



Mission: Possible! Devotional Introduction



By Steven A. Beverly,
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www.facebook.com/groups/omgmp/

Mission: Possible! Devotional

There's an old saying that the more things change, the more they stay the same. A lot has changed since Jesus stood on the hill outside Galilee and charged his disciples with the Great Commission. But for us, being disciples of Christ ourselves, perhaps not so much has changed after all.

We pray that this six-day **Mission: Possible!** Devotional is the beginning of an amazing journey of exploration into God's agenda for your life. Spend a few moments reading through these devotionals each day as your church participates in **Mission: Possible!** Missions Week. Allow some time for

reflection, and open your heart to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We believe that God will speak to you as you embrace personal accountability to the Great Commission.

You may find it helpful to share this six-day journey with someone. Discuss together your thoughts on each devotional. Pray for one another. Share your thoughts and experiences on the **Mission: Possible! Facebook Group** (www.facebook.com/groups/omgmp/). What is God saying to you? How is God challenging you?

Welcome to the Great Mission! 🌍

Recommended Resources

- **Who Is a Missionary** [video 3:20]
by Pioneers
www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLdxHvoiNeA
- **State of the Remaining Task**
[video 4:36]
by Global Frontier Missions
www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvHC7hXNoV8
- **How You Can Fulfill the Great Commission**
by Bill Bright
www.amazon.com/dp/B0043RSBHA
- **Great Commission, Great Compassion: Following Jesus and Loving the World**
by Paul Borthwick
www.amazon.com/dp/B017T4FBH6
- **What Is the Great Commission?**
by R.C. Sproul
www.amazon.com/dp/B07NZ1XC8J
- **The Key to the Missionary Problem**
By Andrew Murray
www.amazon.com/dp/B0092TN8FO

Steven A. Beverly experienced God's call to missions after being involved in short-term ministry experiences in Kenya, Honduras, Jamaica, and Mexico. Through Global Strategy, Steven and Peggy have been serving for five years as missionaries in Sri Lanka. On the field, their ministry focus is leadership and ministry sustainability. In the States, missions education is a key part of their calling and ministry.



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Mission: Possible! Devotional: Day 1 Being Interruptible!

By Steven A. Beverly,
Missionary to Sri Lanka

Being Interruptible!

Do you ever have days when there just isn't enough time to get everything done? Those can be exasperating days. We make our plans, and at best we ask God to bless our agenda. At the end of the day, if we're lucky and if we stay on task, we might be able to put a check mark on most items of our to-do list.

We can get so focused on our plans that sometimes we walk right by the things that God places along our path to catch our attention and draw us to him. If we're careful, if we

are attentive to what God is doing in our life, we might just see the flicker of a flame in the corner of our eye.

God has this amazing habit of interrupting our plans, of requiring that we step away from our path to discover the wonder of the burning bush and our role in God's divine agenda. If we are willing to allow God to interrupt our routine, we may just find ourselves engaged in God's Great Mission!

New King James Version

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

⁴ So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

And he said, "Here I am."

⁵ Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." ⁶ Moreover He said, "I

New Living Testament

¹ One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. ² There the angel

of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush.

Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. ³ "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

⁴ When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am!" Moses replied.

⁵ "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground." ⁶ I am the God of your father—the

Read Exodus 3:1-10

After all Moses has gone through in his life, he finds himself on a mountain tending his father-in-law's sheep. Here, he is comfortable and safe and deeply engaged in his own routine. But Moses's life is about to take a sudden turn from a life centered around his own needs to a life centered around God's agenda.

am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

⁷ And the Lord said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord told him, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering.

⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. ⁹ Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.”

Reflecting on the scripture

The promise of this passage is more than implicit. It is stated and demonstrated. God is seeking a connection with us that is intimately relational in order to carry out his agenda of rescuing people from bondage. If we allow our curiosity to lead us off the path of our daily routine, God wants to invite us on an incredible missional journey, both physical and spiritual. And as we stand—barefoot and trembling before almighty God—God assures us, just as he did with Moses, that we are not alone.

What’s on my heart?

The incredible truth of this story is that the great I AM desires to connect with us as intimately as he did with Moses. He wants to rescue those who are suffering and in bondage. God is calling us to be his agent of deliverance.

