

DREAM **BIGGER.**  
START **SMALLER.**  
IGNITE GOD'S VISION  
FOR YOUR LIFE.

# GREATER

**STEVEN  
FURTICK**

**DREAM BIGGER.  
START SMALLER.  
IGNITE GOD'S VISION  
FOR YOUR LIFE.**

# **GREATER**

**STEVEN  
FURTICK**



**MULTNOMAH  
BOOKS**

GREATER

PUBLISHED BY MULTNOMAH BOOKS

12265 Oracle Boulevard, Suite 200

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80921

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com). Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Italics in Scripture quotations reflect the author's added emphasis.

Details in some anecdotes and stories have been changed to protect the identities of the persons involved.

ISBN 978-1-60142-325-2

ISBN 978-1-60142-326-9 (electronic)

Copyright © 2012 by Steven Furtick

Cover design by [to come]

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Published in the United States by WaterBrook Multnomah, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House Inc., New York.

MULTNOMAH and its mountain colophon are registered trademarks of Random House Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
[to come]

Printed in the United States of America  
2012—First Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

#### SPECIAL SALES

Most WaterBrook Multnomah books are available at special quantity discounts when purchased in bulk by corporations, organizations, and special-interest groups. Custom imprinting or excerpting can also be done to fit special needs. For information, please e-mail [SpecialMarkets@WaterBrookMultnomah.com](mailto:SpecialMarkets@WaterBrookMultnomah.com) or call 1-800-603-7051.

*I dedicate this book to the LTrain.*



*The start you were handed wasn't much,  
but you worked what you had.  
And God made your life into something much greater  
than anyone could have reasonably expected.  
Thank you for teaching me to bunt  
and giving me a tractor-trailer to learn punk rock.  
I'm proud to be your son.*

# Contents

## 1. Steve and Me . . . . . 1



RT “Most believers aren’t in imminent danger of ruining their lives. They’re facing a danger that’s far greater: wasting them.”

## 2. Lesser Loser Life . . . . . 15



RT “In spite of all the parts of us that are anything but good, God is holding the door open to a life that is greater.”

## 3. Dragging Behind . . . . . 23



RT “God communicates vision differently to everyone He calls. He is working behind the scenes, orchestrating His destiny for you.”

## 4. Burn the Plows. . . . . 37



RT “When God is speaking, one word is more than enough. He’s more interested in your full obedience than your total understanding.”

## 5. Digging Ditches . . . . . 55



RT “God will often launch a vision that is larger than life by bringing you to a starting point that is small and seemingly insignificant.”

**6. A Little Oil . . . . . 71**



RT “Stop waiting for what you want, and start working what you’ve got. Your greatest limitation is God’s greatest opportunity.”

**7. Wasted Faith . . . . . 91**



RT “The journey toward greater things is marked with setbacks and real suffering. But God has never wasted an ounce of your faith.”

**8. Trust Fund Baby . . . . . 107**



RT “In God’s economy, our greatest setbacks in life can be the greatest setups to seeing God’s glory in places we didn’t even know to look.”

**9. Saving Captain Awesomesauce . . . . . 119**



RT “It’s possible to have all the external signs of greatness and yet internally yearn for something greater.”

**10. Where Did It Fall? . . . . . 141**



RT “Greater isn’t an automatic, permanent position; it’s an intentional daily decision.”

**11. Open My Eyes . . . . . 159**



RT “What matters most is not what you think you are or are not. What matters is what

your Father sees in you and what He says about you.”

## 12. **Strike the Water . . . . . 179**



RT “For everybody who is sick of playing it safe, for every dreamer who has been disillusioned, your moment is now. The mantle is yours.”

## **Epilogue: These Bones . . . . . 189**

## **Discussion Questions . . . . . 191**

## **Acknowledgments . . . . . 212**



## Steve and Me

I used to want to do great things for God. That was before I found something greater.



My mom says she'll always remember that she was sitting in a social studies class when the loudspeaker beeped and crackled and someone announced that President John F. Kennedy had been shot. All the kids would be going home for the day.

I wonder if I'll always remember that my two sons and I had just shared kung pao shrimp at P.F. Chang's when I stopped in my tracks on the way out the door. I had to make sure I had correctly read the words that were scrolling across every television within sight:

Apple founder Steve Jobs—dead at 56.



I can't explain why, but my hands were shaky and sweaty as I pulled my iPhone out of my pocket to verify.

