

Missions - The Great Commission

The Great Commission - A Personal Instruction

The Great Commission is one of the most significant passages in the Holy Bible. First, it's the last recorded personal instruction given by Jesus to His disciples. Second, it's a special calling from Jesus Christ to all His followers to take specific action while on this earth. The Great Commission is found in the Gospel of Mathew.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Christian missionary activities often involve sending individuals and groups (called "missioners"), to foreign countries and to places in their own homeland. This has frequently involved not only evangelization (in order to expand Christianity through the conversion of new members), but also humanitarian work, especially among the poor and disadvantaged. Missionaries have the authority to preach the Christian faith (and sometimes to administer sacraments), and provide humanitarian work to improve economic development, literacy, education, health care, and orphanages. Christian doctrines (such as the "Doctrine of Love" professed by many missions) permit the provision of aid without requiring religious conversion.

A common understanding is that missionaries have the same characteristics as apostles and have been involved in many miracles like seeing the sick healed and rising of the dead.

Apostolic - One sent by God with a holy mission to fulfill; and the strong powers and Spiritual gifts to fulfill the mission -- (known by the fruit of the Spirit overflowing). Apostolic ministry involves laying foundation(s). In the case of Paul and Barnabas, we see this expressed in 'Church planting' by preaching the Gospel in new areas. Apostles in Scripture worked in teams. An apostolic team shared a 'measure of rule' in churches started through their ministry in regions where they are the first to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. (II Corinthians 10.)

There are many gifts of the Spirit. The saving of souls and building Churches are just a few, but important, reasons for the Holy Spirit. See 'Church Organization' for a better understanding of the different ministries.

Some modern day missionaries are: Adoniram Judson (Burma), David Brainerd (American Indians), Reinhard Bonnke (Africa) and Billy Graham (North America).

After the person is "saved" this starts the process. See 'Mirror' and 'Human Being' for a better understanding of terms. The elephant is eaten one bite at a time applies here!

A new convert is like a baby in a diaper, one must learn things in order to grow. The best way to learn is to have a relationship with the Lord. Trust and Obey is the best way to live one's life.

A term for every Christian believer is called a sheep. Sheep are dumb, needing love and protection. Notice the closer one gets to the sheep the more opportunities one has!

After conversion one needs to be plugged into a local Church. A Bible in the local language may be given to the convert. It is encouraged, but not forced to do anything. A convert should want to do the things that the Bible states but it may take time to understand these things, that is why a *new believer* class is common in most Churches. Common doctrines are taught in the new convert class. At this point in time the new convert is given the opportunity to partner with the apostle,

work in the mission field, and/or work in the local Church. One can grow fat by warming a pew and taking in many sermons given by the local pastor. However the latter will not happen if one Trusts and Obeys.

1 Corinthians 7:7-9

Amplified Bible (AMP)

⁷I wish that all men were like I myself am [in this matter of self-control]. But each has his own special gift from God, one of this kind and one of another.

⁸But to the unmarried people and to the widows, I declare that it is well (good, advantageous, expedient, and wholesome) for them to remain [single] even as I do.

⁹But if they have not self-control (restraint of their passions), they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame [with passion and tortured continually with ungratified desire].

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Amplified Bible (AMP)

³²My desire is to have you free from all anxiety and distressing care. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord--how he may please the Lord;

³³But the married man is anxious about worldly matters--how he may please his wife--

³⁴And he is drawn in diverging directions [his interests are divided and he is distracted from his devotion to God]. And the unmarried woman or girl is concerned and anxious about the matters of the Lord, how to be wholly separated and set apart in body and spirit; but the married woman has her cares [centered] in earthly affairs--how she may please her husband.

³⁵Now I say this for your own welfare and profit, not to put [a halter of] restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly and in good order and to secure your undistracted and undivided devotion to the Lord.

Romans 12:4-5

Amplified Bible (AMP)

⁴For as in one physical body we have many parts (organs, members) and all of these parts do not have the same function or use,

⁵So we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ (the Messiah) and individually we are parts one of another [mutually dependent on one another].

Conclusion

In recapping, missionary work is vital to saving souls and starting Churches. However, this must be balanced with 1 Corinthians 7 and Romans 12. Paul teaches us that marriage trumps the ministry, not God. Relationship to God is the highest calling in our life. That is why people said that they cast out devils in your name but God said I never knew you. If the relationship is correct then all other components will care for themselves.

