



GO BE GREAT

A 28-DAY DEVOTIONAL



GO BE GREAT - 28 Days Devotional
Introduction

Who do you look up to? When you think about someone whose life example is worth modeling, because of their contributions to society, their personal achievements or their ability to overcome difficult times and impact the lives of people in meaningful ways - who stands out for you? We should all have such people who come to mind that inspire and challenge us to dig a little bit deeper and try a little bit harder to be better at what we do and at who we are. Their greatness should give us that burning desire and provide for us the blessed assurance that in our own lives we too can go and be great.

This month, we want to encourage you to do just that - to be the best version of yourself. To take on the kind of attributes and do the kind of things that will cause your best self to bubble to the surface. And you know that person. You have seen glimpses of him/her before, only for that person to retreat from the forefront allowing a lesser you to take the lead. Whether in your personal or professional life, your faith in Christ should help you to be great - a great person, a great parent, a great employee, a great spouse, a great friend, a great student, A GREAT YOU!

Over the course of this month, I want to encourage you to read from this Go Be Great daily devotion and consider how it applies to your life. Each day, you should consider deeply if that day's topic is an area where God is calling you to correct some things so that you can be a better person and live a better life? Be honest in assessing where the spaces exist for you to conquer so that you can experience God's best for your life.

You can be great. You can have a great life. You can rise to a higher version and be what John Ortberg refers to as "the me I want to be." My prayer for you is that over the course of these 28 days you will open yourself to see that person and allowing her/him to emerge and remain out front as the Holy Spirit empowers you to Go Be Great!

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Senior Pastor**



Week 3

February 15 - Be Daring

It was dark already, when a storm began to develop. Here they were, all 12 of them in a small boat attempting to cross the Sea of Galilee in obedience to the command of Christ. As the storm picks up energy, the once gentle waves turned into monstrous swells that rocked the boat to the point of beginning to take in water. In the distance they see a figure moving towards them that initially causes fear, but eventually brings comfort. It was Jesus! He came to them walking on the water in the middle of a storm.

Even though they heard His voice, some of them needed to be further convinced that it was him, so Peter said, "Lord, if it's really you, then let me come out there with you where you are." Jesus responds, "Come, on. Join me! You can do it." At that, Peter gets out of the boat and begins to do something that no other disciples can ever claim to have done. Peter walks on water.

Being the first among your peers to do something can be scary. Even in 2021, we still hear about the first African-American or the first woman, or the first African-American woman and so on to do something or to claim some title or operate in some capacity. These incredible journeys require you to be daring. In order for Peter to walk on the water, he had to be willing to take a step that none of the other disciples had taken or even desired to take.

Sometimes you may have the great privilege of being the trailblazer - the one who goes before anyone else. That can be an exhilarating accomplishment, but it can also be a terrifying journey that requires you to take some of the pain and the blows of being out front. Don't allow the threat of the storm keep you from pressing into the great possibility of blazing a new trail. And whatever you do, don't take your eyes off of the one who invited you to take the journey with Him. Be bold; be daring enough to get out of the boat; ask God to let you do things that haven't been done before; and then give glory to God when it happens.

*Matthew 17:20 **20** He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."*

Prayer: Lord, sometimes I am afraid to go and be great. Being out front or the first is not what I have desired for myself. But if there are new paths that You want to use me to



blaze, then God, here am I. Where you invite me to come, Lord give me the daring boldness to go. In Jesus' name, Amen.

February 16 - Be Ready

"If you stay ready, you won't have to get ready." Have you heard that before? I like that sentiment, because it suggests that maintaining a certain state of preparedness will minimize any last minute scrambling. You know that last minute scramble - when you have the elements or the tools or whatever it is that you need to do the thing, but perhaps they aren't where you thought that they were. Or maybe they are there, but they are not in good condition to be readily used. Or perhaps, you don't have the exact thing that you need, so you're improvising to try and make something else work in its place. The problem is simple. You weren't ready.

One of my fishing buddies has a routine that I observed and have adopted (maybe not as completely as he does, but to the extent that it works for me.). Every time he comes off of the water, before he leaves, first he cleans out his boat. Then he inspects his engine and trolling motor for any evidence of damage. He then takes all of his poles and puts new jig heads on all of his lines. He secures them and finally, he checks the trailer lights, straps, tires and all. He is meticulous about this routine. He does it the same way everytime. Why? Because he has learned that by staying ready, when he wants to go fishing, he doesn't have to get ready! By leaving everything in order, he can get on the water in little to no time.

There is a great peace that comes in being prepared. When you have done the work, reviewed it, and understand it, you can usually anticipate what's coming without being too surprised. Staying ready keeps you from the last minute scramble. It allows you to maintain consistency and familiarity which allows you to excel. When others are getting ready, you have the edge to perform at peak because you stayed ready! Be great and be ready!

Proverbs 6:6-8

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. 7 Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, 8 she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.

