

The Great Commission

“Terrorist Cell Groups Found In Churches”

They have been identified as: Bin Sleepin, Bin Arguin, Bin Fightin, Bin Complainin, and Bin Missin. Their leader, Lucifer Bin Workin, trained these groups to destroy the Body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians and to work within the church to discourage, disrupt, and destroy.

However, there have been reports of a sixth group. A tiny cell known by the name Bin Prayin is actually the only effective counter terrorism force in the church. Unlike other terrorist cells, the Bin Prayin team does not blend in with whoever and whatever comes along. Bin Prayin does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the Body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Prayin cell group has different characteristics than the others. They have Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Fastin, and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

NO CHURCH IS EXEMPT! However, you can spot them if you bin lookin and bin goin.

If you are part of the Bin Goin' group you would know that the Wednesday night Bible Study has been focused on a study of the Great Commission for some weeks now. We are currently working on a Summary Statement of the Great Commission. I want to bring us all up to date on this because I get a sense that this is the foundational call of every Christian.

The two pillars of the family of God are the Great Commandments and the Great Commission.

At the risk of being called too simple or too basic I believe I am being impressed by the Holy Spirit that unless we have a true deep confident understanding of these two pillars we are going to be wasting a great deal of time and energy generating fruitless activity as we form our foundation as a church.

I believe this church will last beyond our planting efforts. One day we will have a space of our own, perhaps even a building, and when we do that will allow for more productive use of space and other broader use to do more ministry for our community. Now we are to dig down deep,

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As Jesus put it in the Luke 6:47-48, ⁴⁷ Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

We have come to Jesus as our savior. We qualify there. As we listen to Him speak to us individually and corporately by reading His words and seeking Him in prayer we will hear from Him by His Spirit. We qualify there. So we've come, we have heard now we must do so that we will be like the man who dug down deep! Then, we will be founded on the rock; the rock of the Great Commandments (to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbor as our selves, this is a life long pursuit) and the rock of the Great Commission; two solid pillars planted deep in God's will and our souls.

The digging we are doing now is to realize all that is in the Great Commission so that we might dig down deep and firmly plant our pillar on the ROCK of it; the strength of this great call that we have been given as part of a movement of God that is called Christ's church.

The Great Commission is mentioned in all the gospels and the book of Acts. Let's read them: Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16: 15-18, Luke 24:46-49, John 20:21-23 and Acts 1:7-8.

Matthew records the most famous passage; perhaps because it is in the first gospel and thus the first in remembrance but my premise for this morning and regarding the Great Commission in general is that each one is incomplete without the other parts considered along with them.

For example; the opening that Jesus gives is foundational to the whole idea of a commission, without authority to give the commission a commission has no value. Jesus establishes, first with His life and here with an all encompassing statement of total authority that is coming from a man who was raised from the dead by this authority and had been walking around and through doors proving His immortality for the last 40 days, so He had well established authority and He states it comprehensively and succinctly. Without such authority the commission is powerless.

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With this high level of authority this is the most powerful, authoritative commission of all time.

As foundational as this statement is, you will only find it in Matthew. Keep in mind Matthew had a commission under Roman authority to be a tax collector, so he knew the importance of having authority to carry out a mission. From this bold opening statement Jesus then lays out several areas of assignment under this authority.

He sends people out with a word “Go!” and gives them (us included) a command the “make disciples” He expects us to walk in that authority and be used by Him to transform other people from their way to His way. We are to “make” disciples. We are to take an ordinary person that didn’t know Jesus and after they come to know Him we, the disciples that are disciple makers, make them into disciples of Christ. There are lots of ways to do this but He gives us a command by nature of His authority to go and do it! Just do it! And as far as authority goes no one, no government, no nation has more authority than His so we are to go to ALL NATIONS! ALL! DO you get the impression that if you are sent by Him no one can stop you!? All.

He even gave instructions on Baptism (in the name of The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, from who all authority originates) and teaching all under that supreme authority. His concluding statement is also exclusively in Matthew. When He says, “...I am with you always...” it’s like the President who commissions an officer saying, “I’ve got your back! If you run into trouble call me any time 24 / 7 and I’ll back you up.” Actually, it’s even better than that! Jesus Christ is actually with us through His Omnipresence when we are doing His work all the way to our end or His return! There’s baptism mentioned else where and teaching but Matthew sets the stage.

Mark is a different man and has a different slant on it. This man traveled with Peter, Barnabas and Paul in the early days of the spreading of the gospel. He was most likely involved in evangelism seeing many saved and feeling sorrowful for the ones that turned and walked away. He is the man that left the mission field that upset Paul so much that it caused a temporary riff between Paul and Barnabas. So when Mark writes, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel,” he had already done it. He new the “good news” of the gospel by first hand experience.

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Mark was a veteran of the mission field that had helped with baptism and seen many signs and wonders. He seems to be more empathetic with the people. He mentions the tragedy of unbelief leading to condemnation and the experience of speaking in tongues as well as the compassionate of healing the sick and their recovering. He even noted that we are to have supernatural power over demons, protection from serpents and poisonous drinks.

The inclusion of these miraculous gifts emphasizes the awesome power of God at work in peoples lives on the mission field. God's power has not gone away or been used up; it was active then and is active now and just as much a part of the Great Commission as the authoritative details of Matthew, the tax collector. The Holy Spirit reminds us through Mark that we need to bear in mind God will do miracles through us and we should expect them.

Matthew

Commissioned under authority
Called for action, "GO!"
Makes Disciples of ALL Nations
Baptize in Father, Son & Holy Spirit.
Jesus He's always there

Mark

Preached Good News
Baptized true believers
Expect Miracles
You will be protected
heal the sick

Luke, on the other hand, was a Doctor. He wrote down his practical observations to give an historical orderly proof of Jesus' ministry. He gives the great commission as an extension of Old Testament prophecy to give it context and promote the importance of this call as a world history changing event. His focus was on repentance and the remission of sins; plain and simple forgiveness something Doctors today say would cure many of the ailments, an indispensable part of the Great Commission. This is what you would expect a Doctor to take notice of. Luke is the first to mention the Holy Spirit as "The Promise" of the faith.

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The concept that we need to wait for the Promise of power to be fulfilled before entering into ministry comes from Luke. This gospel is the first of two books attributed to Luke, the second being Acts where the power was delivered.

Many people don't stop and think about the power from on high being part of the Great Commission but there it is! Just as important as the authority and the signs and wonders are, the power to make it all happen so that God gets the glory is essential to its meaningful fulfillment.

John brings God's peace into the middle of it all because he brings out the statement Jesus made that put's it all in perspective. "As the Father has sent Me, I send you." Wow! We are to Jesus what He is to God; His sent ones: with total authority, God's miraculous power, and the gift of forgiveness! John puts it short and sweet and gives us great responsibility with this commission; the power to forgive sins.

Acts gives us the promise of power and the plan. Not only do we get to have peace but we can walk in that peace daily due to the fact that the timing is not up to us, but God's alone. He gives us the power to do His plan which is to be a witness of His work in our lives with His power to the people starting at home and going out to the world near and far.

It's all The Great Commission and it's all for us today. So we just have to trust and obey cause there's no other way to be happy in Jesus.

When we sing the song "From Jerusalem" we are singing about the great commission. Let us conclude with that song. From Jerusalem

Chorus 1

Send us out we will go
Send Your power let it flow
Oh Lord take us to the world
Ev'ry tribe ev'ry tongue
It's Your will that all may come
Lord take us to the world

Verse

From Jerusalem to the nations we will go
From Jerusalem Lord let Your healing flow
From Jerusalem just like in days of old
To the world we will go