Questions to ask myself

- What inextinguishable flames burn in my heart?
- How would my life need to change to become an agent in the Great Mission and take on a God-sized agenda?

Responding to the Spirit

One of the remarkable characteristics of Moses is that he shows himself to be interruptible. Is it possible that we can become so busy in our daily life that we miss the burning bush God places along our journey to call us into His presence?

Meditate on ways God might be calling you to step out of your comfort zone and interrupt your routine to be on mission for God!

My Prayer Today

God, help me to see how eager you are to intimately connect with me. Help me to see how you are wanting to interrupt my routine to join your divine agenda and join your Great Mission of freeing suffering people from the bondage of sin. 🌈



Mission: Possible! Devotional: Day 2
A Matter of Surrender!

By Steven A. Beverly,
Missionary to Sri Lanka

A Matter of Surrender!

The word *surrender* does not have a very positive connotation. An army might surrender as an admission of defeat. You might have to surrender your license, if you are caught speeding. *Surrender* indicates that something is being taken away from us, often against our will.

But what does it mean to surrender to God's call? Yesterday, we read in Exodus 3 a story of Moses's surrender to God. Many churches once sang a song called "I Surrender

All!" The song is a tender expression of love and trust that naturally results in giving God absolute control in our life.

Surrender to God is not just about surrendering our bad habits, our contrary thoughts, our mean attitudes...the negative things. Surrender to God is absolute. It means surrendering all of us: our talents, skills, education, hopes, dreams, desires, rights, agendas, ambitions, and yes...also those habits that hurt our relationship with God.

New King James Version

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

New Living Testament

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

Read Matthew 16:24-26

We believe Jesus is the Son of God. We believe that Jesus died for our sins. Because of this belief, we call ourselves Christians. But when Jesus taught his disciples, he wasn't teaching them to be Christians! He was teaching them how to live life like him, to love God like him, to love others ... like him. He was teaching them how to surrender to him.

Reflecting on the scripture

Does this passage sound like surrender to you? It is. Absolute surrender is an offering to God in which we don't get to choose the amount of sacrifice.

Denying our broken human nature is only part of the surrender equation. Yielding complete control of our lives to God puts us in God's hands. We are no longer our own. Absolute surrender is a day-by-day commitment, not a once-and-done declaration.

What's on my heart?

We like being in control of our lives, and the thought of absolute surrender can make us uneasy. Surrender is not just about giving up negative things. It's about giving God control of all of us, good and bad. And it is here, with our surrendered heart, that God begins to unfold his plans for us.

Questions to ask myself

- What are the areas of my life that are difficult to surrender to God?
- What commitment must I make in my heart to begin a journey of absolute surrender to God?

Responding to the Spirit

Jesus frequently asks his followers to live differently than the world around us: Pray for people who persecute us! Love our enemies! Lose our life to gain life! As his disciples, Jesus is asking no less from us. Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas in your life that need to be surrendered to God.

Remember, absolute surrender is not a goal or a moment of achievement, as in "I have now absolutely surrendered everything to God." No, absolute surrender is a journey, not a destination. It is a state of heart and relationship with God. It is a heart contract, a standing "Yes!" to God that we are not our own, that we are all-in on the Great Mission!

My Prayer Today

Lord, show me how to go on a journey of absolute surrender with you. I invite your Holy Spirit to show me daily, even moment by moment, those things that I have placed above you and ahead of you. Help me to place them at your feet as an offering to you. 🙏



Mission: Possible! Devotional: Day 3 It's About Love!

By Steven A. Beverly,
Missionary to Sri Lanka

It's About Love!

Our actions don't tell the whole story. It's possible to do something good for a person out of obligation or tradition or simply good manners. It is also possible to do a good deed out of love. In today's climate of unrest and uncertainty, good deeds seem to be in short supply.

Being Christ's disciple may require us to

love the mean neighbor who won't control his pet. It may require cooking a meal for the woman who lost her job and holds a different political viewpoint than we do. It may mean welcoming people sitting next to us in church who don't look like us or dress the way that we think they should dress.