Prayer: Lord, give me the discipline to practice readiness. I believe that you have great things in store for me, so help me to prepare. Show me ways to better manage my space, time, and resources to be ready to be great. In Jesus' name, Amen.

February 17 - Be Encouraging

So, I'm watching the Super Bowl a few weeks ago and the halftime show begins. Admittedly, I have no idea who this performer is - The Weeknd (and that's spelled correctly). As I listen to his music, I'm thinking, "yep, I'm definitely aging because I don't know any of these songs." But along with unfamiliar music comes an unrecognizable visual production of masked dancers and something of a gothic style choir. Needless to say, I was lost. And the performance really didn't do anything for me.

Social media, of course, began to weigh in on the performance. And the comments were, let's say, not so flattering. And because my FaceBook timeline is filled with friends in a similar demographic as my own, I was glad to see that I wasn't by myself. Most of us were lost as we could only relive some of the spectacular performances of previous Super Bowls like Michael Jackson, Prince, or Whitney Houston's Star Spangled Banner performance. But after a while it seems that the comments began to shift to a more encouraging tone.

One, in particular wrote, "If they duplicated or attempted to duplicate other's performances then we'd grill them for that but since they perform and express their own talents, we compare and grill them.....I'm all about letting them be great." *Tyree Jones*

In our cancel culture, we so easily dismiss people who we either don't know, understand, or whose talent we simply don't like. Rather than, "letting them be great" we too quickly hold to what's familiar to us as the measuring rod by which to judge everyone and everything. Even the idea of the G.O.A.T. (greatest of all time) finds some of the most destructive conversations as we lift up our own preference above others.

Listen, you don't have to tear others down in order for the greatness of someone else to be recognized. Neither does giving others their credit somehow diminish you and your efforts or achievements. Learn how to encourage others or shine the light on others. In so doing, you will not diminish your own, but rather allow yours to shine that much brighter.

Proverbs 3:27

*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
When it is in your power to do it.*

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

Prayer: Lord, sometimes I am tempted to participate in cancel culture. Help me to be an encourager of people. Let me see the good in that which I don't understand and celebrate the light and talent that others have even when it's different from my own appreciation. Lord, as I encourage others to be great, bring into my life those who will encourage my own greatness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

February 18 - Be Positive

Half-full or half-empty? Which are you? Sure, both are true. But perspective determines how you appreciate and appropriate the contents of the glass. If I see it as half-full, then I am appreciative of what's there. I am thankful for what I can do with it. I see the opportunities that exist and the possibilities that are waiting to bloom. I am excited to steward it in such a way that something great emerges.

If, however, I see it as half-empty, I'm much more likely to see how limited I am. How little I can get done. How much more I need to get started and I begin to create a narrative for either why I could do more if I had more or why I decided to hold on to what I had for fear of running out.

The reality is that it's the same amount. Whether half-full or half-empty, it's the same amount. It's your attitude that determines how you will use what you've been given. You can go through life complaining about your half-empty glass and wishing that you had more. You can do like the wicked servant in the parable of the talents and sit on what the master has given you for fear of losing it. Or you can thank God for what you have, that half-full glass, and go do great things with it - believing that as you apply what God has given that it will somehow become more than what it was when you began.

The truth is that life doesn't give everybody the same things. Some have more and some have less. Seldom do we all start at the same lines. The question is how will you run your race? What kind of perspective will you have? Be positive and believe that with your half-full glass, when properly used and responsibly stewarded, God will use it for



great things in your life. Give God thanks for the provisions that you have been given and believe that He will continue to supply that you may want for nothing.

Proverbs 18:20

*With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied;
He will be satisfied with the product of his lips.*

Prayer: Lord, help me to take on a positive attitude about life, my resources, talents, and abilities. Forgive me for complaining about things not being fair. Focus my eyes on the blessings that you have provided and make me a good steward of those things for your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

February 19 - Be Still

So here's the thing. You're being pumped up to do and to be all of these things to experience the great blessings of the Lord. I hope that you're feeling it by now - that greatness is yours. Get moving! Start acting! Live your best life out loud!! Go be Great!!

But what if I told you that one of the keys of greatness is actually not about you making the right moves and getting out of the boat to do daring things. But sometimes, it requires you to do nothing and just be still.

Being still - getting quiet - waiting on God. Here is something that we miss in being used by God - that God sometimes wants us to stop moving. To stop pushing. To stop trying. To just....be....still. That can be a tall order, especially for driven people who don't mind being challenged. But there are times when God is more interested in the purpose of your growth than the pursuit of your goals. And sometimes you grow by being still.

You see, by being still you come to the knowledge that there are some things that only God can do. By being still you acknowledge your own limitations and God's unlimited power. By being still, you give God time and space to show His faithfulness to provide that which only He can. By being still, you say to the Lord, "God, I am depending on you for my deliverance and protection."