One of the first things I saw was a statement from President Obama. He said that Steve Jobs “was among the greatest of American innovators.” That “he transformed our lives, re-defined entire industries, and achieved one of the rarest feats in human history: he changed the way each of us sees the world.”

Then I looked at my Twitter time line to see what the rest of the world was saying about Jobs. Everybody seemed to be weighing in. The outpouring was overwhelming.

---

“R.I.P. Steve Jobs. You led the world into the 21st century.”

---

---

“R.I.P. Steve Jobs. You improved life as we know it.”

---

---

“Steve Jobs—On behalf of every dreamer sitting in his or her garage who is crazy enough to try to change the world, you will be missed.”

---

I suddenly felt the urge to tweet my own thoughts about his passing. But it felt melodramatic for me to share some deep thought about a person I'd never met. Still, he was the greatest business leader of my lifetime. So I fired off a three-word tweet:

---

**Steven Furtick** @stevenfurtick

5 Oct

“What a life.”

---

My next thoughts made my stomach hurt. Or was it the kung pao? Either way, I got downright introspective. I was wrestling with a tension:

*Steve Jobs was a great man. He changed the world through technology.*

*I'm a pastor. I have a mission to change the world through the gospel.*

*But am I really achieving that mission? I'm doing well by some standards, I guess.*

*I love Jesus. I have integrity. I love my family.*

*But still...*

*I'm not redefining an industry. I'm not accomplishing one of the greatest feats in human history. So what am I really doing? That matters? That will matter?*

*That will set my life apart?*

In short, I was processing the nauseating feeling that, when I stack it all up, I don't feel like I'm anything close to being the *great* man of God I want to be. Some days, actually, I feel like I sort of suck as a Christian. I didn't tweet any of that. But I couldn't stop thinking it.

I'm guessing you've had thoughts like that too. I'm not saying you want to be the next Steve Jobs or build your own technology empire. But I think we all have these honest moments when we're gripped by a desire to feel that what we're doing matters more. That who we *are* matters more.

A few hours later, after I tucked my boys into bed and prayed for them, I sat on my bed and opened my MacBook.

For some reason I felt compelled to pull up a certain Bible verse. It's one of the most staggering statements Jesus ever made.

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even *greater* things than these, because I am going to the Father.  
(John 14:12)

I'd read that verse so many times. But I had a new context for it.

And it sliced me with the edge of fresh challenge.

*Greater things than Jesus, the greatest man who ever lived? What does that even mean? How can we do greater things than Jesus?*

Does it mean that we're able to do more powerful miracles than Jesus? Have a bigger impact than Jesus? I don't think so. After all, I don't know many people who have walked on water, multiplied fish and loaves to feed thousands, opened the eyes of the blind, or given salvation to the world.

If you're looking to be greater than Jesus, put down your crack pipe, my friend. That's not happening.

By leaving and then sending His Spirit to dwell inside His followers—ordinary people like you and me—Jesus released a greater power for us to do extraordinary things on an extraordinary scale. The kinds of things the early church saw and did. The kinds of things He still wants to do today through us.

Jesus isn't calling us to be greater than He is.

He's calling us to be greater *with* Him through His Spirit within us.

## Meant for More

As I tried to process the brain-bending implications of that claim, I thought through some conversations I'd had recently with people who were feeling disappointed and stuck in their relationship with God and their place in life.

I'm meeting more and more believers who are unsatisfied with the kind of Christians they're becoming and the version of the Christian life they're experiencing. These aren't bad people. They aren't gangbangers and ungodly pagans. If they were, their discontent would make more sense.

The thing is, most believers aren't in imminent danger of ruining their lives. They're facing a danger that's far greater: *wasting them*.

These are some of the very people Jesus talked about in John 14:12. People who are supposed to be doing greater works than—forget about Steve Jobs—*Jesus Christ Himself*.

Yet it's not happening. For most of us, the experience of our daily lives is a far cry from the greater works Jesus talked about in John 14:12. Or even the achievements of a luminary like Steve Jobs.

We've had some big dreams about what God might want for our lives. But so many of us are stuck in the starting blocks. Or are dragging along at the back of the pack.

We know we were meant for more. Yet we end up settling for less.

We're frustrated about where we are. But we're confused about how to move forward.

I wonder if you can relate.

*What a life...*

## Miserable Mediocrity

We all know instinctively, even if we can't articulate it exactly, that something isn't squaring up. There's a huge gap between what God said in His Word and the results we see in our lives.

It's like we've been lulled into comfortable complacency. Then we wake up one day to find ourselves stuck in miserable mediocrity. So we tuck away any dreams and notions of the great things we'd like to do for God.

