

GREATER WORKS THAN THESE

John 14:12-14

Rev. Richard D. Phillips
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“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father” (Jn. 14:12).

Usually, if something seems too good to be true, it is. The sure-proof real estate deal that will net large profits with no risk usually isn't. The weight loss pill that promises lost pounds without effort usually doesn't, despite the fervent before-and-after testimonials. But there are too-good-to-be-true promises in the Bible that really are true, for their testimonial comes from Jesus Christ. Among the most remarkable promises Jesus ever made are two that have been proved in history and in the experience of God's people. Jesus said that if we believe in him we will “do the works that I do,” and even “greater works,” and that if we ask anything in his name he will do it (Jn. 14:12-14). Herman Ridderbos comments that Jesus' words possess “the character of an authoritative promise to the disciples, the fulfillment of which will even surpass what they have been seeing him do.”¹ What is especially remarkable is the reason we can count on this good news to be true. Jesus explains the source of our spiritual bonanza: “because I am going to the Father” (Jn. 14:14).

WHAT KIND OF WORKS WILL WE DO?

Philip's question was

¹ Herman Ridderbos, *John: A Theological Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997), 497.

HOW TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR JESUS

Another way to

WHAT KIND OF PRAYERS WILL JESUS ANSWER?

We hear Jesus' claim

“BECAUSE I AM GOING TO THE FATHER”

Jesus concludes his