



## G.O.A.T. Greatest Of All Time

New > Old

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## Discussion Notes

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### OPENING

**Jesus is the Greatest Of All Time.** Yes, we have heroes in various sports who have performed far above the average player, but only one is the champion for the ages and He is Jesus Christ. This week we are continuing our series based upon the book of Hebrews. We Christians are anchoring our faith in the fact that Jesus is greater. Our pasts, presents and futures are dependent on that being true. It is the only hope we have – that Jesus is who He says He is and will do all that He has promised to do. The unknown author's purpose in Hebrews was for our encouragement. He said, "Jesus is greater, so don't give up."

### SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>

**Hebrews 8:1-6** Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands. And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too. If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by law. They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

**Hebrews 8:13** When God speaks of a "new" covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

**John 15:1-4:** I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener . . . Abide in me, and I will abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must abide in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in me.

### OBSERVATION

When we think of someone being the greatest in his/her field of expertise, it might be a world champion boxer, or basketball player, or Nobel Prize winner, but that is very limiting. The one we are speaking of is the person who has had the greatest impact of all time on world history since the beginning of recorded time touching every continent, culture, and language – Jesus Christ. We don't often recognize how different our entire world would be had He never been born. We would have trouble choosing a less likely figure to impact the world. Jesus was born in a barn, He had no political power, His followers were twelve uneducated, unimportant, ordinary men. He never led a military action, didn't live with great social media connections, never wrote a book, never held a press conference, and yet 2019 years after His death, it is virtually impossible to imagine a world without Jesus.

**Question:** What do you think would be different about our world if Jesus had never lived? How would your life be different?

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture is NIV unless otherwise indicated

## APPLICATION

Yes, He is the G.O.A.T. There has never been a life like Jesus' life, never a death like His death, never a love like His love, never a hope like His hope. And there is no way that we could even begin to scratch the surface of how different this entire world would be had Jesus never been born. He came to offer us a new life, a new perspective, a new path and a new promise. It is in the form of a new covenant. The covenant of the Old Testament given in Genesis to Abraham, is over and Jesus is our new High Priest presiding over His new one.

**Question:** What was the old covenant? Why is it obsolete?

This means we have direct access to God because Jesus is our mediator who reconciled us back to our Father by His death. We no longer have to strive, earn, be perfect, keep rules, achieve, and suffer guilt in our lives.

**Question:** About what are you still suffering guilt? Why are you still carrying it like an anchor?

Sometimes we get stuck and don't know how to be new, how to live a new way, how to really **change**. But we really can change, grow, transform and become the men and women God created us to be. Becoming new is about **1) transformation, not behavior modification**. We spend so much energy just trying not to do the bad things and trying to do good things – we need to put more effort in focusing on the ways God wants to transform us from the inside out – not the outside in. This is focusing on trying to move from controlling our behavior to letting God transform our thoughts and feelings and the source of those things, because now we have access to His power. A butterfly can't change itself into a beautiful creature by its own will – it has to surrender to metamorphosis and so should we.

**Question:** What are the stages a butterfly goes through during metamorphosis? What stages do we go through?

**2) It is about progress not perfection.** It is about becoming, not performing so don't get discouraged and drift away from the path. We all fall and mess up, but that doesn't mean we haven't made progress. When we make two steps forward, then fall one step backward, we have made progress. So celebrate victories along the way and don't drift backward into apathy.

**Question:** What are you still trying to make perfect in you? How is that going for you?

Becoming new is also about being **3) Grace driven not guilt driven**. This is where we take on all the ways we don't measure up and carry them, when Jesus says, "I already paid for it." God wants to extend His grace to us along the way because He loves us and we're going to need it on this journey of becoming who He has created us to be.

**Question:** What or who do you think God created you to be? Why aren't you there yet?

**Grace** is the first ingredient necessary if we are going to experience change because we have to believe that God is for us! Grace is the unbroken, uninterrupted, unearned accepting relationship that we get to have with God. He just gives it to us. We don't have to hide our thoughts and feelings from Him. He accepts us as we are then starts transforming us.

**Truth** is next and we find it in God's Word. The Bible is not a rule book – it is a new way of life. With grace and truth together we begin to see real change over **time** because transformation takes time. We want the payoff without the process; results without the requirements, the end without the endurance, the role without the route, and the destination without the journey. But the journey is worth it. Jesus talks about our abiding in Him throughout the journey in the Gospel of John. This is where we are nourished and protected and pruned. This is where the fruit grows over time as do canyons, waterfalls, and giant trees. If we let God do His new work in us, we will transform into something new, real and magnificent. We will become deep in a shallow world; constant in a changing world; compassionate in a cynical world; confident in a fearful world; and patient in an instant world. It begins when we surrender our lives to Jesus. We are set free immediately from the Law and from punishment for our sin. We have a new Master, a new identity, new desires, and a new way. **Grace + Truth + Time = Change.**

**Question:** What are you most impatient about? What changes are you seeing in this regard?

**Question:** What changes have you seen in yourself since Jesus saved you? In what other areas do you pray for change?

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the New Covenant Jesus has given us. He fulfilled the Law and the Prophets and gave us only two commandments: Love You and love each other. And all we have to do is believe in Him and His offer of forgiveness and salvation. Help us to change into the people You have created us to be. In Jesus' name. Amen.