After all, we're doing good. Good enough. It kind of sucks. But it's all we know.

If that's where you are today, I need to share a strong word of warning with you.

You can't keep living like this. It's not fine for you to settle for going every day to a job you'd prefer to quit, doing decent work, being a pretty good person compared to your neighbor, paying your bills on time, and sporadically reading the Bible as though it's your guide to the great things God did in other people's lives in the past.

Baseline living is not okay. Not for a believer in Jesus.

There's a price to pay for Christian complacency. If you keep living on this level, your heart is going to shrivel. It might already be shriveling. Your dreams are going to die. They may already be on life support. Will you look up one day and be overwhelmed by the stack of regrets staring back at you? The frustration that's simmering on the back burner right now might boil over one day, and you'll be bitter about the opportunities you missed. Opportunities to be used by God, to touch lives, to get outside yourself and be a part of something greater. I know it's not easy. But don't tell me it's not possible. Jesus Himself said it was.

The fact is, we are so much better than we've become, because God is so much greater than we're allowing Him to be through us.

## Fairy Tale Greatness

It's one thing to believe that. It's another to live it out.

After all, John 14:12 can seem like a fairy tale. The stuff vacation Bible school heroes and Silicon Valley icons are made of. Something that normal people like us will never attain. The president probably won't release a statement calling us the greatest *anything* when we die. And only a few people will remember where they were when the news broke. Nobody will post a blog entry about our lives on a device we invented. And we aren't exactly the caliber of Christian who ends up getting a verse in Hebrews 11.

Besides, we have to pick up the kids from school, haven't

made a dinner plan, and have a big project due at work tomorrow morning.

We have real lives to live and certainly no room in our cluttered minds for pie in the sky.

Most of the time we do well just to make a dent in the mountain of laundry or leave the house in time to beat the morning traffic. It takes everything we have just to stay on top of the obstacles thrown at us like a high-stakes arcade game, let alone climb the mountain of greatness or soar like some sort of eagle. You've seen those posters, haven't you?

Part of our problem with stepping out and being great for God is that it's painfully vague. What does it mean to be *great* for God anyway? I read a book the other day that was like, give all your money away and downsize your house, and then you'll really be great for God. I saw a preacher on television later the same day who told me I would know I'd achieved a higher level of greatness when I got more money so I'd be able to buy a bigger house and a faster car. Which one is really great: modern monasticism or *Cribs*-style Christianity? I'm confused.

What would be a truly great life from God's perspective? Becoming a missionary in Zimbabwe or running a socially conscious software business? Smuggling Bibles into Burma or winning *American Idol*? Working with crack addicts or becoming an NBA star? Or would greatness be doing more than one of those things at the same time?

See, it's one thing to talk about doing great things for God.

But how do you stick a pin in that part of the map and live there? Greatness is a slippery aspiration and a wild beast to ride if you ever get on top of it.

The fact is, that kind of greatness—the unattainable, schizophrenic kind that’s always in the back of your mind but always beyond your reach—is a racket.

## A Way That Actually Works

That’s why I have no interest in presenting you with a plan for pursuing greatness. Instead I’m going to spend the rest of this book showing you the way to a place I call *greater*.

This isn’t just some gimmicky play on words. It’s a game-changing shift in how we approach God.

Let me give you a simple way to look at the tension I’ve been describing.

**Good enough** = the baseline living marked by mediocrity, being stuck in spiritual survival mode, and being controlled by complacency.

**Greatness** = the vague, unrealistic aspirations of doing better that don’t work in real life.

*Good enough* leaves you stuck in stagnation.

Grasping for *greatness* leads to endless frustration.

But *greater* is a third way.



**Greater** = the life-altering understanding that God is ready to accomplish a kind of greatness in your life that is entirely out of human reach. Beyond Steve Jobs. Beyond what you see in yourself on your best day. But exactly what God has seen in you all along.

Personally, I've decided to give up on my aspirations for greatness and legalistic expectations of Christian perfection. Not because I've given up on getting to the place God has called me to. But because I've found a better way to get there. A way that actually *works*.

It's a way that doesn't have a lot of neon signs but that leads directly to the place in God we've always wanted to experience. A secret passageway, if you will.

I found it while digging into the scriptural account of an Old Testament prophet. I found it buried in the examples of parents, students, employees, and bosses who are finding a greater passion for God than they've ever known. I finally found the door that leads to the life I've always known God is calling me to live.