New King James Version

²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

²⁷ So he answered and said, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸ And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on

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²⁵ One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"

²⁷ The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸ "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"

²⁹ The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

³¹ "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. ³² A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying

Read Luke 10:25-37

Jesus doesn't leave us much wiggle room here. If we are surrendered to Christ, we must love God AND our neighbor, not just the ones who are pleasant and vote as we do. We must even love our neighbors who get on our last nerve. Samaritans were despised by most Jews! And if Jesus' story is any example for us, we can't just love with our hearts and words. Our love must be demonstrated through our sacrifice.

the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"

³⁷ And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

there, but he also passed by on the other side.

³³ "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.

³⁴ Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

³⁶ "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.

³⁷ The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy."

Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

Reflecting on the scripture

The challenge for us is not simply to do good things for people, even if we don't like them. The real challenge is to love people so deeply that without regard to whether we like them or not, we do good things for them! Think about someone in your life who is difficult to love. Loving them requires a shift of heart that can be hard to achieve. But the shift is not optional. Jesus just says, "Do it!" Love, in this context, is not just an emotion. Love serves as the lens through which we see others. Jesus' definition of neighbor is not based on gender, social status, age, or political leaning. Instead, "neighbor" is based on a person's need for mercy and unearned favor.

What's on my heart?

The critical lesson that we as disciples of Christ must acknowledge is that loving God and loving others are inseparable. We can't

love God and not love people around us. This is fundamental to being a Christian. God loved the world so much that he gave us Jesus. How can we love God and hate our brother when Jesus told us to love our neighbor as our self?

Questions to ask myself

- Do I really love sacrificially, demonstrably, and indiscriminately?
- What will people think of me and say about me if I love "them" and show it?

Responding to the Spirit

This passage requires honest and critical self-examination. Sometimes the Holy Spirit's role is to reveal areas in our lives where we need to surrender and grow. Learning to truly love leads to sacrificial, demonstrable, and indiscriminate acts of mercy and kindness. It is one of the greatest lessons the Holy Spirit can teach us. It is also one of the greatest assets we can bring to the Great Mission!

My Prayer Today

I sense your Spirit making a shift in my heart, Lord, preparing me for your Great Mission. I recognize that if I love you, I must also love others because you love them. I surrender my heart to you so that you can use me to love others in a way that brings you honor. 🌍



Mission: Possible! Devotional: Day 4 **Try This at Home!**

By Steven A. Beverly,
Missionary to Sri Lanka

Try This at Home!

As we explore allowing God to interrupt our lives, to call us to a journey of absolute surrender, and to love others out loud, we begin to see forming this amazing picture of the life of an active disciple of Christ. God loves us deeply and wants this incredible, intimate relationship with us, so much that he sent Jesus to die for our sin.

But this is just the beginning of the journey. The church, as we know it today, exists because eleven disciples of Christ took seriously

Jesus' command to GO to all the world. They were active disciples, on mission for God!

Today, Christians often leave the going to the trained professionals: the pastor, the evangelist, the outreach pastor ... the missionary. It is as if there's a warning: "Professionals only. Do not try this at home!" When that happens, we miss out on one of the most wonderful truths of being a disciple of Christ. We miss out on our very own amazing, intimate journey in the Great Mission!

New King James Version

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

New Living Testament

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

Read Matthew 28:16-20

The Great Mission? Just before he ascended, Jesus charged his disciples to GO make disciples of others, to baptize them, and to teach others what he had taught them. This passage is often called the Great Commission. The meaning is more than sending; it also means empowering and authorizing. It was perhaps Jesus' final command to them. The question we must explore, if we are truly his disciples, is, Does that command to GO apply to each of us today?

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Reflecting on the scripture

What an incredible scene Matthew describes as the climax of his gospel. The risen Jesus Christ declares that he is now in complete control. With absolute authority, Jesus gives his disciples his final command. Yet many followers of Christ see this command simply as an obligation to make Christians. But that's not what he said. Jesus said to make disciples.

Jesus is telling us to live our lives so guided by love and the lessons he has taught us that people become eager followers, disciples, students, learners of the gospel message. We are to change the world around us!

The Greek word used for the phrase "make disciples" is *mathēteuō*, and it means to be a disciple of one, to follow his precepts and instructions; and to make a disciple, to teach, instruct.

