

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE ASSISTANCE

John 14:12-17

When Jesus was on this planet, He prepared His disciples to take on the mission of God, and multiple occasions, He let them know that they would not be on their own, including in this passage.

Jesus tells His disciples that after He departs, they will do even greater things than Him. This is an incredible and confusing statement because the disciples had seen Jesus do some amazing things and many miracles. But Jesus lets them know that it is because of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will come when He leaves. The Greek word for advocate is *paraclete*, which literally means “the come alongsider.” Jesus would send the Spirit to indwell believers, who would come alongside them and empower them in every way: to give guidance, wisdom, strength, and ability. Jesus was with them, but the Spirit would be in them (and us), empowering us in a unique way. That’s why we can do greater things than even Jesus did when He was on the planet.

But the Spirit isn’t here to empower us to do whatever we want. He empowers us for His mission. We are here for Him, not Him here for us. If we want to be used by the Spirit to do greater things, then we have to join Him in what He is doing.

Matthew 16:18 and Ephesians 3:10-11

Where is God focusing His work? Jesus tells us in **Matthew 16** what He would be doing between His resurrection and His second coming: He is building His church, and He wants to use each of us to do the same thing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In **Ephesians**, Paul writes that God is using the church to demonstrate His wisdom and fulfill His purposes. It’s an incredible statement because God basically tells all the angels, demons, and Satan to look to what He is doing through the church to show His power.