

God's Great Compassion → Our Great Commission

Mt. 28:18-20

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 10th

Notice the critical dimensions of this commission:

1. The Power of Jesus. Mt. 28:18 *"all power is given unto me in heaven and in Earth"*

A. Only God can change a heart and destiny. (Pr. 23:26, Col 1:13-14)

2. The Participation of his People. Mt. 28:19 *"Go ye therefore and teach all nations".*

A. WHO? *"Go ye therefore!"*

Lk 24:46-48 *"it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations... And ye are witnesses of these things"*

B. WHAT: Mt. 28:19 *"Teach all nations"* Mk 16:15 *"preach the gospel"*

1 Cor. 15:1,3,4 *"I declared unto you the gospel... how that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again".*

1) Introduce them to Jesus! Lk 19:10 *"the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

C. WHERE? *"Teach all nations".* Mt. 28:19 Mk 16:15 *"go into all the world and preach the gospel"*

Acts 1:8 *"ye shall be witnesses... in Jerusalem... all Judaea, ... Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

D. WHY?

1) Because Jesus is their only hope. (Jn. 3:3; 14:6; Acts 4:12)

2) Because God wants everyone to be saved! (2 Peter 3:9)

3) Because it's our Job! 2 Cor. 5:19-20 *"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, ... and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ..."*

4) Because Jesus is waiting for us! Mt 24:14 *"this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."*

E. WHEN? 2 Cor. 6:1-2 *"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*

(See also Pr. 24:10-12 and Pr. 27:1)

Application: How can we best "participate"?

1) Pray: Ask God to give you opportunities to share your faith! (Eph. 6:10, 18-20)

2) Prepare: 1 Peter 3:15 *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"*

3) Practice: Share your story! Ps 107:2 *"Let the redeemed of the LORD say so"*

God can use your mistakes, but He cannot use our silence!

4) Partner with others (2 Cor. 8:1-10) (Through our faith promise commitment)

1792 William Carey: "Expect Great things from God! Attempt Great things for God!" He responded to Pastor Fuller's challenge to drop into the "pit" of India for Christ by saying:

"I'll go down into this pit, but remember, you must hold the rope."

While few in his small church could go, all could give something to enable him to go.

- Do you suppose those who sacrificed to support him 200 years ago are regretting than now?
- Are you willing to "hold the rope" for those who are going now?

Faith Promise Overview

“Just as Christians partner with missionaries in prayer, they also share in the fruit of their labors through sacrificial, financial giving. While money alone can’t convert a single soul, missionaries are sent and sustained only by the consistent, sacrificial, financial commitment of God’s people.

As a Bible-based program, Faith promise elevates the church’s mission program to the place of prominence the Great Commission deserves. It also fosters a more direct and personal connection between church members and missions, resulting in a more mission-minded church. The program is built upon solid biblical principles. Practicing faith in finances is as necessary as practicing faith in all other areas of life. No great work for God can be accomplished without faith, and 2 Corinthians 10:15-16 states the case for faith promise mission giving, *“When your faith is increased...we shall be enlarged by you...to preach the gospel in the regions beyond.”*

There are at least eight biblical principles in 2 Corinthians chapters eight and nine which define faith promise mission giving. The prerequisite is that we first give ourselves to the Lord (8:5). The attitude of our giving must be cheerful (9:7). Our willingness to give demonstrates our desire to further the work of God (8:3, 8, 12; 9:7). Our giving demonstrates our debt of gratitude for all that Christ has done for us (8:8-9, 24). ***These two chapters connect grace with giving eight times***, placing emphasis upon both the gift and the giver. God promises the power to abound in giving just as He promises the power to abound in other Christian graces. Faith giving allows believers to give “beyond their power” to the cause of world missions (8:2-3, 7). We are to give out of our need rather than out of our excess. This is how God’s Word defines sacrificial giving (8:2). No one is exempt from participation in faith promise giving. God’s plan is all-inclusive (8:7). Paul commends the impoverished Macedonian believers for exemplifying these eight principles of giving, demonstrating that financing missions does not depend so much on deep pocketbooks, but on willing hearts.

As its name suggests, faith promise mission giving is based on a faith commitment. In addition to regular tithes and offerings, each church member is challenged during the annual missions conference to exercise faith in making a one-year, weekly or monthly commitment to the church’s missions program. The church increases its missionary commitments for the next year based on these anonymous commitments. This is not a pledge to the church, but a commitment to Christ and world missions.

The challenge of faith promise is not, “How much can I trust God to give me for a faith promise commitment each week?” Rather, the question is, “How much can I give to faith promise each week and still trust God to meet my own needs?” The first question does not really involve faith, except on the missionary’s part. The latter question exercises real faith because I accept my commitment as a firm obligation and determine to trust God to help me live within His provision. Churches also exercise faith that members will not use their tithes and offerings to pay their faith promise commitment. God’s people should be given time to pray and consider their commitment. A mission conference during this period should biblically present faith promise and demonstrate how the funds will be used to send the Gospel around the world. The sacrifices of the missionaries serve as examples of selfless commitment to the Great Commission. The support of missionaries for the coming year may hinge on its result.”

This article was written by Kevin Brosnan, Baptist World Mission Field Administrator