

Truth and Spirit Ministries

Reach The World For Jesus Part I

By Denise Bostic

Our Great Commission

*“Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God’s good news to one and all.”
(Mark 16:15 The Message)*

Do you want to reach others for Jesus by sharing the Gospel with them? In this hour, many believers are expressing their desire to reach others for Christ but some confess that they do not really know how to approach people and share the Gospel with them. If you can relate to this then these articles are written just for you! One of the mandates of our ministry is to help equip you with the knowledge of the truths of God’s Word so you may serve Him in effectual power in this present generation.

God loves the world and His consuming desire is that people not perish but that they receive eternal life through His Son Jesus. (*John 3:16*) Jesus came to this earth to bring the good news of the gospel of the Kingdom of God and to show us that He is the Way to eternal life. After His death, resurrection and before His departure to heaven, Jesus in turn gave the *Church* the command and responsibility to continue to spread this good news of the Gospel and His Kingdom throughout the entire world until He returns again. (*Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20*)

In order to truly be effective in our work of spreading the Gospel in the earth, it is imperative to know our identity in Christ. Because of this, we will dedicate the first three articles to this subject. When we understand who we truly are, it helps to empower us in our commission given to us by the Lord. Together with Christ, we must be the powerful and glorious Church that God has intended us to be. (*Ephesians 5:27 KJV*)

Be The Church

If you are in Christ, you are part of the Church. What is the definition of the “Church”? The meaning of this word has oftentimes been misunderstood over the centuries. The Church is not a building made of bricks and mortar by the hands of men (that you go and sit in every Sunday) but rather a spiritual building built up by the hands of God with living stones called the *saints or people of God!* (*I Corinthians 5:1, I Peter 2:5*) Some want to only be the Church whenever they are behind the four walls, but we must be the Church all the time. We must understand that the Church is not a place where you GO but is something that God’s people must BE. You and I must BE the Church then everywhere we go.

All believers together make up the entire spiritual body of Jesus Christ, who is the Head. (*I Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 5:23, 30*) Each believer is a temple of the living God. (*II Corinthians 6:16*) In the Greek the Church is referred to as the “*ekklesia*” literally meaning “*the called out ones.*” [1577, Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible] You might ask, “What have we been called out for?”

Many might say that we have been *called out to come out* and be separate from the world and its ways and worship as an assembly of believers and this is true but it is only part of the truth. Some legalistic believers today take an unbalanced approach to the term “called out” and have nothing to do with those they consider to be “of the world” because they feel they will be contaminated by its evils. Although we are told by God in the scriptures to “come out from them and be separate and touch not the unclean

thing”, He did not intend for us to separate ourselves from *people* to the point that we would not share the love of Christ and the Gospel with them. (*II Corinthians 6:17*) Instead He has called us to come out of the world’s ways and live a holy life in Christ and to share the good news of the gospel with others.

Jesus gave us understanding concerning this subject. In *John 17:14-18*, it is recorded that Jesus prayed and asked the Father *to not take us out of the world* but to protect us from the evil one (Satan). He also clarified that believers were not of (like) the world because those who received Him would be born from above, be translated into the Kingdom of God and be new creatures in Christ. As verse 18 teaches us, the Lord is sending His followers into the world to spread the gospel and have a godly influence among the ungodly.

We have been called out to be separate from the world’s evil ways and to live and serve God in righteousness as a holy nation of priests. (*II Corinthians 6:14-18, I Peter 2:9*) It is written in the Word that the wages of sin is death and that man’s sins have caused them to be separated (cut off) from God. (*Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:1-2*) God sent His Son into the world to save the ungodly from this death sentence however and be restored back to the Father in a right relationship. Jesus died to bring many sons into glory. (*Read Hebrews 2:9-10*) Those of us that have already received this precious gift are to be ambassadors (representatives) of the Lord by continuing this great work in the earth today.

We have been chosen by God to be lights in a dark, lost and dying world by sharing the love and message of Christ with others. We are called to bring hope to those who have no hope. We must not remain silent about this awesome news! If the gospel remains hidden within us, it will also be hidden to those who are perishing and who desperately need to be saved from eternal death. (*II Corinthians 4:3*) We must obey God and lead others to this life-saving knowledge.