And in the pages that follow, I want us to enter that passageway together, leaving our lives of *good enough* behind once and for all. Giving up on false ideas of *greatness*. Placing all our expectations, hopes, and fears squarely on the shoulders of a God whose power is greater than our minds can comprehend. And ascending to a greater realm of God's power than we ever imagined. It's a place where impossibilities cannot coexist with God's promises.

It's not out there somewhere. It's in you right now.

It's not reserved for wunderkinds like Steve Jobs and Father Abraham.

It's the birthright of ordinary believers like you and me.

It's not a state you'll achieve one day when the kids are out of the house, or the retirement account hits a certain threshold, or a particular sin isn't breathing down your neck anymore. It's a place in God you can tap into immediately, even while the dishes are piled high in the sink and you have unpaid balances on three credit cards.

Just as Jesus told Zacchaeus He would be coming to his house that day, I want you to know that greater things are coming your way, starting now. The summons is sitting in your hands. Greater works are within your grasp.

So what do you have to do to experience it?

It begins with belief.

For now, let's just clarify our focus and prepare our hearts. I want you simply to ask the Lord, in this moment, to begin to open your eyes—*by faith*—and help you perceive that He has greater things in store for your future. As you read the upcoming section, let these simple promises stack up in your heart. These truths will be like kindling for the fire God wants to ignite in the pages to come.

But it starts here, with a question: Are you ready to open your imagination to the possibility that God has a vision for your life that is *greater*?

Greater than the labels you were given when you were young.

Greater than the cynicism that may be settling in as you're getting older.

Greater than a life spent aimlessly wandering in cyberspace.

Greater than empty earthly success that brings no eternal reward.

Greater than the shame tethered to you like a stone from the sins of your past.

Greater than the abuse you suffered at the hands of people you once trusted.

Greater than the hell you've been through in the trials of your life.

Greater than the specter of missed opportunities hovering over your bed at night.

Greater than the dreams you've dreamed for yourself.

Greater than even the greatest moment you've had thus far.



You don't have to understand the implications of all this. Not yet.

You only have to be willing to believe and press into the greater things God has already prepared for you.

I'd understand if you were tempted to write me off as just another self-help hype man, wheeling and dealing promises about a better you that won't hold up in reality. You've probably heard it all before, about how if you really believe and follow this one specific plan, you'll have a better life. A great life even.

I'd be suspicious too about someone who said those kinds of things.

But I haven't said, and don't plan to say, any of those things in this book.

Instead I want to walk you straight into the gap between the greater things God has promised in His Word and the results we see in our lives.

Since writing my first book, *Sun Stand Still*, I've been overwhelmed by the miraculous reports we've received from thousands of people all over the world. In that book I dared readers to pray audacious prayers. Now I want to show you what it looks like to live an audacious *life*.

And when you live this way—the greater way—God will empower you with:

- the *confidence* to know that nothing is impossible with Him
- the *clarity* to see the next step He's calling you to take
- the *courage* to do anything He tells you to do

You'll begin to get a real sense of what greater things God wants to do in your life. Maybe God will call you to make a major life change. Or maybe He simply wants you to come at your present life with greater passion from a fresh perspective. Either way, I'm going to show you that the pathway to God's best is paved with *faith*. And I'll give you specific, tangible steps of faith to get there.

If you choose to come this way, don't expect a final destination where you can announce, "Now I'm officially greater

for God!” Because the call to be greater is the call to walk with God Himself. God’s greatness will not just be working *around* you—it will start working *through* you. The result will be a life of greater effectiveness. Greater impact. Greater vision. That’s why the book is called *Great...er*. Emphasis, *-er*. And it’s important to embrace the joy of the journey, because the destination is a mirage.

That’s the thing about God’s leading in our lives. It’s not static. It’s not automatic. But it’s imminent. And it has the potential to change everything.



God’s greater vision for your life isn’t based on a formula. It’s built on a promise: God created you for more. We’ll look closely at what the Bible says “more” looks like. You’ll be inspired to dream bigger than you ever have. But you’ll also be challenged to start smaller, through simple steps of radical obedience.

So if you are worn-out on cul-de-sac Christianity or self-help pseudosolutions, the good news is this: today is the day God’s greater plan for your life begins in full force.

The bad news is that every Batman has a Joker. And the greater life God has promised you isn’t going to show up and save the day without a fight. I should know. I’m a guy who has had a front-row seat to see God do some of the greatest things you could possibly imagine. But I’m also a guy who has had to tangle with insecurities so ugly that some days they make me feel like I’m not even a Christian, let alone a pastor.



