

In spite of what you may have heard or think; there are some things I can't do!

I can't play the piano.

I can't play the guitar. I can't play anything musical except the radio!

I can't multiply or divide. Sometimes I can't add and subtract either.

I can't land an airplane, speak a foreign language...

I can't do a lot of things; but that's not to say that I haven't tried to do some things that I shouldn't have done.

Rita tells me I can't do plumbing! I think I have done ok on small projects, but I realize that plumbing is something I shouldn't do.

I'm not good around gas. Ask me some day to tell you about my first and only attempt to light a gas furnace. To put it simply I'm lucky to be alive!

There are some things you can't do; or some things you've learned you shouldn't do. I've told you a few of mine; now how about a few of your examples of things you can't do? [Responses]

There are good reasons some of us can't do certain things. My hands are too small to palm a basketball... Most of those examples relate to our physical nature; but there are other reasons why we can't do certain things.

For one, we think we don't have the ability. Often, we lack confidence in ourselves and that holds us back. And many times we think we can't do something because we don't have faith in our skills or knowledge.

Face it; most of us believe there are just some things we can't do! Especially when God speaks, many of us hesitate to act because we believe there are some things we can't do.

But that flies in the face of the fact that Jesus stated to his disciples and which is promised to us: Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do...and even greater things! John 14:12

It would have made sense for Jesus to stop at do the same things; wow what an honor to do things equal to what Jesus did, but greater things? It would have made far more sense for Jesus to have said you will do lesser things; after all that is the way most of us think about our lives. But Jesus said you will do greater things.

Greater things.

Greater than healing the sick?

Greater than calming a storm?

Greater than raising the dead?

Do you think Jesus actually meant that? YES!

But take it one step further; do you think Jesus actually means that for *you*? That *you* will not only do the things Jesus did; but *greater things*! Yes! It's a promise that applies to each of us who believe in Jesus. Jesus didn't say you might, Jesus didn't even say maybe or it's possible; Jesus said **YOU WILL DO GREATER THINGS!**

A "greater things" life means that because Jesus is working in your life, marriages can be repaired, families strengthened, relationships mended, bodies healed, minds renewed, addictions broken, sickness cured, lives restored, the gospel proclaimed, and the kingdom of God come more fully and powerfully than ever before through you.

'But me?' you might be saying right now. Look at the person next to you and tell them, *I believe in you!*

But how many of you really believe that? After all, who are you to believe that this promise of Jesus is for you? Sure it might be true for a pastor or a super-spiritual person; but not me!

And therein is the lie that too many of us believe. We tell ourselves we can't do that; we can't do greater things. And we buy into the lie because we allow our fears and self-doubts to overcome our faith. And worst yet, we lose sight of Jesus and God's promises and as a result determine that we can't do the same things as Jesus, let alone greater things.

Jesus ran into just such a situation with his disciples. The account is found in Matthew 17 beginning with verse 14. Before I read that passage; let me set it in context. Jesus has been on something of a mountain retreat with three of the disciples while the other nine were going about the village engaging in ministry. As Jesus returns from the mountain with Peter, James and John he is met by a man who has had enough with the group of Jesus disciples that had been ministering in the village- a group of disciples that struggled to do greater things.

Matthew 17:14-20 CEB

In this passage Jesus says it all comes down to faith. Doing greater things, living a greater things life comes down to faith- what we believe about God **and** what we are willing to risk because of what we believe.

As we've been learning over the last several weeks God is at work all around us. Most importantly God is working to draw us into a personal relationship with him where God then invites us to join in the work. But between hearing God speak and obeying God we come to a place of crisis- a crisis of faith and action based on what we believe about God and God's promises and our willingness to risk stepping out in faith.

As we learn in this account; a lack of faith keeps us from doing greater things. So what is a lack of faith? I think we can simply define it as an unwillingness to take a risk because we don't trust God.

Bungee Jump Story – Don't think about it, jump!

1. Doing something greater begins where you are! At your job, on your street, at your place of work. You don't have to travel half-way around the world to do something great; there are plenty of opportunities right where you are!
2. Doing something greater begins with the people around you! Make the people around you a priority. Don't just try to solve their problems but get up close and personal. The opportunity to do something greater is found in the relationships that you have and that you are willing to cultivate. You can do greater things if you are willing to invest in people and make their lives a priority. Rest assured that if you make people a priority- care for someone, love someone or bless someone- God will give you plenty of opportunities to do great things in their lives.
3. Doing something great isn't about you! It's about God! We spend too much time making excuses about our lack rather than focusing on trusting God's promises. God needs you to take a risk, to step out in faith- faith not based on you and your abilities but based on God and God's promises.

Most of us will see challenges and obstacles in life as just that; challenges and obstacles that we cannot overcome. But the reality is the challenges and obstacles are opportunities for God to show up. This is where faith requires us to risk!

Stop thinking about what you can't do and start remembering what God can do. After all faith isn't about us; it's about God! Faith is trusting in God's promises and risking it all because the reward is so much better than settling for lesser things!