In order to make a disciple, we have to teach someone to follow the precepts and instructions of Jesus. Becoming a Christian is an event, a moment in time. Becoming a disciple of Christ is a lifelong journey. And disciple-making is a long-term commitment to a person's life and development, not simply leading someone in the Sinner's Prayer at the altar. And that is quite a different picture of the Great Mission.

What's on my heart?

So here we are, back to this pivotal question, Does the command to GO that Jesus gave to his disciples apply to each of us

today? Does it apply to me as much as it applies to the pastor or the missionary? If we truly see ourselves as followers of Christ, it's not difficult to accept personal accountability for the Great Commission. But what does that mean for us? When we sincerely ask ourselves this question, our life as a disciple of Christ begins an amazing adventure.

Questions to ask myself

- What do I feel in my heart when I accept personal accountability to the Great Commission?
- How do being interruptible, being surrendered, and loving others prepare me for the Great Mission that God is calling me to?

Responding to the Spirit

Perhaps the Holy Spirit is still in process of working on us when it comes to the love imperative. Don't lose sight of that, because it is that love imperative that should drive us to accept our role in the Great Mission.

God has a mission for each of us. Is it overseas? In our city? In our neighborhood? In our family? Wherever it is, whatever it is, we, disciples of Christ, are charged to be on mission for God! Will it be easy, comfortable, or safe? Probably not (Mt 8:20). Will we have to surrender our preferences, our rights, our desires, our time? Probably (Mt 16:24-25). God is calling us to so much more than a Sunday morning relationship. Disciple of Christ, we have already been commissioned; now, let's GO on our very own amazing journey in the Great Mission. It's time to try this at home!

My Prayer Today

Thank you, God, for awakening my spirit to your call on my life. I may not know exactly what your call looks like right now, but as a disciple of Jesus Christ, your Son, I am committing my heart to the Great Mission! 🌍



Mission: Possible! Devotional: Day 5 Power Up!

By Steven A. Beverly,
Missionary to Sri Lanka

Power Up!

Accepting personal accountability to the Great Commission can be challenging. It means that we can't just read the Great Commission as though it were only for the eleven disciples, or only for the pastor or missionary. It means that somehow each of us must, as Jesus commanded, find our role in the Great Mission. That's a challenge, for sure.

Relax. We aren't all called to quit our jobs, leave our homes, say goodbye to our family and go serve in a foreign country. But the call

still applies to each of us. To be sure, the Great Mission means more than serving God where we are planted. Being honest plumbers or business people who share and demonstrate God's love as we carry out our work is necessary and important, but it's not the Great Mission.

As disciples of Christ, we are commissioned to GO outside of our routine, beyond our comfort zones, and past the ease of the familiar. That's the Great Mission!

New King James Version

¹ The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He was taken up, after He had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

⁴ And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with

New Living Testament

¹ In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. ³ During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will

Read Acts 1:1-8

The incredible journey of the Great Mission means to sacrifice and go beyond our routine. Perhaps, that means God will use you to minister to abused women on the weekends or to disciple young boys who are at risk of being pulled into gangs after school. Thankfully, we are also given great power through the Holy Spirit to carry out the Great Mission. Luke reminds Theophilus and us that the Holy Spirit is given to us for a purpose: so that we can bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ ... to the end of the earth!

water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Reflecting on the scripture

Even the disciples, who spent one-on-one moments with Jesus, needed the power of the Holy Spirit to take part in the Great Mission. Fear and uncertainty may be natural for us, but the Holy Spirit places in our hearts a love that puts God’s Kingdom first, before our comfort and our agenda. There’s no way around this. Being on mission for God requires God’s presence; it requires the Holy Spirit.

“Jerusalem,” is often described as representing our circle of friends, those closest to us. But that is not what Jerusalem would have meant to the disciples. The disciples were from Galilee; that’s where their friends would have lived. Jerusalem represented the religious elite, the cultural establishment, and also the place that rejected Jesus. Our Jerusalem is best represented by the establishment within our own culture. We need the Holy Spirit to bear witness to powerful groups and people.

What’s on my heart?

