

Jesus was dependent upon the Spirit

Many think Jesus did the things He did in the power of being the son of God, but the Bible makes it clear that this is not the case.

- Before Jesus had His Holy Spirit encounter, that we can read about in Luke 3:21-22, Jesus did no miracles — but He was still the Son of God.
 - But after his baptism and 40 days in the wilderness it says:

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power.

— Luke 4:14

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."

— Luke 4:18-19

- After this we see the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit start to manifest in the life of Jesus.
 - But He did nothing in the power of being the Son of God, and He Himself said that He did nothing by His own power.

I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

— John 5:30

Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

— John 8:28

- Paul also pointed out that Jesus, being equal with God, did not use this to his own advantage.

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

— *Philippians 2:6-7 (NIV)*

- Another good indication that Jesus did not do the things He did in the power of being God is found in John 14:12

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

— *John 14:12 (NIV)*

- If Jesus did what He did in the power of being God, it would not be fair of Him to expect us to do “...even greater works...”.

Jesus reveals the secret

Many have pondered on how we can do greater works than Jesus, but Jesus actually gives us a hint in John 14:12, by saying “...because I am going to the Father...”.

- What was it that Jesus said could not happen until He had gone to the father? The Holy Spirit could not come.

But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

— *John 16:7*

- In John 7 we also see that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was something that could not happen until Jesus has ascended.

*“Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. **But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.**)*

— *John 7:37-39*

- The Bible is clear — it was the Holy Spirit that enabled Jesus to do the things He did, and Jesus said that we will do the same things (because He would go to the Father). And what would happen when He went to the Father? The Spirit would come.