in new beginnings.** As we move into another New Year, we move closer to the Return of Christ for His Church. With that thought, I remind you of what Acts 2:17 tells us through the prophet Joel, “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.”

**I believe and confess that in the days ahead we are going to see the hand of God move in this place, and through the entire universal, mystical Body of Christ, known as the Church, with great might and power.** And God is going to use us here at Mountain Grove to be very instrumental in ushering in a fresh new wave of His fullness and glory. And no man is going to be able to stop it. **No religious organization is going to be strong enough to keep it from happening.** No political power is going to be able to contain it. And even the *devil* and *demon* forces, cannot do anything about it.

**This is something that God has ordained before the foundation of the world.** When God says it is going to happen, and there are no ifs, ands, or buts about it, it is definitely going to happen. I believe there is something big over the horizon, and I am excited that God is going to use each of us to make it happen!

**As we start this New Year I am starting a brand new series titled “Living 2017 for God’s Glory,” and today’s message is titled “Living 2017 for God’s Glory through Greater Works.”** This message is based on the words of Jesus found in John 14:12, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”

**Ladies and gentlemen, as we move into this New Year it is time that we start believing God for the greater works.** These are the last days. And God wants us to *enlarge our vision* and *dream bigger dreams*.

**Let's quit putting God in a box because of our traditions.** He wants to do things *much quicker* and *much greater* than we have ever imagined. God wants to use all of you more. **We need to quit limiting God with our *small thinking*.** If you *think small*, then you are going to *believe for small things*. God wants you to go beyond those old barriers of the past. **He wants you to step out in faith and begin to believe Him for *bigger, extraordinary, unusual things*.** We need to stop telling God how to fix our problems. He is God. **He knows how.** He may not do it exactly like we tell Him, but God has His own special ways. His ways are higher and greater than our ways!

One of my favorite passage of scripture is 2 Chronicles 16:9, "The eyes of the Lord run back and forth throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him." The Hebrew reads like this, "The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." **God is constantly searching for somebody to pour out His supernatural power and love and wisdom on.** And my challenge to all of you today is to be one of those people God is looking for. Have a strong desire in your heart to see the supernatural power of God in your life.

**Can you imagine what would happen in this Church, in this county, and in this area if every one of us would allow God to display His incredible power through our lives?** Listen, God is searching for somebody! And as your pastor, I stand before you today and say, "God, search no more. Here we are. The people of Mountain Grove Church." **You see; I believe in these coming days, we are going to see so many miracles taking place.** I believe we are going to see many lives supernaturally changed and used for God's glory. I believe we are going to see some of these greater works, *not for our benefit, not for our glory, but as a sign to this unbelieving world that our God is alive and well!*

**I want to see greater works that will lift up the name of Jesus.** And when you do that, the Bible says that the world will take notice. Nothing gets the attention of people any faster than when some of these people that have *cancer* get prayed for and then they come back a few weeks and say, "Look, the doctor examined me. I don't have any more cancer in my body." Nothing gets the attention any faster than when

some of these people who are in bondage to *drugs and alcohol* get prayed for and then they come back in a few weeks and say, "Look, the stripes of Jesus have healed me and the power of God has set me free from the bondage of drugs and alcohol." Nothing gets the attention of people any faster than when some of these people who's *marriage* has fallen apart because of adultery and bitterness and get prayed for and then they come back in a few weeks and say, "Because of the grace and forgiveness of God, He has fixed our problems and restored our marriage - even better than it was before." Nothing gets the attention of people any faster than when some of these people who are struggling to make their *financial ends* meet get prayed for and then they come back in a few weeks and say, "By faith we believed God for a miracle, so we started being obedient in our giving, and God has broken the financial bondage in our lives for His glory."

**Listen to me today and get this; I don't know what needs you have in your life today.** But this church is a place of *hope*, a place of *love*, a place of *acceptance*, a place of *healing*, a place of *new beginnings*, and a church with *open doors*! We are not interested in your past; we are interested in your future!

**Folks, listen to me today, one of the reasons God has so blessed us here at Mountain Grove throughout all these years is because we have always gladly and openly accepted anyone into our midst.** That is what church is all about.

**So, as we move into this New Year I really don't know every thing God has in store for us.** But my attitude, as your Pastor is, "God, whatever it is, we are ready. We are open. We are your children and we will be obedient."