God Needs You

Today and in times past many believers in the Church may have been conditioned to believe that only those considered to be “ordained” ministers of God are to preach the Gospel. Now however, many believers are awaking to the fact that the Lord has called all believers to serve Him as laborers for the harvest and multitudes are heeding the call of the Master to GO and spread the Gospel. It is the will of the Lord that many laborers be sent out to reach a great harvest of souls.

He told them (his followers), “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! (*Luke 10:1-3*)

The New Testament supports the fact that the entire Church had the joy of spreading the good news and they took this responsibility from Jesus very seriously. (*Acts 8:1-8, 11:19-21*) God needs you and I to help reach the world with this life-giving, life-changing message.

What is the Gospel that we are to announcing to others? The Gospel that we are to proclaim to the world is this: *the glad tidings of the Kingdom of God, and of the salvation to be obtained in it through Christ, and of what relates to this salvation.* [2097, *Joseph Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*] We need to tell others of God’s love and grace. We need to tell them that they can receive forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation by believing in Jesus Christ and receiving the redemptive work He accomplished on the cross.

We need to tell others of the good things of the Kingdom that are freely given to us by God’s grace such as healing, deliverance, provision, peace and protection. Even as we have believed and received eternal life in Christ and the blessings of the Kingdom, so we must not selfishly keep this good news to ourselves, but gladly spread it to everyone that we can. True, godly love for others will not allow us to withhold this divine message from others!

As followers of Christ, we must all receive the commission and authority that Jesus has given us to carry on the work that He began nearly 2000 years ago. You and I have the privilege of serving our Lord and humanity by sharing the Way to eternal life and become threshing instruments of the Lord in this great end-time harvest of souls. (*Isaiah 41:15*) We must take the mandate of Christ seriously and make the

most of the time that we have in this age of grace. (*II Corinthians 6:1-2*) We are warned in scripture to not be spiritually asleep but to be awake, shining as lights in a dark world. Paul admonishes us:

“Wake up O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Be very careful, then how you live—not as unwise but as the wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.” (*Ephesians 5:14-17*)

The Lord’s will is that none perish. Many in the Church have been spiritually asleep but God has been sounding the call to awake His people out of their slumber. The saints are beginning to see their calling in Christ Jesus and are rising up to be His chosen instruments to bring glory to God in the earth.

God Has Qualified You

You might be reading this and think that you are not ready or qualified to do such a work. Don’t worry about that. God will not ask you to do something that He has not prepared you for or that you are not capable of doing. Let the Holy Spirit direct you by showing you who to go to and what to say. Understand that the Lord will prepare the way before you by preparing the hearts and minds of those that He sends you to so that they will be ready to hear what you have to say. The Father has already qualified you. The apostle Paul speaks of our being qualified in *Colossians 1:9-14 (NIV)*:

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: *bearing fruit in every good work*, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has QUALIFIED YOU to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.”

The Father has already declared us “qualified” because of what Jesus has done *for us* and He now lives *in us* and if we are yielded to Him, He will do the work *through us*. It is not our *ability* but our *availability* that God is interested in. We must trust and rely on His power and not ours. God only desires yielded vessels that He can work through. He is looking for those who will go for Him and those in whom He can show Himself strong. (*Isaiah 6:8, II Chronicles 16:9 KJV*)

Understand that when we were called of God, not many of us were wise, mighty or noble but now that we are in Christ, He has become our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. (**I Corinthians 1:26-30**) God displays His might, wisdom and power through *weak* human instruments in order to receive the greater glory and to shame those in the world that believe them selves to be wiser and stronger than He. *For those that humbly receive you and your message however, the power of the Gospel becomes their salvation.* Believe, trust and receive the fact that God will empower you to do this most important work in the earth.

See The Bigger Picture

A lot of Christians have been lethargic, not realizing the importance or magnitude of the plan of God. God has a timeline in which the Church is to work before the return of Christ. We must work while it is still light, while mankind has the opportunity of salvation during the time of God’s favor or grace. (**II Corinthians 6:1-2**)

Reaching others with the Gospel of Christ is greater in scope than we think. We may only see one small piece of the puzzle but we must be able to broaden our horizons to see the bigger picture that God has painted for us in His Word. The Gospel is not just about being rescued from hell and receiving eternal life in the hereafter alone, but is about entering into a *Kingdom* as well. (*Luke 22:29*) If you have been born again of the Spirit and are in Christ, you have been born into God’s Kingdom. (*John 3:1-8*)

The Kingdom of God is not a future Kingdom that will be established, *it is already in existence*. The Kingdom is eternal, it has always been and it always will be in existence and will never fall. Although we have yet to see all peoples or nations of this world come under its dominion, all believers in Christ have

already come under its dominion because they have made Jesus Christ their King, Lord and Savior above all.