Sometimes, talk of the Holy Spirit can make us uncomfortable. But the Holy Spirit is

an integral part of who God is and a vital part of our life as disciples of Christ who are on mission for God. Perhaps you’ve tried before to be a witness for Christ and felt powerless in your attempts. The Holy Spirit is our power source for the Great Mission. Power up!

Questions to ask myself

- What happens when I attempt to be on mission for God without the power of the Holy Spirit?
- How am I being challenged, specifically, to be on mission for God?

Responding to the Spirit

Being open to God’s agenda is one of the first steps toward being on mission for God. Surrendering, loving and accepting our role in the Great Commission put us firmly on the path. We can’t do this without the Holy Spirit’s power. Our challenge is to welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives daily. We will begin to see God’s agenda take on greater importance than our own routine. We are then empowered to live as activated disciples in the Great Mission!

My Prayer Today

God, help me to invite your Spirit to be in my life every day. I want to have your power through the Holy Spirit so that I can accept and carry out my role in the Great Mission you give to me. 🙏



Mission: Possible! Devotional: Day 6
The Great Mission!
By Steven A. Beverly,
Missionary to Sri Lanka

The Great Mission!

If you have come this far in the *Mission: Possible!* Devotional journey, you are probably feeling something that may be difficult to describe. Maybe you feel anxious or uncertain. Committing to the Great Mission may require that we re-evaluate our life priorities.

That can be a little scary, but you are not alone. We were never meant to join the Great Mission by ourselves. We began this devotional journey with the story of Moses on Mt. Sinai. Though God's agenda for Moses was certainly bigger than he was, we can draw great comfort from the fact that God promised to be with Moses in Egypt. We are not asked to join the

Great Mission alone. Jesus says so explicitly in Matthew 28:20. Jesus will be with us.

But we must commit to the Great Mission. We must allow our lives to be interrupted by God's agenda and to surrender our time, talent, finances, education, (everything) to allow God's love to flow through us as we make disciples, apart from our daily routine. We will need the Holy Spirit, for certain. Here, in this moment of decision, is where we say, "Yes, God. Whatever it is. Wherever it is. To whom-ever you say. Yes!" With that one word, *yes*, our lives will never be the same.

New King James Version **Ex 3:11-12**

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

¹² So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Jn 17:20-23

²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and

New Living Testament **Ex 3:11-12**

¹¹ But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

¹² God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

Jn 17:20-23

²⁰ "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as

Read Exodus 3:11-12 & John 17:20-23

People often wonder how they will know if they are following God's agenda. Scripture provides multiple narratives that give us guidance. From Moses, to David, to Esther, to Jesus, one of the sure signs of God's agenda is that it is bigger than we are. God's agenda ALWAYS **requires** God's presence. We are not alone!

I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

²² “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

Reflecting on the scripture

Jesus prayed for you. There’s a good chance he was praying for this very moment when you fully embrace God’s agenda for your life and embark on the Great Mission. Christ is in us. It’s a picture of perfect unity that is so powerful that it affects others around us. When people see our unity in Christ, they will know that God sent Jesus. Our unity is not principally a witness to the world that Christ is in us. Our unity bears witness to the world that Christ is the Son of God offering redemption and love. The Great Mission is now yours!

What’s on my heart?

We have already made a commitment to follow Christ. That commitment comes with responsibilities. God has so much more for us than showing up on Sunday morning and singing hymns and praise songs. We were saved for a purpose, to accept the Great Mission.

Questions to ask myself

- What has God used in my life to catch my attention, to grab my heart (burning bushes)?
- What do I need to change in my life to make the Great Mission central to my disciple journey?

Responding to the Spirit

Our salvation, our name being written in the Book of Life, is just the beginning for us. Our life as followers of Christ is sharing the good news that the Kingdom of God is among us. This is the Great Mission, teaching others what Jesus taught and continues to teach us. The Great Mission is a life of sacrifice as we put the Kingdom above our own preferences, rights, wants, and comfort. This is what it means to be on mission for God!

My Prayer Today

Lord, I accept that you have commissioned me as your disciple to step out of my comfort zone, to break from my routine and find your agenda for my life. I commit this day to the Great Mission you are calling me to. My response to you is now and will ever be, “Yes!” 🌈