

Chapter 86

Jesus was just about ready to head back home to heaven. Before he went, he outlined his student's commission for them. "I rule heaven and earth," he said, "so I can send you anywhere I want you to go. Go to the ends of the world and teach everyone on earth. Tell them the Good News that the Kingdom of Light was victorious over the Kingdom of Darkness at the cross, and that the Kingdom of Light is coming back. In fact, tell it to every living creature you come into contact with."¹ Jesus didn't just tell them once. He said it over and over until it finally began to sink in. It didn't matter who it was: rich or poor, powerful or nobodies, they were all supposed to hear the message in the most persuasive and attractive way possible. From this moment on, these men and women were his coworkers in saving anybody in this world who would consent to being saved.

Jesus first of all shared the commission he gave his followers with his inner circle when he met them in the upstairs room where they had celebrated the Passover before his crucifixion. Now he met a large group of his students on a mountainside in Galilee. Everyone they could get the message to came from all over Israel to the meeting. Jesus had set this meeting up before he died and designated the time and place. One of the angels at the grave site had reminded his followers of his promise to meet them in Galilee. They had told the rest of Jesus followers and the news had spread to the ends of the nation - even to the isolated followers in remote places. Every one of them had immediately started making plans to be there. To avoid exciting the suspicion of the Jewish authorities they came from all directions on multiple paths converging on the meeting place in amazement as they talked about everything they had heard about Jesus since his death.

There were about five hundred of Jesus' followers assembled in little groups scattered all over the hillside when the time arrived for the meeting to start, sharing what they knew of Jesus' activities since he came back to life. Jesus' inner circle circulated among the groups telling what they knew and passing on the information from the Bible which Jesus had shared with them about his mission. Thomas told the story of his scepticism and how his doubts had been removed. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there in the middle of the crowd. Nobody saw him walk up. He was just there. There were fair number of people in the crowd who had never seen Jesus. They had heard from others about him and believed. Now, in his wrists and feet they saw the scars from his crucifixion. His face was as the face of God and when they saw him they worshiped him.

There were some who still had their doubts. They were human and had a hard time exercising the faith it took to believe it was really he. It was their loss.

This was the only chance Jesus had to talk with many of his followers after he came back to life. Again he repeated the words, "I rule heaven and earth."² Jesus followers had been in awe of him before he said these words, but now these words moved them with a unique power they had never experienced before. Jesus had come back from the dead. Many of these assembled on the

hillside had seen him heal the sick and exercise absolute control over Satan's angelic messengers of darkness. They had believed that he had the power to set up a kingdom in Jerusalem and to control any opposition he might face. They even had seen that he could control nature. He had told angry waters to behave and they had come instantly to heel. He had walked across the lake on the whitecaps during storms. He had raised the dead back to life. Now he told them the source of his power. He ruled everything!³ Suddenly they realized that they were dealing with far greater issues than some kingdom here on earth. They were dealing with cosmic issues that had implications stretching from the eternal past to the infinite future. Suddenly they saw Jesus for whom he really was.

There is more to Jesus' announcement on that hillside than first meets the eye. In announcing that the invasion had begun and that they were his troops sent out to defeat the Kingdom of Darkness, he was officially declaring that the sacrificial ransom he paid was enough and complete. The conditions demanded by the King of Darkness had been met and he had accomplished what he came here to earth to do. He was headed back to the capital of the Kingdom of Light where he was to be honored by the administrative and legislative military leadership of the universe. He was about to enter a new phase of his work to save humanity. From this moment on, he would represent humanity in the Kingdom of Light's war with Darkness. On the basis of the unlimited authority which was his as creator of the universe and the ransom for humanity he commissioned his followers: "Go to the ends of the world teaching every people group that exists, baptizing them into the family of the Father, the Son, and God's Breath. Teach them to live out in their daily lives everything I taught you. Don't worry, I will be with you twenty-four hours a day clear through to the end of the world."⁴

God had made the Jewish people the source and keeper of sacred truth. His intention was that they would be conduits taking that truth to the whole world. Instead, under the leadership of the Jewish religious and secular leadership they had become the most exclusive, selfish, bigoted people in the whole human race. Everything about the Jewish leadership, especially the Pharisees - their dress, customs, ceremonies and traditions - made them unfit to be what God had called them to be. They looked upon themselves, the Jewish nation, as the only part of the world worth existing. Jesus challenged them to proclaim a faith and worship that would have in it nothing of caste or country, a faith which could adapt to all peoples, all nations, all classes of humanity.

