



Purpose 10

Purpose of the Elders Discipleship Group: To Train and Equip Discipleship Group leaders to lead more effectively.

Key Theme: Purpose.

Key Truth: Perfected in love - losing one's life for His sake to live out the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:19-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We are now starting to look at our secondary purpose, which is an external purpose. We are to be an "Apostolos people. In other words we are to be a 'sent' people who demonstrate the wisdom of God and declare a particular message to bring into the earth about our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

*Acts 28:23-24 When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about **the kingdom of God** and trying to persuade them concerning **Jesus**, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe.*

We are given 2 very clear instructions by Jesus in Matthew 28. These are instructions NOT invitations. They are not optional and they are not up for negotiation for followers of Jesus as to whether we will or won't obey them. This may be called the Great Commission, but they are also commands from Jesus to all His followers.

The first instruction is to Go.

The second instruction is to make disciples of all nations.

Let's have a look at the first instruction we are given which is to "GO", because like in anything with God, if our beginning is inaccurate then the middle and the end will be inaccurate. It's one thing to just get up and GO, and it's an entirely different reality to GO in Christ, being empowered and led by His Spirit.

If the spiritual work has been accomplished within us through the 2 Great Tests of, 'who do you love and who do we live for,' which we discussed last week, then we will have a clear understanding of our Father's operating system within us, enabling us to GO the Way the Father intends. If we don't GO in the Way of our Father, then this will lead to burn out, disillusionment, frustration unfulfilled promises and ultimately we run the risk of giving up and quitting all together, which means the Great Commission becomes the Great Omission.

There is a very particular way that we are to GO and this Going is from the Power of God operating within us. Jesus was baptised in the Power of the Holy Spirit before He started any form of ministry for His Father and so must we. To not be filled with the power of God before one goes, is to go in one's own strength and this is not the Way of the Father. This is the reason Jesus instructed His disciples to go and wait in the upper room until what He had promised them was poured out upon them.

*Luke 24:49 And behold, I am sending forth the **promise of My Father upon you**, but you are to **stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high**.*

The disciples were obedient to the instruction, hence they were filled with the promise of power deep within their inner most being. This power would always be with them and it was this power that enabled them to live the way they did. The



Apostle Paul also received this power and wrote about His experience for us so we wouldn't make the fatal mistake of trying to GO, before being filled with Heavens power to accomplish Heavens mission.

Colossians 1:28-29 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

1 Peter 4:11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.

This power is the divine enablement, the strength that God supplies (1 Peter 4:11) for serving God in God's mission of going and making disciples of all nations. Without His power dwelling and operating within each of us, we will probably lack the personal motivation, passion and inspiration to Go and be disciple makers.

Questions

1. God must be the one who defines the going. Why is it essential we have God's mind and understanding on how we are to GO?
2. God promises us His divine power so we are filled with His strength BEFORE we go. Why is this a vital ingredient in the going process?
3. How well do you think Jesus, Paul, the disciples would have been able to accomplish all that the Father had purposed for them without God's divine power operating within them all the time?
4. What is your current reality of God's power dwelling within you for the purpose of going?

Action: What is one thing you may need to put in place from going through this resource?