

Saved to Share

Most Christians struggle with sharing their faith. It seems hard enough to follow Christ without trying to get others to follow Him.

“People don’t want to hear what I have to say”, or “they already know”, might be our excuse.

“People won’t like me if I get all religious on them,” or “they might not like me if I point out what God says” are some other excuses.

“For Heaven’s Sake, Billy Graham already did a great job getting the message out there, not to mention all that’s available for seekers on TV and the web.”

“Why on earth should I say anything? I would just mess it up.”

*I mean, really, that’s why we pay this guy the big bucks to get up there and ramble on and on every week.” “Look, I just don’t think **God has ever made it clear to me** that He wanted me to be His spokesman. If He wants me to be more vocal about my faith, He’ll just have to give me a sign.”*

So, there was this guy who prayed this prayer every morning: "Lord, if you want me to witness to someone today, please give me a sign to show me who it is."

One day he was on a bus heading to work, when a really big guy sat down next to him. The bus was nearly empty and he could have sat anywhere, but no, he sits right down next to this guy blocking his way out.

The Christian guy, somewhat dumbfounded at this guy’s choice of seats, sat there anxiously waiting for the bus to arrive at his stop. But before it got there, the big guys just burst into tears and began to weep, repeatedly saying, Lord, I need help, I need help, I need help. help me Lord, show me the way, show me what I need to do.”

He turned to the Christian man and asked, "I need help, I have been praying that God would show me what I need to do, do you have any advice, I could use some direction in my life.” The believer immediately bowed his head and prayed, "Lord, is this the sign; do you want me to start sharing my faith with this guy?"

Look: Jesus prayed this in John 17:18-20 NLT,

*“Just as you sent me into the world, **I am sending them** into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can **be made holy** by your truth. “I am praying not only for these disciples but also **for all who will ever believe in me through their message.**”*

This was spoken just before His death. But this had always been His plan. Those who receive His message are entrusted to share that message.

It had been that way from the onset of His ministry. It wasn't an after-thought.

Mark 3:7-12 NLT, *“Jesus went out to the lake with his disciples, and a large crowd followed him. They came from all over Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, from east of the Jordan River, and even from as far north as Tyre and Sidon. The news about his miracles had spread far and wide, and vast numbers of people came to see him. **Jesus instructed his disciples** to have a boat ready so the crowd would not crush him. He had healed many people that day, so all the sick people eagerly pushed forward to touch him. And whenever those possessed by evil spirits caught sight of him, the spirits would throw them to the ground in front of him shrieking, “You are the Son of God!” But Jesus sternly commanded the spirits not to reveal who he was.”*

Last thing He wanted was to have demons as emissaries. Imagine how that would go over with the religious crowd. Shut up demon!

Mark 3:14-15 NLT, *“Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, giving them authority to cast out demons.”*

The popularity of Jesus had grown to such an extent that He couldn't keep up with the need. So, He appointed 12 others to help. But the crowds grew so big and the need was so great, that they weren't enough to handle the work.

So, according to Luke's account, the plan shifts. Jesus says, instead of people coming to us, we'll go to them, and I'll appoint more workers help in this task.

Luke 10:1 NLT, *“The Lord now chose **seventy-two other disciples** and sent them ahead in pairs **to all the towns and places** he planned to visit.”*

Now, who are these mysterious disciples? Anyone? Surely someone knows who they are? Any of their names recorded?

Nope! But these people were sent by Jesus Himself!!

They had heard the message of the good news, received it, and now were appointed to share it with others.

We don't even know their names. All we know is that **72 of them were appointed, paired up and sent out to every place to make the people ready for Jesus**. It is likely, that they came from the very group of people that were coming to Jesus in the passages we just read.

This tells us something vitally important: **The Mission is for Everyone.**

You don't have to be one of the 12, or even one of the inner 3 – if Jesus has transformed you **then He has also sent you. You were saved to share!**

And with that clearly understood, what was their mission once they reached the cities and places they were sent to?

