

159. Greater or Lesser By Arland Steen

Supreme Scripture

1 John 4:4 (NKJ): *4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

Spiritual Things Are Greater

We know that spiritual things are superior to physical things. God, a spirit, created all physical things. We also know that spiritual forces are greater than physical forces. And theologically, we know that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.

What The Greater One Does

So, what exactly is the Greater One doing in you?

Is He in you as extra baggage for you to carry through life?

No, there's a Divine Person in you and He is greater than the evil person that's in the world.

The Greater One within us is Master over sickness and disease!

Luke 6:17-19 (NKJ): *17 And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, 18 as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. 19 And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.*

The Greater One within us is Master over weakness and inability!

Philippians 4:13 (NKJ): *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

(Contemporary English Version): *Christ gives me the strength to face anything.*

(J.B. Phillips): *I am ready for anything through the strength of the one who lives in me.*

He rises up in us and gives us illumination which we can get from no other source and know that we cannot be conquered.

The Greater One within us is Master over fear and insecurity!

Psalms 112:7 (NKJ): *He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.*

Isaiah 41:10 (NKJ): *Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'*

And yet a born again, Spirit-filled woman approached a minister and said, "I'm afraid. There is a hereditary condition that is passed down in my family. It is going to happen to me."

He responded, "Open your Bible to Isaiah 41:10 and read it to her and then said, "God is with you!"

He went on, "Furthermore, 1 John 4:4 declares that greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."

He asked her a question, "Can you really believe that God is with you and be afraid? No, you're afraid when you think that He is not with you."

Then she said, "You don't understand how weak and helpless I am."

He read her the rest of Isaiah 41:10.

I don't have any verified facts about this but I would estimate that most Christians are like this woman. What do I mean? They don't take God at His word.

A Recent Conversation

Recently, I had a conversation with two Christians and related to them the story of protection we had during the 1994 Northridge earthquake. We told them how big it was. One of them told us where she was during it. We told them Thousand Oaks was in the federally declared disaster area and that 65 houses were destroyed and unable to be rebuilt. They sort of rejoiced and we stated that it was just like in Bible days when Israel in the federally declared disaster area of Egypt when the plagues hit. We told them that although Israel was surrounded by plague, it did not touch them. That's when it became apparent that we lost them. Because he said something to the effect of 'but how about those who experienced loss?'

Examples of Greater v Lesser

Which has more buying power? A \$100 bill or a \$10 bill?

Which has more engine power? A Lamborghini Aventador (220 mph/ 0-60 in 2.9 seconds according to CBS Miami) or a 2017 Volkswagen Golf R (155 mph / 0-60 in 4.9 seconds)?

Who has the better chance of dunking a basketball? An individual who is 7'2" or one who is 5'2"?

Why is it so hard to believe that God, who is Greater, would have a hard time against disease, weakness or fear?

Few Christians seem to be conscious of the fact that God lives in them. They couldn't be and still talk the way they do.

What do I mean? When a need arises in their life, some Christians are quick to say, "No, I can't do that." Why? Because they're trusting in themselves to put them over. They know they don't have the ability in themselves to do it.

But if we are conscious that God is in us, then we know He has the ability to do *anything*. So, we can stop saying, "I can't," and we can begin to say with confidence:

- "I *can* – because I'm trusting God!"
- "I *can* – because God is in me!"
- "I *can* – because greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world!"

2 Corinthians 6:16 (NKJ): *For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said, 'I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God and they shall be My people.'*

No matter what you face, and we may face seemingly impossible obstacles, we can say, "God will put me over! He'll make me a success! The Greater One dwells in me!"

That is scriptural believing.

That is your faith talking.

And, it will put the Greater One to work for you!