



**Amazing Facts
Evangelism Training
Seminar**

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The Divine Commission

Fulfilling The Mission

Though given many years ago, our mission remains the same.

*“Go therefore, and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19, 20*

*Notice the order Jesus gives in Matthew 28...

- 1) Go
- 2) Make Disciples
- 3) Baptize Them
- 4) Teach to Observe All Things
- 5) And then, teach them to “Go”!

Unless we clearly understand our marching orders, we can never fulfill our mission. What is God’s calling for my life? What role do I have in evangelism? How can we hasten the coming of Christ? The following eight points will clearly answer these questions while thrilling our hearts at the beautiful calling our Heavenly Father has for our lives today!

1. To whom was the Divine Commission given?

*“The commission **given to the disciples is given also to us**. Today, as then, a crucified and risen Savior is to be uplifted before those who are without God and without hope in the world.”*

Gospel Workers, p. 29

2. Why was this work given to human beings?

“As His representatives among men, Christ does not choose angels who have never fallen, but human beings, men of like passions with those they seek to save. Christ took upon Himself humanity, that He might reach humanity. Divinity needed humanity; for it required both the divine and the human to bring salvation to the world. Divinity needed humanity, that humanity might afford a channel of communication between God and man.” Desire of Ages, p. 296

*“With almost impatient eagerness the angels wait for our co-operation; for man must be the channel to communicate with man. And **when we give ourselves to Christ in whole-hearted devotion, angels rejoice***

that they may speak through our voices to reveal God's love.
Desire of Ages, p. 297

"We must be laborers together with God; for God will not complete His work without human agencies." Review and Herald, March 1, 1887

*"God could have reached His object in saving sinners without our aid; but **in order for us to develop a character like Christ's, we must share in His work.** In order to enter into His joy, —the joy of seeing souls redeemed by His sacrifice —we must participate in His labors for their redemption"* *Desire of Ages, p. 142*

The prayer of Christ's life was that we would be one with the Father as He is. (John 16 & 17) When we love our fellow man as Christ does, His prayer for us is fulfilled.

3. What methods are to be followed?

The Lord's methods are to be followed!

*"In every city that is entered, a solid foundation is to be laid for permanent work. **The Lord's methods are to be followed.** By doing house —to-house work, by giving Bible readings in families, the worker may gain access to many who are seeking for truth. By opening the Scriptures, by prayer and exercising faith, he is to teach the people the way of the Lord."* *Testimonies 7, p. 38*

Notice Christ's methods for the work:

1. House to house work (Most of Jesus' work was one on one)
2. Giving Bible readings (studies)
3. Opening the scriptures
4. Praying for them
5. Faith in what God can do
6. Teaching the people the *way of the LORD ... not our own way!* God has His methods of soul-winning that work! We are not to do things our own way! Remember, Christ's method alone will bring true success.

Note: Door to door work is the greatest work that we can do ... greater even than preaching.

How can we experience true success in our outreach efforts? By following Christ's method alone.

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and

won their confidence. *Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'*" Ministry of Healing, p.143

Notice Christ's method for reaching individual hearts:

1. Mingled with men
2. Desired their good
3. Showed sympathy for their problems & situations
4. Ministered to their needs
5. Thus winning their confidence
6. THEN, He called them to follow Him.

Note: There is much more to soul winning than merely giving doctrinal Bible studies. SOUL-WINNING IS A SCIENCE TO BE MASTERED. It is about relationships, friendships, meeting needs, and winning confidence to be able to point them to Christ so that He can save them. This work can only be accomplished through prayer, surrender, and a complete reliance upon Christ.

Winning their Hearts

"Jesus ...reached the hearts of people by going among them as one who desired their good. He sought them....in order to reach all classes, we must meet them where they are. They will seldom seek us of their own accord." *Desire of Ages*, p. 151-152

Waiting for lost souls to walk through the church doors will never fulfill the Divine Commission. We must seek them out in their homes, work places, and wherever else we may come in daily contact with people. They need us to go to them.