Yes, greatness requires hard work, consistency, and being and doing a plethora of things that build both our character and capabilities. But sometimes, greatness requires you doing absolutely nothing. Stopping. Releasing it to God. Putting it in the

Lord's hands. In so doing, you are making the greatest statement you ever could - that all of your strength and help come from our Great God.

Psalm 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Prayer: Lord, teach me to be still. Sometimes I am anxious about moving, doing, solving, fixing and even fighting. Lord, help me to rely completely upon you knowing that when I have done all that you require, that I can rest in you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

February 20 - Be Sensitive

Once I was in a conversation with someone in an open setting and something was said to which I took offense. I didn't show it then or raise the issue because the timing just wasn't right. But I heard the low-key swipe over and over in my head and knew that it needed to be addressed. Later that day, I went to the person in private (trying to do it the bible way). When I made it known that I heard what he said and that I neither appreciated or approved of it, the person responded, "Oh. I didn't know that was such a sensitive area for you." What?!? You mean, rather than apologize for your statement and acknowledge a need to do better you make it about my sensitivity?

I began to wonder if I had over-reacted. Was it really my own misplaced sensitivity? And worse, had I just needlessly exposed myself and a vulnerable place within me without knowing it, only for someone to later take advantage of? Strategically, this could have been an unforced error that would come back to haunt me. I prayed about it and realized that yes, I was indeed sensitive in that spot. But for good reason. And my decision to speak up about it was not so much about me personally as much as it was about the realities of those for whom the statement impacted who neither had the agency or the access to have this side-bar conversation with this decision-maker.

There are experiences and realities that uniquely qualify you to feel and speak on the behalf of others. Issues that once directly affected you that may not any longer position you to identify with the struggle and speak on it with some authority. When you abdicate that opportunity, you miss the moment to impact change or to make a statement about establishing new expectations, new norms and new relationships. Difficult conversations can be just that - difficult. But they are necessary if you expect



to move the needle toward establishing understanding and achieving some level of beloved community.

After some back and forth a few days with this individual a genuine apology was issued. We even ended up working together to accomplish some great things. But doing so required that I be honest with him about where sensitivities exist; why they exist; and what a healthy relationship moving forward must be like, sound like and look like. Being sensitive is not about wearing your feelings on your sleeve and looking for opportunities to be offended. Neither should you move with haste always assuming evil or wrong intentions of others. But being sensitive is about not allowing yourself to become dull or desensitized to things just because you are not directly impacted. As a believer, you should be sensitive about issues of justice; issues of fairness; issues of right and wrong. And don't apologize for speaking up and speaking out when you have the audience, the agency and the opportunity to do so.

John 7:24

Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.

Prayer: Lord, help me to discern rightly my feelings and sensitivities. Thank you for uniquely qualifying me to speak to certain issues and keeping me sensitive to seeing them where they exist. Give me the courage to use my voice for Your great glory and for the good of mankind. In Jesus' name, Amen.

February 21 - Be Humble

You just can't fake humility. You see it and you know it when it's genuine. Jesus, though the Son of God, was humble and he requires those of us who follow Him to be the same.

Perhaps one of the greatest displays of Jesus' humility was at the very beginning of His ministry. Jesus goes to John the Baptist and asks him to baptize him. John is shocked and says as much. "Lord, I need to be baptized by you," says John to Jesus' request. But Jesus insists, "Suffer it to be so for now."

Think about it for a moment. Jesus is the Son of God. John knows who Jesus is and recognizes his own ministry as to prepare the way for Jesus and ease off the scene. If He wanted to, Jesus could have just come in with His power and authority on full display and simply push John out of the way. But instead of that, He works with John.

He affirms John's ministry. Then Jesus invites John to participate in the inauguration of his ministry by giving him the singular honor of baptizing him. Jesus is humble enough to stop by John and include him in a meaningful way.

There are many opportunities given to you to exercise humility with people. But so often that test is failed because there is something in most of us that causes us to want to be seen, admired, followed, and respected by the masses. Being lifted up in the eyes of man is the first step in a spiraling downfall. If you want to be great, practice humility that way Jesus did. Be humble enough to include others in your journeys; humble enough to share the spotlight; humble enough to honor others and their contributions and give credit where it is due; humble enough to know that whatever God has gifted and called you to do, that there are others who have paved the way for you to be there - whether in some small or extraordinary way. If you want to be great, start by being humble.

Matthew 23:12

Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Philippians 2:3-8

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to be and live a life of humility. Not false humility, but authentically humbled by your power, grace and goodness to me. In all of my dealings, let me see the value in others and celebrate them genuinely and give credit and praise where it belongs. Destroy any pride that interrupts your will for my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Cade Corporate Fasting

28 Day Fast and/or Self-Denial (Your choice)

Fasting from News Cycle - CNN, MSNBC, FOX, Yahoo News, Social Media News outlets, etc.

Only daily National News and Local News only at 5, 6, or 10 (pick 1)

Wednesday: Daniel Fast and Noon day Prayer (Pop-Up Prayer on Facebook and YouTube)

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CHAPEL



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