Luke 10:2 NLT, *“These were his instructions to them: “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So, pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send **more workers** into his fields.*

Look, I can't do it alone, Jesus said. I appointed 12, then I appointed 72, and still, that isn't enough. **PRAY FOR MORE PEOPLE THAN THAT TO HELP!**

So, what is your part in this grand Mission of Jesus?

Let's go back to the prayer of Jesus just before He left planet Earth.

John 17:18-20 NLT,

*“Just as you sent me into the world, **I am sending them** into the world. And **I give myself as a holy sacrifice** for them so they can be **made holy** by your truth. “**I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.**”*

Jesus sacrificed His Life to save you from your sins and to transform your life and fill you with what is true in a world that has continue to lie to you.

You heard the message of salvation through the cross of Jesus. He saved you and now He sends you with that message to others. And He covers all of that with prayer. **So, it is only right that He asks us to do the same...**

So, what is your part in this grand Mission of Jesus?

If you are saved, you don't get a pass because someone else is doing it.

GET INVOLVED – YOU DON'T GET A PASS.

You have been appointed, called, and sent. And here are your instructions if you accept the mission Jesus has appointed for you.

Luke 10:2 NLT, *“These were his instructions to them: “The **harvest is great, but the workers are few.** So **pray** to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; **ask him to send more workers** into his fields.”*

There's no end to the needs around us, so here are some **work instructions**.

Instruction #1: Pray For More Hands!

Jesus saves us to send us and calls us to pray for even more workers because the work is so great.

Once you have accepted your calling - PRAYER is vital.

God is the one in charge of the harvest. The harvest of what? People. What does it take for people to be ready for harvest?

They are planted in good soil (right place in life), watered (thirst), tended to (weeds removed), and at the right time, He receives their hearts and souls.

Luke 10:2 NLT, *“These were his instructions to them: “The **harvest is great, but the workers are few.** So, **pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest;** ask him to send more workers into his fields.”*

So pray for people, Jesus prayed for His disciples and all those who would believe through their message. He said this 2000 years before today, So He was doing that for me and you long before we came to know Him.

Do the same for others. God is in charge. Pray for His moving upon the hearts of people, that His Holy Spirit would prepare their hearts, that He would give you the right words, and that you would be in the right place at the right time preparing the way for Jesus' entry into their lives.

PRAY! That is Jesus' first instruction.

Instruction #2: NOW GO!

Luke 10:2-3 (NLT), *“These were his instructions to them: “The **harvest is great, but the workers are few.** So **pray to the Lord who is in charge of the***

*harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. **Now go**, and remember that **I am sending you out as lambs among wolves.**"*

Prayer is where it starts but it doesn't give you a pass from being sent.

PRAY AND GO – NOT – PRAY OR GO!

GET INVOLVED – YOU DON'T GET A PASS. You think we have enough people helping out around here to get the mission done? NOPE.

Tell them the needs:

PRAYER team. (prayer groups, prayer chain, and more – Sunday's now too).
Monday Night outreach and events,
Hospitality & Greeting Team! Café,
Security, Buildings and grounds team, administration, A/V,
MOST IMPORTANTLY THE CHILDREN'S CHURCH.

Listen, the harvest is here folks. Just like it was there when Jesus sent those He appointed. The Lord is already at work on these kid's little hearts.

83% 4-14,

14% 15-21,

3% 21- up

KIDS!!! WE ARE LOSING OUR KIDS FOLKS! YOU CAN HELP STOP THAT.

Luke 10:2-3 (NLT), *"I am sending you out as lambs among wolves."*

The world is devouring them – you can stop it here and now. Make loving these kids to Jesus fun for them and a priority in your life.

4-5th grade. Team up – Pairs! Husband and wife teams. Serve 1/Attend 1.

Instruction #3: HARVEST!