## Lesser Loser Life

In seminary I studied all kinds of in-depth theological explanations about the enemies we face in the Christian life. If you boil it all down, the Bible describes a system of evil made up of three entities: the world, the flesh, and the devil. This system comprises everything that stands opposed to God's ways and God's will. And it's all designed to bring you down and keep you down. To systematically sabotage God's plan for your life and God's purposes in the world.

I'm not trying to write a comprehensive theology here. I'm just making a point that you're probably all too familiar with: breaking out of the orbit of complacency and mediocrity requires waging war against an enemy. Surprisingly, I find over and over again that my greatest enemy of the greater life God has for me is...me.



Allow me to introduce you to my shadow side. I call it my *lesser loser life*. I probably need to open up and share a bit about

where I've come from if you're going to accompany me in this journey toward a place called *greater* that I've just started to describe. Full disclosure. It only seems fair.

My lesser loser life is the opposite of everything greater that God has called me to be. I like to pretend it doesn't exist, yet it's the part of me that often seems to dominate my decisions and talks me out of my tall-walking dreams. And I'm the kind of fellow who has always had big dreams.

I grew up in a small town called Moncks Corner, South Carolina. As a kid sweltering in the summer heat of the low-country sun, I remember daydreaming about a greater life. And I can tell you this—even in my wildest dreams, nothing prepared me for what any of that would really mean.

After I went into vocational ministry, my wife, Holly, and I bounced from one small town to the next, where I preached at youth lock-ins with that unique church gym aroma somewhere between feet and Doritos. I had a steady gig leading worship at a church in rural Shelby, North Carolina. Those were good years. But sometimes, even though the life you have is good, you're haunted by a sense that on the other side of the fence that marks off the life you're living is a greater place that God is preparing for you.

Some kids want to grow up to play in the NFL. Other little boys dream of flying airplanes or fighting fires. I guess I'm a little different. Since the age of sixteen, I have been gripped by a sense that I was supposed to start a church. I didn't know much about it, other than that it was going to be

a church to reach people far from God, and it was going to be in a big city. Bigger than Moncks Corner at least. Or Shelby for that matter.

So eventually I convinced eight young families to sell their houses, quit their jobs, and move with me to Charlotte, North Carolina, to start a church together. We prayed together, fasted together, loaded U-Hauls together, named the church Elevation, invited every stranger we met in our new city to a church with a name that was even stranger, and opened our doors. Our ambition was to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and see a city changed by His power.

Elevation has been named one the fastest-growing churches in America every year since we started six years ago. It has grown from just eight families to more than ten thousand people in regular attendance. From a ragtag bunch of bad news bears meeting in the basement of a community center, we've become an army of believers spanning six different locations, with ministry extension sites around the world. Once we baptized more than two thousand people in the span of two weeks. There have been more than three thousand recorded salvation decisions in the last six months alone.

It's been a great ride. And it's getting greater every day.

There can't be much in life that compares to hearing someone say, "This church saved our marriage. We had the divorce papers signed, got one of your fliers in our mailbox, agreed to give this weird-sounding church a try, and tore up the divorce papers the next morning. That was three years ago."



Or, “I was strung out on drugs before I came to this church. All my friends had given up on me. But God hadn’t, and I met Him at Elevation, and I’ve been clean ever since.”

Then there’s the story I heard just the other day: “My teenagers hated church. They thought God was at best a joke. But then they came to your church, and all three of them got saved on the same day.”

What could be greater than that?

## Confessions from the Shadow Side

You’d think that someone who has seen God do so many great things would have minimal temptation to settle for anything less. You’d think I would be a permanent graduate of God’s Greater University.

Then why, as I walked out on the stage a few days ago to preach to thousands of people, did I have to literally talk to myself aloud to drown out the voice inside me speaking discouragement? It was saying, *You don’t belong here, boy. You don’t have anything worth saying to these people. You are nothing more than a country boy from Moncks Corner, South Carolina. You’re an impostor.*

And why do I often have nightmares—in the middle of the day while I’m wide awake at my desk writing a sermon—about people in my church turning against me and deciding to go to another church in town? You’d think that someone who has seen God do the great things I’ve seen would have more

faith. You'd think I'd be more kingdom-minded and wouldn't worry about people leaving my church to go to another one. After all, it's all about Jesus, right? How much smaller could I possibly think?