Love one another

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" 1 John 4:7, 8

***Note:* True love for the individual is willing to suffer personal loss in order to give that person the opportunity to have eternal life.**

4. A Call to the Individual

"A distinct work is assigned to every Christian." *Southern Watchman* Aug. 2 1904

"God requires **every one** to be a worker in His vineyard. You are to take up the work that has been placed in your charge, and to do it faithfully." Bible Echo, June 10, 1901

"**Every true disciple** is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life". Desire of Ages, p. 195

"**Every soul** whom Christ has rescued is called to work in His name for the saving of the lost. This work had been neglected in Israel. Is it not neglected today by those who profess to be Christ's followers?" Christ's Object Lessons, p. 191

"**He who becomes a child of God** should henceforth look upon himself as a link in the chain let down to save the world, one with Christ in His plan of mercy, going forth with Him to seek and save the lost." Ministry of Healing, p. 105

"Not upon the ordained minister only rests the responsibility of going forth to fulfill this commission. **Every one who has received Christ is called to work for the salvation of his fellow men.**" Acts of the Apostles, p. 110

5. A Call to the Church

"Some one must fulfill the commission of Christ; some one must carry on the work with He began to do on earth; and the church has been given this privilege. For this purpose it has been organized. Why, then, have not church members accepted the responsibility?" Testimonies Vol. 6 p. 295

"The Lord holds the church responsible for the souls of those whom they might be the means of saving." Historical Sketches, p. 291

"God's Church is the court of holy life, filled with varied gift, and endowed with the Holy Spirit. The members are to find their happiness in the happiness of those whom they help and bless. Wonderful is the work which the Lord assigns to accomplish through His Church, that His name may be glorified." Acts of the Apostles, p. 12-13

"Go to work, brethren. It is not alone the large camp meetings or conventions and councils that will have the especial favor of God; the humblest effort of unselfish love will be crowned with His blessing, and receive its great reward. Do what you can, and God will increase your ability. Let no church think it is too small to exert an influence and do service in the great work for this time." Review and Herald March 13, 1888

"The Church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has call out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory" Acts of the Apostles, p. 9

6. How are we to accomplish this great mission?

With tears!

"Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seeds for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126:5, 6

Note: As we go forth with complete reliance on Christ, crying out to God for the salvation of our friends, He promises that our labor will not be in vain. A bountiful harvest will one day be seen!

"How can the great work of the third angel's message be accomplished? It must be largely accomplished by persevering, individual effort, by visiting the people in their homes." Welfare Ministry, p. 97

"This house-to-house labor, searching for souls, hunting for the lost sheep, is the most essential work that can be done."
Evangelism, p. 431

"It is not preaching that is the most important; it is house-to-house work." Gospel Workers, p. 468

"For years I have been shown that house-to-house labor is the work that will make the preaching of the Word a success."
Evangelism, p. 433

"Wherever a church is established, all the members should engage actively in missionary work. They should visit every family in the neighborhood, and know their spiritual condition." Christian Service, p. 12

7. Every Member is to be Active

"There is not one inactive in heaven, and no one will enter the mansions of bliss who has failed to show love for Christ, who has put forth no efforts for the salvation of others." *Testimonies to Ministers, p. 20*

"The living church of God will be waiting, watching, and working. None are to stand in a neutral position. All are to represent Christ in

active, earnest effort to save perishing souls." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 163

8. Every Member is to be Trained

"Every member of the church should be instructed in a regular system of labor. All are required to do something for the Lord. They may interest persons to read; they may converse and pray with them. The minister who shall educate, discipline, and lead an army of efficient workers will have glorious conquests here, and a rich reward awaits him when, around the great white throne, he shall meet those saved through his influence." *Testimonies*, Vol. 5 p. 308

Note: Notice here that Sister White says that every member should be instructed in a regular system of labor. Teaching Sabbath school and preparing potluck are important, but they do not take the place of personal evangelism. Many people think that they are excused from laboring for souls because they hold other offices in the church. The exact opposite is true! EVERY member should be engaged in reaching out to others ... especially those holding church offices!

"There should be no delay in this well planned effort to educate the church members." *Testimonies*, Vol. 9 p. 119

"Let ministers teach church members that in order to grow in spirituality, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them - the burden of leading souls into the truth. Those who are not fulfilling their responsibility should be visited, prayed with, labored for." *Christian Service*, p. 69

"The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them. Give each one something to do for others. ... Let all be taught how to work." *Testimonies*, Vol. 9 p. 82

Summary: Our mission is clear. The work is before us. Will you accept the call?

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?"

David Livingston