

The Great Commission

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, 'The harvest is truly great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves; Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. But whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house." And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. And heal the sick there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, "The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you..." He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me'" (Luke 10:1-16)

Every born again believer - not just the Apostles and the Seventy - has been commissioned. Every born again believer is to proclaim the Gospel message. The world is dying for such a message. The Great Commission does not need to be interpreted; it is to be obeyed. Jesus gives some very practical insights into how you can obey the Great Commission.

I. You Are To Go By Faith, Trusting God.

You are to go depending on the Lord because you are doing a spiritual work that God has sent you to do. Jesus has given instruction to pray for labourers to be sent into the harvest field. God has invested you with full authority to spread this glorious message. You are the means by which God leads sinners to everlasting life. When you say "yes" to sharing the Gospel, you are giving priority to the things of God. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). God will anoint you as you respond to His commission. You are like lambs sent out among wolves but Jesus, your Good Shepherd, goes before you and keeps you safe. He will not allow you to fail or stumble. Jesus' instruction to "carry neither money bag, knapsack nor sandals" can be taken literally and spiritually. Do not be burdened by your needs. God is your provider and you can depend on Him.

II. You Are To Preach the Message of Christ Which Is One of Peace

Peace is the greatest need in the world today. It is always much sought after. Not only do nations around the world seek peace, homes and individuals need peace too. The message of Christ is one of peace. Real peace comes when you make peace with God. The Gospel makes you the "rebel" to be at peace with God. You, who have the peace of God in your heart, can bring peace and touch lives wherever you go. This is something you can give to the world which money cannot buy! "... As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!' "(Romans 10:15) You are God's chosen people to bring peace." But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house' "(Luke 10:5). You are to go from home to home to tell about Jesus, the Prince of Peace and to help them see the need for peace and desire it. "How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house" (Acts 20:20).

House evangelism is the best method to spread the message of peace. God's goal is not just to get one member saved but the whole family as well. "So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household' " (Acts 16:31). It is through you, your whole family can get saved and this brings stability and security to the home.

The family is the centre of all communities. The message spreads through the community from family to family. Besides meeting in Church on Sundays, you can invite friends and other believers to your homes for fellowship, prayer and for the learning of the Word. The Life Group Ministry is a powerful tool that the Lord has created for each of you to reach out to your respective communities. This was the pattern of the early church. "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:42).

III. Your Objective Must Not Be Material Gain

"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially those who labour in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain', and 'the labourer is worthy of his wages' " (1 Timothy 5:17-18). You are worthy of your labour and you should not serve for material gain. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand side of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1-2). You are to serve, trusting that God will be the provider for any needs you may have.

IV. You Are To Be Hospitable and Adaptable

You are to go in the spirit of hospitality and adaptability. "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:9-10). God can anoint you and help you when you are willing to be hospitable. Jesus also ministered under God's anointing. "... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil..." (Acts 10:38). You don't need the gift of healing to pray for the sick. God is the healer. Let Him work through you. You just do your part and lay hands on the sick. God will heal according to His will.

V. You Are To Walk Away From Rejecters

Scriptures tells us that peace can only go where peace is welcomed. "But whatever house you enter, first say 'Peace to this house.' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; of not, it will return to you." (Luke 10:5-6). No matter how gifted you may be, you cannot convert a soul. Only the Holy Spirit can convict a man of sin. Jesus clearly taught us to simply walk away from those who reject the Gospel. The messenger was to symbolize God's rejection by wiping off the dust of your city. "But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into it's streets and say, 'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you...'" (Luke 10:10-11). There is no need to argue because they chose to shut the door of salvation that was opened and they are accountable for their choice. "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).

VI. You, the Messenger, Represent Christ

You are God's representative. "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me" (Matthew 10:40). He has no mouth but yours, no hands but yours, will you be God's representative?

You must obey the Great Commission. God is sending each one of you. Many will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ when you go. You need only to take heed of Jesus' instructions. His Word shall not return void.

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