

## **Going above and beyond**

There is something deeply powerful about people who choose to go above and beyond. Not because they are striving for applause, recognition, or status, but because they understand that the Kingdom of God has never been built by those who settle for the minimum. Heaven is advanced by men and women who carry an extraordinary spirit in ordinary places. They refuse to do just enough to survive. They lean into God, stretch beyond comfort, and pour themselves fully into the assignment placed before them.

We are living in an age where mediocrity is often excused, and average has become normalised. Yet the Spirit of God still searches for people who will build with passion, serve with excellence, and labour with vision. Haggai spoke prophetically into a generation that had become discouraged by comparison. They looked at the former glory and felt small, insignificant, and under-resourced. But God interrupted their limited perspective with a promise: “The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house” (Haggai 2:9). That word still echoes today.

The future glory was never going to come through passive spectators. It would come through builders who were willing to rise again after disappointment and give themselves wholeheartedly to the work of God. Going above and beyond is not about human ambition. It is about carrying heaven’s perspective into the earth. It is about believing that God can do something greater through surrendered people than through gifted people who refuse to stretch.

Zechariah understood this tension perfectly. Zerubbabel stood before a mountain of resistance, opposition, and limitation, yet God declared, “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit” (Zechariah 4:6). Many believers want greater outcomes while remaining at the same level of surrender. They want harvest without seed, breakthrough without obedience, and influence without sacrifice. Yet the Kingdom has always functioned differently. God works through yielded people who are willing to move when the Spirit speaks.

The prophetic challenge of Zechariah 4 is not simply about depending on the Spirit. It is also about refusing to despise small beginnings. “Who dares despise the day of small things?” (Zechariah 4:10). That verse confronts the pride hidden inside modern culture. We celebrate platforms but often ignore process. We admire visible success but overlook hidden faithfulness. Yet the people who truly go above and beyond are usually those who stayed faithful when nobody noticed them. They served before they were seen. They built before they were celebrated. They cultivated character before they carried influence.

This is deeply connected to the prayer Paul prayed in Colossians 1:9-10. He asked that believers would be filled with “the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and

understanding that the Spirit gives” so they could “live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work”. Notice the connection between spiritual understanding and practical fruitfulness. God never intended spirituality to remain abstract. The evidence of spiritual maturity is a fruitful life.

Going above and beyond means refusing to compartmentalise faith. It means carrying the presence of God into boardrooms, classrooms, homes, churches, businesses, and communities. It means becoming people who do not simply talk about transformation but embody it. The world is not looking for louder Christians. It is looking for fruitful ones. Men and women whose integrity, consistency, compassion, courage, and excellence reveal the nature of Christ.

Jesus reinforced this in Matthew 13:37-38 when He said, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world.” The field is not limited to church meetings. The field is everywhere. Your workplace is a field. Your neighbourhood is a field. Your industry is a field. Your relationships are a field. Every environment becomes an opportunity for Kingdom seed to be planted through the way we live, serve, lead, and love.

The tragedy is that many believers are waiting for a dramatic assignment while neglecting the field already in front of them. Going above and beyond often begins with ordinary obedience. It begins with showing kindness when bitterness would be easier. It begins with serving faithfully when nobody applauds. It begins with excellence in hidden places. The Spirit of God delights in taking surrendered seeds and producing supernatural harvests.

This is the hour for believers to rise above complacency. The Church does not need more spectators. It needs builders, sowers, servants, and reformers who are willing to carry the Spirit of God into every sphere of life. The greater glory promised in Haggai will not emerge through convenience Christianity. It will emerge through people who dare to believe that God can still do extraordinary things through fully surrendered lives.

Go beyond what is expected. Sow beyond what feels comfortable. Serve beyond what is convenient. Because the field is ready, the Spirit is moving, and the greater glory is still ahead.

## Questions

1. What does it look like in your life to believe that the greater glory is still ahead? (**Haggai 2:9**)
2. Where do you need to rely more on the Holy Spirit rather than your own strength? (**Zechariah 4:6**)
3. Have you ever been tempted to despise small beginnings, and why? (**Zechariah 4:10**)
4. What kind of fruit is God wanting to produce through your life right now? (**Colossians 1:9-10**)
5. What field or environment has God placed you in to sow Kingdom seed? (**Matthew 13:37-38**)