Jesus made no bones about the nature of the Kingdom of Light in this final address to his followers. He reminded them of what he had said about it before and he made it very clear that things hadn't changed - his purpose was not to establish a temporal kingdom on earth. His Kingdom was a spiritual one. He was not going to reign as a temporal king on David's throne - it had never been his intent and was not his intention now. One more time, he opened the Bible and showed that everything he had experienced on this earth had been in the plan developed in the strategy sessions he and the Father had before he came to earth. It had all been predicted by his human representatives who had been inspired by God's Breath.

Everything I told you about being rejected as the One Whom Would Save happened, he said. I predicted that I would be rejected, humiliated, and would die and it happened just like I said it would. I came back to life on the third day just like I said I would. Check it out! Study the prophecies for yourselves; dig in and study and you will see that every single prophetic prediction about me came true.

“Now,” he said, “I am commissioning you to carry the news to the ends of the earth. Start in Jerusalem.” The city of Jerusalem was the place where Jesus had paid the ransom for humanity. In Jerusalem he had suffered, been rejected, condemned, and died. Judea was his birthplace. It was there, as a human, he had grown up and lived and worked as a tradesman. The amazing thing is that virtually no one had any idea who he was. Here, heaven itself was walking among them and they were clueless.⁵ All of the glories of the Jewish Capitol would have paled in comparison with him if they had just allowed themselves to see him for whom he really was. Jesus wasn’t ready to give up on the leaders of the Jews yet so he sent his ambassadors right back to Jerusalem to begin their work.

In view of all that had happened there and the unappreciation he had experienced, you could have expected them to ask for more fruitful territory, but they were ready to go back. He had scattered the seeds of the truth about the Kingdom of Light there first and they were ready to go back and nurture that seed into an abundant harvest. They knew that they probably experience the same reaction Jesus had and that they probably would be persecuted because of the jealousy and hatred of the Jewish leadership, but Jesus had already been down that road ahead of them and they were committed to following him. They were ready to go right back to Jesus’ murderers with a message of God’s grace and forgiveness and love for them.

And, truth be known, there were a fair number of people in Jerusalem who secretly believed that Jesus as the One Who Would Save. Then there were those who had been deceived by the Jewish secular and religious rulers and who were wondering if they had made the right decision. All of these too, were also going to hear the Good News so that they too could make the public decision to go a different direction and leave the Kingdom of Darkness for the Kingdom of Light. The incredible news that Jesus had paid the ransom price and that the only way they could be forgiven for their rebellion was through him had to be made plain so that everyone could make an intelligent decision. There was no better time than now, when the city of Jerusalem still resonated with the amazing events of the past few weeks.

But, they weren’t supposed to stop there. They could not consider the job done until the news had been taken to the remotest parts of the earth. You’ve seen everything I did, Jesus said. I have tried to show you by example the self-sacrifice it is going to take to be my ambassadors in this world. You saw how hard I worked just to get through to the Israelis. They wouldn’t respond to what I had to say; the secular and religious leadership persecuted me and opposed me and finally killed me; they chose to ignore everything the Bible predictions said about me and to reject me, they still need another chance to accept me as God. You have heard and seen the passion of my life and you know that I am ready to accept anyone who comes to me confessing

their rebellion. I am not going to reject anybody who is truly sorry and who wants to become a part of my Kingdom. Anybody who wants to can take advantage of the amnesty God has issued based on the ransom I paid on the cross. They can have forgiveness and peace with God and eternal life just for the asking. You are my ambassadors. I am sending you out into the whole world with the message of my grace and mercy. Start with Israel; then head out to the rest of the world. Go to Jews and non-Jews alike. Anybody who really wants to can become a part of my Kingdom.

Now, I've got a gift for you. You are going to have unbelievable power to accomplish what I am sending you out to do. That power belongs to you when God's Breath is present in your life. The things you say are going to be confirmed in people's minds hearts by the amazing things you do. You are going to be performing miracles just like I did; in fact, greater than I did.⁶ That doesn't apply to my inner circle or the rest of you. Anyone who receives me and accepts my message to the world will have the power in my name to "cast out demons, speak in languages they have never learned and, pick up vipers as if they were garden snakes. If they try to poison you, it won't affect you. You will lay hands on the sick and they will recover."⁷

In Jesus' day, poisoning was the most common form of assassination. If you were not a person of integrity, you didn't hesitate to get rid of those who stood in the way of your ambitions by killing them. Jesus knew that his disciples could expect to be poisoned. In fact, it would be more surprising if they weren't! The tragedy is that many of those who would try to kill them would imagine that they were doing God a service in doing so. Jesus promised to protect them from this danger.

