

COMMISSIONED BY GOD

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ie. Sent by God - Matt 28:16 ff, Mk 16:15, Lk 24:45 ff, John 20:21-22

From all these passages, we learn that Jesus commissioned his disciples - he sent them to go and make disciples. But he warned them not to move away from Jerusalem until they are clothed with power from above. We are a sent church - Jesus said, I will be with you always. He has done to us what his Father did to him.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world —Jesus' mission was to save people - It was to call man back to Eden where God rules - He came to call man back to God's hand. Remember my brothers and sisters that man and God had an intimate relationship, until sin separated them.

But Jesus, before he started his mission, of saving man, He was filled with power from above (Lk. 3:21). And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. and a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Jesus was to carry his mission with God's approval.

After this incidence, we learn that he was lead by the Spirit to the wilderness where he underwent temptations- He was tested by the devil. Satan acknowledged Jesus is power, but Jesus did not respond positively to what Satan was saying. The reason was that, though he was human, but the Holy Spirit had uplifted him, from natural to supernatural. He therefore was completely under God's will. He was fully controlled by the Holy Spirit. He could not listen or take no instruction from any body else, other than God his Father. The Holy Spirit empowered him for his mission for saving man, which cuts through the wilderness as well as through the cross.

This is why he asked his disciples not to move away from the city, but wait until they are filled with the Holy Spirit Holy Spirit means God Father and God son, indwelling man. (John 14:20). We learn earlier on that Jesus, said" I will be with you always. All this shows us that the work of saving man entrusted to Jesus, was to continue. We are therefore, his channel. **We have been commissioned by the Lord Jesus to continue his ministry of saving man.** We as ministers in the church of God, are to take the charge from Jesus Christ, **to go out in his name and under his authority to heal the sick society-** This was his work, his mission, but now he want to share it with his followers.

Jesus Christ wants us to be partakers of his nature, his nature is holy his nature is whole. We are sent to go and make disciples. Remember brothers and sisters that a **disciple is the one who bears Jesus Christ's character.** We as ministers are carriers of Christ's life. We are sent to go out to invest or ,to deposit Jesus Christ's life to people's lives. Christ who is the centre of everything must be formed in peoples live's. (Gal.4:19). This is our assignment - Christ must be formed in people lives. As Ministers the anointed, are to bear the character that resembles Christ. Follow our example, as we follow Christ, (2Thes3:). We are to put Christ in people's lives. We are to present everyone perfect in Christ. We are meant to call all man back to God. This is God's purpose. We are to follow Christ's foot steps. We are to have a character that is worth following. If you have the life of Christ you are the light of the world. People will follow the light in you and not you. We are to be vessels that carry Christ to the people of God.

I must be the address of Jesus so that whoever follows me, sees Jesus or meets Jesus without getting lost. Landeleka. We need to be made, so that we go and make. (Mat. 4:19). God is holy in all that He does and his plan for us and for all his people, is that we should be holy in every department of our lives. The only way in which this can be realised /be fulfilled, is for us to let the Holy Spirit indwells us and controls us fully, in everything and so to teach us how to receive that wholeness of life which God wants us to have and which he has made possible. Without the Holy Spirit, we can not move. We can not cut across the wilderness. We can not stand the testing times. We can not drink the cup that Jesus Christ drinks, instead we will change the stones into bread. The Holy Spirit enables us to stand for the truth and by the word of God.

The carrying of Jesus Christ's life is costly and it involves self- denial. Carrying Jesus Christ's life and forming Jesus Christ life in peoples lives, goes with pain. Hear what St Paul says" Not only so but we also reduce in suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character, hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Rom.5:3-3).

We see Jesus and - what God did to Him, to make Him what He is today. We see the way He went and the path He trod to become the author of our salvation. What did we see in Jesus? He was deliberately made lower than angels for a little while. This must be so hard for him, who created all things, including the angels. He was made lower than the works of His own hands, Why? It is that He may by the grace of God taste death for everyone, He would later bring out of death with life, out darkness with light. The suffering, the death was a necessary price for Him to bring forth much fruit and many sons unto glory. And because of the death He suffered, we see Him now crowned with glory and honour".

This was as a result of what He had gone through. It was because of His having suffered death. It runs across the scriptures, Phil2:8-9 confirms this same matter in another way. God gave him the name above every name, also in Heb.2:10 we find that He achieved salvation through suffering. We see then that when God calls and to make you a leader, that is fit to lead others to the Kingdom of God- back to Eden, it is proper for Him to subject life to death and suffering so that you might be a **perfect** and correct leader fit to lead others to heaven. (Perfect means maturity in this context. We grow to maturity through suffering. The school of suffering is the school of leadership.

We are carriers of Jesus Christ's life and we cannot by pass suffering. We are the extension **of his saving life. Do not move away from the city, until you are clothed with power from above-** you do not go naked -and you can not stand the testing times, the sufferings without being empowered and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the mark that we belong to Jesus (Romans 8:9 mark of ownership). Finally my brothers and sisters, let us remember that every man who would bear any measure of authority over others, will only be a delegate. For a person to stand in a place to exercise spiritual authority over others, it will only be dedicated to him by God. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."(John 17:18). The essential pre- requisite qualification for a man to be appointed a representative delegate of God is this proven submission and **absolute obedience.**

"Chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and for the sprinkling with His blood (1Pet.1:2)RSV).

Though Jesus was the Son of God, He took upon Himself the form of a man, and appeared in human nature, it became necessary for Him to learn obedience, to prove **obedience** and to perfect it. **Obedience** for Jesus meant submission to God's authority and all delegated authority in everything. It meant waiting to be told where to go and what to say. It meant He would never speak his own word.

He acted only upon instructions, as He could of His own, do nothing. Do not move away from the city-until you are clothed with power from above- **unless we receive enduement from on high**, we can not fulfil the mission entrusted to us:

That is of the formation of Jesus Christ's life in people lives, of depositing Christ in people's lives. For you cannot deposit what you do not have. Without Holy Spirit you are naked- for the Holy Spirit is the source of your information. Go and make disciples." This means that you deposit Christ's life in a person. The church is God's dispensary, and we as ministers are like a mobile clinic. We are sent to go out and dispense Jesus Christ's life - We are carriers of Jesus Christ's D.N.A. If there is anyone who wants Jesus, must come to us with and pin code - And get Christ - Christ in you, the hope of glory. In our carrying Christ's mission of saving man we must expect heavy loads. Heavy blows that knock us down, but we are not knocked out. Jesus himself was knocked down but he rose up and became a champion eternally- for world without end.