**God has given me a vision of a few things He wants to do in the coming days.** And you know my first thought was, "God, that is a little different. That is not what the people in this area are used to. That is not even what I am used to." But listen Church, I am convinced that the hour is late, time is short, and so God is picking up the pace. **We have entered into this final stretch and God has saved some of His most trustworthy, some of His strongest, fastest, most committed people for this final leg.** And that should be all of us! And God

wants us to be the *forerunners* in this *new wave of His Spirit*. **God wants to use Mountain Grove to usher it in.** And it is so important that we become involved in these *greater works*!

The Bible has given us this challenge in Hebrews 12:1-2, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." **I believe we are living in a very critical, significant and historic day in God's timetable.** Time, as we know it is winding down. Bible prophecy is being fulfilled as never before. **I firmly believe we could be the generation that ushers in the Return of Jesus Christ.** At any moment we could hear the trumpet sound. *We could look up and see the Lord, full of majesty, full of power, full of glory,* calling us to come on home to be with Him. **That could happen at any moment.**

Listen to what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." Listen to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." Listen to Daniel 12:4, "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." The Hebrew reads like this, "Daniel, keep the prophecy a secret until the end times when travel and education shall vastly increase."

I don't think too many of us would disagree we are living in that day right now. Has travel increased? **Certainly it has.** There is a company already marketing a rocket plane that will fly tourists into space and return the same day. What used to be science fiction has now become reality!

But what about education, knowledge, and technology? Well, who can argue that? **I read an article that said that a 20-year old computer that used to take up 10,000 square feet of office space can now be contained in a computer chip the size of a postage stamp.**

Folks, if you cannot see that everything is coming to a close just like the Bible predicted hundreds and hundreds of years ago, and then you are living with your head in the sand. If you don't think we are living in the last of the last days, you are only kidding yourself.

I tell you Church, now is the time, more than ever, to give God your all. God is looking for people that are *totally committed and extremely determined* to follow Him wherever He leads them. **That is why the Apostle Paul said in Romans 12:1-2,** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." **God is looking for a group of people that are sold out and that will strive for excellence in their walk with Him!**

**Hebrews 11:4 says** "Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." **In other words, Abel did not settle for mediocrity.** **He served God with his whole heart regardless of his circumstances.** **He did not just serve God when everything was rosy, when the skies were blue and everything was going good in his life.** In other words, Abel made up his mind. He was determined in his heart that nothing was going to stop him from serving God 100% of the time, all the time. **He did his part.**

Did it make a difference? Abel is listed as one of the heroes of faith right next to Abraham and David and Moses. **What did Abel do?** Slay a giant? Write the Ten Commandments? Part the Red Sea? **No.** He simply gave God his best. He was strong-willed and

determined. He had a made up mind and he constantly laid aside every weight and sin that tried to get him off course. Now he is listed as one of our heroes of faith simply because he gave God a more excellent sacrifice with his life.

Paul said in Romans 12:11, "Never lag in zeal, but serve the Lord with enthusiasm." **God does not need any more crybabies that whine and complain about how bad life is treating them.** Now is the time for Christians to *rise up* and start *taking controls of our lives*, start *ruling over our emotions*, and start *looking at the big picture*. Folks, these are the last of the last days, and what we do for God we have to do it now!

In Zechariah chapter 4 God said to Zerubbabel, "There is no mountain too high for you, there is no obstacle too difficult for you to overcome. Even though you may feel weak, you may not feel like you have it in your own ability." And then in verse 6 He says it is "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit."

**I believe that God wants us to start living in the greater works.** I believe this new wave of God's glory is going to spread like wildfire. **I believe it is going to happen because we have a big vision, a world vision, an inclusive vision to reach every person regardless of their denomination, regardless of their color, regardless of their sin, regardless of their lifestyle, regardless of their social standing.** I believe it is going to happen because this church will allow God's love, mercy and supernatural power to flow freely through our lives.

**Some of you have been putting off and putting off and putting off getting your life really right with God.** Friend, do not put it off any longer. Today is the day of salvation.

Everyone please stand for prayer.

Father,

Your Word is true. Today, I confess that I am willing to give You my time, my talent, and my ability to use for Your glory in these last days. In Jesus name. Amen.