God is love. Love is: patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil, rejoices with the truth, always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres, and never fails.

What Love is

Patient

Kind

Does not envy

Does not boast

Not proud

Not rude

Not self-seeking

Not easily angered

Keeps no record of wrongs

Does not delight in evil

Rejoices with the truth

Always protects

Always trusts

Always hopes

Always perseveres

Never fails

How to Love

Be willing to wait for God's perfect timing.
Have self-restraint.
Control your impulses.

Ask, "What would this person like?"
What does he/she need?
Speak softly and be caring.

Be content with what you have.
List your blessings.
Be happy for other's good.

Be humble.
Don't brag.
Give credit to others.

Don't think you are better than other people.
Be modest.
Don't be arrogant or overbearing.

Be courteous and kind.
Be gracious.
Use good manners.

Think of others first.
Give someone else first choice.
Don't be greedy and selfish.

Think the best of people
Don't jump to conclusions.
Ask questions and listen.

Forgive the 'wrongs'.
Remember the 'rights'.
What did Jesus do?

Don't watch or read evil things.
Turn away from gossip.
Don't gloat when others fail.

Be happy about good things.
Spread good news.
Tell the truth to yourself and others.

Protect the helpless and weak.
Protect yourself against temptation.
Defend the name of Jesus.

Trust believes God's promises.
Pray about all things and trust Him.
Believe that all things work for good.

Never give up.
Remember God doesn't give up on you.
Expect good things from God.

Be persistent. Keep on praying.
If God is with you, who can be against you?
Be thankful to God and others.

Love never fails.
God's love never fails.
Pray for a loving heart! Like His.

Scriptures

Isaiah 40:31
Romans 15:1
James 1:4

Proverbs 25:11
Isaiah 58:6-7
Ephesians 4:32

1 Corinthians 3:3
Exodus 20:17
Philippians 4:11-12

Psalms 49:6-7
Psalm 34:2
Philippians 3:1-8

1 Corinthians 8:1
Philippians 2:2-8
John 13:14-15

Numbers 12:3
1 Peter 4:9
1 Peter 5:5

1 Corinthians 10:24
Acts 20:35
John 15:13

Matthews 5:22
Romans 15:2
James 1:19

Galatians 6:1
Mathew 6:12
John 8:11

Matthew 5:29
Proverbs 11:13
Galatians 6:1

Philippians 1:18
Isaiah 60:1
Ephesians 4:25

James 1:27
Proverbs 4:14-15
1 Peter 3:15

Isaiah 14:24
Philippians 4:6
Romans 8:28

Ephesians 6:13
Romans 5:10
1 John 3:3

James 5:16
Romans 8:31
1 Peter 4:8

1 Corinthians 13:13
John 15:9
John 13:35

There are about three major points in this message and all are very important. Our relationship with Jesus (God), witnessing (many ways, local and a far), and family. You have to start with our relationship with Jesus. That is our foundation. After that it depends on how God wants to use us. Each has their own calling. We all can be witnesses, either local or a far. If overseas then that is usually your main function. In the end souls are what counts. God love us all the same and wants everyone to come to Him. If we have a family then God guides us with a new set of responsibilities. It does not take away from our relationship with God but (in my opinion) adds to ways that we

can learn to be more like Jesus. You can understand what it is like from both sides – as the father that loves the child and as the child that depends on the father. In our human life at some point the father lets the child go and he/she starts his/her own journey through life. You are still there for them but they make their own choices.

It all ties together under the plan – God's plan. How we fit into the plan He has for us. All we need to do is trust Him. It started with trust (our faith in Jesus) and we will end up in heaven because of our trust (faith) in Jesus. If we trust Him in His promise of eternity then it should be easy to trust Him for our daily needs. This is not always as easy as it sounds but that's what we should do.

Like the song says – "Trust and obey for there's no other way." Solomon said as he summed up everything he knew – fear God and obey His commandments. It's funny, as we get older our human eye sight is not as clear as it was but our spiritual eye sight gets clearer. I guess that's part of the journey, growing and learning and seeing that we have very little control over anything and very glad that God does. It all comes back to trust and faith doesn't it?

Mike