We've Got The Power In The Name of Jesus

The Lord has given us the power, in His name, to help others to cross over from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Light and to help snatch them from the danger of fiery destruction. (*Acts 26:17-18, Jude 23*) We can help to lead others to Jesus, who is the door into the Kingdom of God. (*John 10:7-9 KJV*) We can tell them that Jesus died so that they might receive forgiveness of sins and redemption so that they may cross over from death to eternal life.

It is good for people to know that once they get through the Door though, it is not the pinnacle of their goal but it is just the beginning of an entire, rich inheritance that awaits them as born-again children of God that starts right now and lasts for all eternity! Jesus obtained so much more for us than saving us from our sins and giving us life in the hereafter, there is also a rich inheritance of all the blessings and benefits of the Kingdom in the here and now that we can receive that accompanies our salvation! (*Hebrews 6:9*)

Not only can we receive these things as God's children, but God can also work through you and I to dispense the things of the Kingdom *to others* here on earth when we walk in His power! As God moves and touches people with His power, people see the reality of Christ and His Kingdom and respond to the invitation to receive salvation. I will teach about some specific blessings that God dispenses through believers when they share Christ with others later on in this series.

It's About Relationship and Not Religion

Many people in the world can be turned off by religion. Religion is man made but personal relationship is born of God. God never wanted to have a religion (or man's ideas of what God wants) but to have *relationships* with His sons and daughters. When we present the Gospel in this manner, people can identify readily with this because at their very core, people have a great need for a personal, intimate relationship with their Creator and God.

When we present the Gospel, it is important to not present Christianity as just another of the world's many religions. Christianity was never intended to be about a religion but a personal relationship with God. Many times those who are bound by religion or legalism (strict rules and regulations of men) can very easily turn others away from Jesus through ministering condemnation instead of God's free grace. We need to minister grace to others because God is a God of grace. We need to minister forgiveness and not judgment because God alone is judge. We need to minister freedom and not bondage because Jesus came to set all men and women free.

Prepare The Way Of The Lord

The Church also has the responsibility to proclaim to the world that Jesus is returning to the earth once again to rule and reign over all the kingdoms of the earth. The Church's work is to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. We are to lead the nations to Christ and bring as many as possible under His Lordship now, under the age of grace before He returns. (*Revelation 11:15*) Before Jesus comes in bodily form and literally sets down Kingdom rule over the whole earth, He is first setting up His Kingdom now *in the hearts of men*. The Kingdom now dwells within those who have received the King (God's Son). Each of us has our part to do in this great commission, as we will learn.

When Jesus came the first time, He came to die for the sins of the whole world so that mankind could receive salvation and become sons of God through adoption. He came that we would not only have eternal life, but that we would enter into and inherit all of the Kingdoms blessings and benefits with Him. (*Romans 8:14-17, 32*) Jesus came preaching the revelation of the Kingdom so that people might believe and receive. After Jesus died, the New Testament was ratified and we became the recipients of God's divine will! From the time of the inception of the Church in the first century until the end of the age and the second coming of Jesus, the Church's job is win souls to Christ that they too may be saved, become sons of God and then receive their inheritance among the saints. (*Acts 26:17-18*)

Jesus Our Lord

When we receive Christ as Savior for the propitiation of our sins, we are also receiving Him as Lord also. Now that we are in Christ and He in us, our lives are no longer our own to do with as we wish. (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*) We should all seek the Lord as to what He would have us to do pertaining to the Great Commission of spreading the Gospel within our sphere of influence in the world and then go wherever He sends us. We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ one day. Will we be able to say that we have done His will in our lives? We want to faithfully serve the Lord now and obey what He has told us to do so that we may eventually hear those beautiful words, "Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord." (*Matthew 25:21*)

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