

50 Commands of Christ - 15 - (#48-50)

- 48. Make and baptize disciples and**
49. Teach disciples to obey—*Matthew 28:19-20*

What images spring to mind when you hear the words “missionary” or “evangelism?” Can you see yourself as a “traditional” missionary or evangelist?

Often known as the “Great Commission,” there are four instructions in the two verses above. What are they? How are you personally doing on each one?

- A. _____ B. _____
C. _____ D. _____

Most Bible translations say, “Go...to all nations...,” however, the Wycliffe translation (1395) says, “...go ye, and teach all folks...” Some people interpret this to mean, “in your going....” meaning going about your daily life – going to church, to school, to the mall, to work. What do you think?

What does it really mean to “make disciples?” What role do you have in this?

Why does “baptize” come next in the process?

How can we teach others to obey Christ’s commands? *2 Timothy 2:1-2*

What specific teaching of Christ do *you* need to obey more consistently?

- 50. Receive God’s power—*Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8***

Did Jesus’ disciples have to do anything to receive God’s power?

Do we today have to do anything to receive God’s power? *1 John 3:22-24, Ephesians 1:17-19*

As a Christian, is receiving God’s power an option or a command? *Ephesians 6:10, Ephesians 5:18*

Do you believe that the same power that raised Jesus from his grave is available to help you in making changes in your life?

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48. Make and baptize disciples and

49. Teach disciples to obey—*Matthew 28:19-20—Matthew 28:19-20*

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Often known as the “Great Commission,” there are four instructions in these two verses. What are they? How are you personally doing on each one?

- A. Go
- B. Make disciples
- C. Baptize them
- D. Teach them to obey my commands

Pertaining to the command, “**go**” (or “going”), it is actually quite difficult to decide how to interpret it. There are two views prevalent today. One is to give this word the character of an imperative or command in which it would literally mean “go.” The other is to give it an adverbial character like “having gone” or “in your going” or “as you go.” Apart from a specific context, both ideas are grammatically legitimate. Greek participles can be used like an imperative or adverb depending upon the context and usage.

The command is more clearly stated in Mark 16:15: “Go into all the world and preach ...” Thus, we see that the usage and context indicates that the word should be understood as the command, “go.” But while this is true, we must never lose sight of the fact that the main command and mission is that of **making disciples**.

Without *going*, the command to make disciples is impossible, especially when it involves all nations. Going is not a secondary option. You don’t catch fish in a barrel. We must do something that puts us in contact with people so we can win them to Christ and begin the process of making disciples. So indeed, for some, this command to go means just that: going to take the Gospel to a foreign nation or lost tribe, but for most of us the going involves anything we do from hosting outreach Bible studies, getting acquainted with neighbors, and going about our daily life. [Portions of the above are adapted from J. Hampton Keathley, III on the Bible.org web site.]

What does it really mean to “**make disciples**?”

As we see above, there is a progression here: go, make disciples, baptize, and teach (or obey). The word disciple itself means “learner or pupil.” A disciple is one who is under instruction. It involves a teacher-student relationship.

To be a disciple, one must first be a Christ follower. You can help facilitate this process by explaining God’s plan of salvation and having a person agree with it and pray to receive the Lord. Many people use the four spiritual laws to do this:

- 1) God loves you (John 3:16) and offers a plan for your life (John 10:10)
- 2) Man is sinful and separated from God (Romans 3:23 and 6:23)
- 3) Jesus died in our place (Romans 5:8), rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-6), and is our only way to God (John 14:6)
- 4) We must receive Christ (John 1:12), accept him through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9) and experience a new birth (John 3:1-8)

Here is a good prayer for a person to receive Christ: “Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be.”

But remember, “disciple” means “learner or pupil.” A New Testament disciple is one who is under biblical instruction. In the Bible, some people followed Jesus only a short time and then dropped out because of the cost. The Lord expected discipleship to involve total commitment if one was going to be able to fully follow through as a disciple. Being a disciple and being a believer are not one and the same.

Salvation is a free gift but being a disciple means there is a cost. Ideally, all believers should be disciples, but unfortunately not all believers actually follow through as disciples.

Baptizing believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the sign or symbol that the old life and its connections have been broken and those being baptized have entered into a new life by faith in Christ and a new fellowship with Jesus as their teacher and master. Being baptized is a public declaration of a new life in Christ after accepting the Lord through the Gospel message. This is quite different from infant baptism.

Teaching means proclaiming His Word and seeking to bring others into this relationship, training them to in turn to win over and train others.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 - “So you, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And entrust what you heard me say in the presence of many others as witnesses to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well.”

This means building others in the Word, teaching them to know, guard, and apply the Word to their lives so they can in turn become disciple-makers who are involved in this multiplication process.

50. Receive God's power—*Luke 24:49* - “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city [Jerusalem] until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

Acts 1:8a - You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.

Do we have to do anything to receive God's power?

1 John 3:22-24 - ²² And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.

²³ And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us.

Ephesians 1:17-19 - ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

As a Christian, is receiving God's power an option or a command?

For the Christian, someone who belongs to Jesus Christ and is submitted to Him, receiving and using spiritual power is a command, not an option. “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10). “Be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

Spiritual power is a key to waking up sleeping Christians. It is an essential ingredient in successful evangelism. All Christians should be challenged to go after that power that Jesus promised. “You will receive power” after the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Acts 1:8).