

Living the Great Commission

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ⁱⁿ^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:16-20 ESV

Shortly after Jesus gave the Great Commission, God the Holy Spirit, on the day of Pentecost, transformed and empowered the lives of the same disciples who, during His trial and crucifixion, had denied our Lord and had deserted Him. Following Pentecost, they went out boldly and courageously, willing to risk their lives to proclaim the message of God's love and forgiveness in Christ.

The Great Commission is Jesus' command to take the gospel to every person throughout the world and to make disciples in all nations. It involves building and multiplying disciples in all nations so that they can, in turn, saturate their nations with the Good News and train other(s) to do the same generation after generation through the process of spiritual multiplication.

Christ did not commission us to “Christianize” all nations; He called us to disciple and evangelize to them. Our responsibility is to preach and teach dynamic life of Christ; it is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to make our witness effective. With this responsibility, however, Christ also gave us everything necessary for success.

Why Should we Help carry out The Great Commission?

Christ called on us to do so.

A good coach presents a list of rules and standards to the athletes and says, “These are the things you must do if you expect to be a part of the team.” The athletes buy into and obey these rules, or they don't make the team. We can't “DO” anything to be on Jesus' team (his salvation is free) however to (play in the game) and truly experience Him – we must follow the rules, have fruit Our Lord has issued a command, “Go,” and no Christian can take His order lightly.

But most Christians have never taken this command seriously. We are dealing with peripheral issues when it is the hearts of people that need to be changed. The problems in the world that are threatening to engulf humanity can only be solved through faith in Christ and obedience to His commands.

If we take our Lord seriously, we must dedicate ourselves fully – time, talent and treasure – to the fulfillment of the Great Commission. If we want to obey Him, He says, “Go,” and that is sufficient reason for going. Mark 8:34-38 records God's command to all who would be His disciples and, along with Mark 10:29,30 promises rich rewards and great blessings to all who trust and obey Him.

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” John 14:21 ESV

We are lost without Christ.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 15:6 ESV

That may sound narrow, unaffectionate and intolerant, but that is what Jesus said, and Jesus Christ is God! You may have heard this exchange, or you personally may have said it, "I am looking for God; I hope to find Him, but I haven't found Him yet!"

No person will ever find God until they receive Christ. Do you really believe that people without Christ are lost? Many of us have family and friends, neighbors and associates who do not know Christ and are spiritually lost? The Word of God is emphatically clear:

There must be a sense of urgency.

The Great Commission can be accomplished as millions of Christians develop a personal strategy that ties in directly to Christ's global strategy. One Christian with a personal strategy, focusing all his efforts, can enhance and grow his or her impact exponentially!

A personal strategy is a conscious plan of action by an individual to accomplish a specific goal. Since the goal of every sincere believer should be to help fulfill the Great Commission, here is a simple yet personal plan that should become a habit and way of life for all of us.

4 Ways How to Live the Great Commission

Pray - Make it a habit to pray. Pray for your own strength and perseverance. The age old saying, "This is a marathon, not a sprint" has never been truer when living out the Great Commission. Pray expectantly for that one person you can begin a conversation with. Ask God, "Who is my One?"

Prepare – Continue to focus on your own growth and development. In creating this habit will not only increase your knowledge, strengthen your own relationship with Him, but will allow you to be ready when that opportunity you have been praying for happens!

Add - Begin a conversation (or a relationship) with an individual and with a confidence you have created by your habit of preparation, allow the Holy Spirit to guide your words and you're timing. When you have the privilege of sharing your testimony and introducing another to Christ, is one of the greatest feelings any one person can have!

Multiply - When you personally introduce another to Christ, that is spiritual addition. But when you deliberately disciple this new Christian and help them to win, disciple and send others who will do the same to win and disciple others, generation after generation, that is spiritual multiplication!

The Great Commission is not fulfilled, and it will remain unfulfilled until there are enough disciples to saturate our world, and all the diverse ethnic and people groupings in it, with the gospel. We must become as interested in making disciples as we are in conversions, more interested in "*spiritual multiplication*" than we are in "*spiritual addition*". **LET'S GO!!!!**

"praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:47 ESV