The work is being done by God but we are sent to Harvest the fields. God is in charge! And that sets us free from control, power, pressure, and expectations of grand success.

It is God's field, God's harvest, and God's responsibility. He's the Lord, we're His Kingdom subjects and so we are His to direct, His to send.

He gives us the tools we need, and then sends us into the fields to do what He tells us -. If we fail to obey His call, lots of bad stuff happens:

Grain and other types of crops rot, others dry out and eventually fall to the ground and die. The window of opportunity is small. You have to harvest the crops when they're ready, not when you're ready! Every farmer knows that.

So when will it be time for harvest? Jesus was pretty clear...

In **John 4:34-38 NLT**, *"Then Jesus explained: "My **nourishment** comes from **doing the will of God**, who **sent me**, and from **finishing his work**. You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. **The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages**, and the **fruit** they harvest is **people brought to eternal life**. What **joy awaits** both the **planter** and the **harvester** alike! You know the saying, 'One plants and another harvests.' And it's true. **I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.**"*

Listen, when will the ministries I mentioned earlier be ready for harvest? They are ready now! God and others have already been working and they need you to answer the CALL of Jesus on your life. You were saved to serve.

GET INVOLVED – YOU DON'T GET A PASS. – CHECK THE BOX

If you and I don't obey this call on our lives, we lose out on the rewards He offers, of being **nourished and finding joy**. **When we serve Him we find ourselves singing joyful songs** of bounty and blessing as we work hard together. On the sidelines we become **sluggish and irritable and focused on all the wrong things**.

By the way, *who do you think is really praying this prayer for "more workers?"*

- The **people sitting on the edge of the field doing nothing**
- Or the **people in the middle of it, working hard but seeing how desperately needed are more hands, more strong backs, more voices of encouragement, more basket carriers** – WHY?

Because they're **seeing good ripe grain rotting and dying for lack of helpers?**

Don't miss out on the joy, nourishment and fulfillment meant for you.

Luke 10:17 NLT, *"When the seventy-two disciples returned, they **joyfully reported to him**, "Lord, **even the demons obey us when we use your name!**"*

They were joyful over their success. The joy was natural but it was misplaced. It isn't about us and what we accomplish. Jesus corrects this wrong focus on their spiritual power in ministry. He says...

Luke 10:20-22 NLT, *“But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your **names are registered in heaven.**”* At that same time **Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit**, and he said, “O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves **wise and clever**, and for revealing them to the childlike. **Yes, Father**, it pleased you **to do it this way**. My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly **knows the Son** except the Father, and no one truly **knows the Father** except the Son **and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.**”

The work of the Spirit, The Work of Jesus, in the hearts of the childlike – faith.

THIS IS A GUILT TRIP but it is one JESUS gave to His disciples.

It's your calling. It isn't just for the elite or the professional. It is not an exclusive club or private fraternity. The “Bold and the Beautiful” are welcome, but the “Humble and the Homely” will be in charge.

Jockeying for power or position is counterproductive and unacceptable. Feeling not as important or not as useful is a lie of the enemy – Jesus called you so you are good enough for Him.

Jesus gave His all for you and He asks you to give your all for Him.

Hey, if you're a parent, you understand that the joy of serving your kids requires lots of love and hard work and you accept the fact that you will have your heart broken and your work unappreciated at times. **IT COMES WITH THE TERRITORY – So does being a SERVANT of the MOST HIGH GOD!**

In the end though, the gains outweigh the losses. **NAMES REGISTERED IN HEAVEN - Nourishment, fulfillment, joy!** A life well lived and a company of people to meet you in the next life. **The Mission is for Everyone.**

What is your part in this grand mission of Jesus? There are plenty of ministries that need your help. Discover Class - kids background check.

Pull out a card, Check a box, Don't know where to start... Sign up for Discover Class. **You were Saved to Share the Life changing Message of Jesus.**

PRAYER OF INVITATION