I'm also the kind of guy who got up at my church a few Sundays ago and preached a fearless sermon about how we should trust God to provide in every area of our lives. And how we should give to Him generously and leave the results to Him. It was one of my greatest sermons in a while, people said. But later that night, at home, Holly casually mentioned some doctor bills we'd received that we weren't expecting. It's funny, but at that moment I didn't feel nearly as full of faith as I had on the stage just hours earlier. The more I stared at the zeros on the bill from the ear doctor who had put tubes in my younger son's ears for the second time this year, the less I seemed to believe practically the stuff I had preached theoretically.

So just hours after telling people that God will supply all their needs, my chest was covered in financial-stress-induced Cheez-It crumbs. Those crumbs, along with the empty Cheez-It box on the floor that had been full ten minutes earlier, reminded me that my lesser loser life is still very much alive.

I feel it in the way I sometimes want to throttle my enemies instead of praying for them.

I feel it in the way I ignore my kids and pretend to be listening to my wife because I'm behind on the deadline for my book about being greater.

Yes, I've seen God do great things through my life. But

even with all the ways I've seen Him move, I've still had my moments. I've still had my fears. I strain to believe what God has said about who I am and what He's called me to become.

## Cropping Out Condemnation

Why am I telling you all this? It's not because I'm having a "Dear Diary" moment and using you for group therapy. It's because I want to set you free to believe that, just like me, you're a person through whom God can do greater things. Even though we feel like complete screwups sometimes.

I talked about how many believers are stuck in mediocrity because they settle for *good enough*. But I think, just as often, we miss out on what God wants to do through us because we listen to the voice of the Enemy telling us, *You'll never be good enough. And God could never use someone with your weaknesses, hang-ups, secret struggles, and dysfunctions.*

If the devil can't suck us into the lesser loser life through complacency, he'll trap us with condemnation.

We believe God can do great things. But we crop ourselves out of the picture.

Look, I know what it feels like to read a book about the great things God wants to do and to feel like it applies only to people who are better than I am. People who pray more, know more, and have it more together than I do.

But here's the paradox: in those same moments when I've questioned my calling and wondered whether I have what it

takes to make a difference, I've simultaneously been a part of something greater than I even knew to dream about.

That's the beauty of the greater way. It's all about what Jesus has already done and what He desires to do through us. Period.

Nobody does greater things for God because they've got it all together. And nobody is disqualified because they don't.

Including you and me.

God doesn't do greater things exclusively through great people. He does them through anyone who is willing to trust Him in greater ways.

I know it's counterintuitive. But in spite of all the parts of us that are anything but good, God is holding the door open to a life that is greater.

That might be hard for you to believe right now. Maybe you feel like the place I'm describing is so far away that you'll never make it there before sundown. I just want you to know that I feel that way myself almost every day.

That's why I've enlisted a guide, not only to show us the way but to carry us piggyback, if that's what it takes, into the greater future God is planning for us.

## **Paging Our Prodigy**

As much as I respect Steve Jobs, he won't be the main character in the pages that follow. We'll be drawing from the life of the prophetic prodigy named Elisha. (Not to be confused with

*Elijah*, the Bible character who did half the miracles Elisha did but gets ten times the airplay in sermons and books. Hopefully, we can get Elisha a little street cred starting today.)

In each chapter that follows, we'll look through the lens of different experiences in Elisha's life. Through his example we'll discover what it means to be obedient to what God is saying in our specific situations, knowing that obedience to God's voice is the only definitive path to *greater*.

However, before we can follow Elisha to the heights of a greater life, we'll need to track him down in some obscure farm fields. Long before he became a hero of faith, he was stuck in the repetitive movement of mundane living. Not performing miracles but waiting for destiny to make a cameo appearance in a predictable scene.

Elisha started out just like many of us, living under the tyranny of the ordinary, plowing hard dirt. He never launched an iPad or rolled out a Think Different ad campaign. But he did reach for something greater, and God granted it to him in a way that changed his generation. And in a way that has the potential to change us today.



WATERBROOK MULTNOMAH  
PUBLISHING GROUP

A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE, INC.

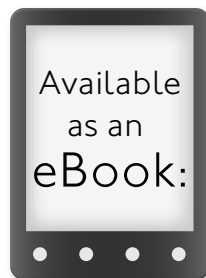
---

## Want to keep reading? You've got options:

Purchase a copy direct from the publisher or from your favorite retailer:

**BUY NOW**

Download a copy for your eReader and keep reading right away:



amazonkindle

Google  
books

iBooks

nook  
by Barnes & Noble

And More...