Jesus' ambassadors were to have the same power he had to heal all kinds of sickness and disease as they went to the ends of the earth with their message. When they healed someone in his name, they could use that as a springboard to telling about his power to heal their soul.⁸ They had this ability to heal the bodies and minds of the people they met ever since Jesus sent them out the first time to tell others about him.⁹ Now Jesus promised them something new for their arsenal to use in representing him. Since they were to go to every nation and people group on earth, they would need to communicate with people in other languages and cultures. Jesus said that when God's Breath arrived he would give them the ability to speak in other languages. Jesus' inner circle and those who had joined them were mostly from the trades rather than the aristocracy and intelligentsia; but when God's Breath blew into them on the day of Pentecost, their speech patterns, no matter what language they spoke, became pure, simple, and accurate in word and accent.

When Jesus commissioned his followers with their mandate to represent him everywhere in the whole world he made every provision for them to do the work most effectively and took full responsibility for their success. As long as they obeyed what he told them and maintained an intimate, ongoing, personal relationship with him they could and would not fail. Go everywhere, he said. Go to the very ends of the earth. Go knowing that wherever you go, I will be there with you. You can do your work with the confidence that there will never come a time when I will

abandon you!

Jesus' commission wasn't just for those men and women two-thousand years ago. It includes any and everyone who believes and follows Jesus right to the end of the world. And, it didn't just apply to the clergy. If God's Breath lives in you, you are entrusted with the job of representing Jesus. If you trust Jesus to save you, then you have been set apart to work to save others. Jesus established the Christian Church on earth so that we can work together most effectively to accomplish that task.¹⁰ Anyone who has become a part of the Kingdom of Light and joined his organized people on earth by that very act commit themselves to be co-workers with Jesus in carrying the Good News to the world.

God's Breath and his church unite in saying "Come!" God calls everyone who hears that invitation to pass it on.¹¹ It is like a huge chain reaction, a series of ripples spreading out over the world each person telling others the News. The joy and pleasure of passing it on isn't just for clergy. Plumbers, lawyers, carpenters, physicians, teachers, telephone repairmen, computer programmers, housewives; young and old, rich and poor, smart and not so smart; good looking and homely, students, bakers, butchers, and candlestick makers all get to play an equally important part of the spread of the Kingdom. We may not be public speakers. It doesn't matter. We can talk to other people; we can write letters or e-mail; we can compose songs or paint pictures; we can converse over the back fence or over a cup of coffee in a restaurant. God wants to use every one of us to communicate in our own unique way what we have heard from Jesus. Ministry isn't just for preachers. When we relieve suffering, help those in need or distress, speak words of comfort to the discouraged or work to build up the faith of those who are wavering we are ministering as Jesus did. And particularly, when we take the time to be interested in helping people who are experiencing the sickening effects of sin in their lives we are ministering. It is not hardship or hard work or poverty which ultimately degrades humanity. It is guilt and shame at our rebellion. We live in a world which is being crushed by a horrendous load of guilt. God sends us out to point people to the one who will lift that load and give them a new and much, much better life.

Jesus challenged his followers to begin their work wherever they were. Jerusalem and Israel were a tough place to begin. But Jesus didn't let them off the hook and let them start somewhere easy first. The same goes for us. Jesus calls every one of us to begin sharing the Message right where we are - in our families, with our children, with the rebels who live in our neighborhoods and in our towns and whom we rub shoulders with every day on the job or down at the gym. When we have faithfully fulfilled our mandate right at home, then God will extend our sphere of influence in all kinds of creative and unexpected ways. We are part of something much larger than ourselves when we become a part of the Kingdom of Light. It may look like we're doing something unimportant in some isolated part of life, but the most seemingly insignificant person who is motivated and used by God's breath touches invisible chords whose vibrations ring to the ends of the earth and which create music which will be heard forever. Jesus when he was here on earth spent most of his time working in a backwater area of a tiny nation on the periphery of the civilized world and he impacted the whole world. God often uses seemingly insignificant

means to accomplish the greatest results. So, you are important to God and are vital to his mission on earth - no matter who or wherever you are!

We can never lose sight of Jesus' challenge and command to take the Good news to the whole world. It's so easy to become so focused on ourselves and the needs wherever we are that we forget to look at the bigger picture. Jesus love tears down the walls of national, ethnic, class, and cultural prejudice which separate us and teach us to love everybody regardless of their religion, race, class, preferences, or place of national origin.¹² Jesus raises us up above the small circles our self-centered prejudices create and abolishes territorial lines and the artificial distinctions we have created to divide people in society. Jesus calls us to love everybody alike - neighbors, friends, strangers and enemies. He teaches us to look beyond class distinction and status and color and culture and to see every person in the whole world as our brother or sister and to love them accordingly.

When Jesus said, "Go! Teach all nations!" in the same breath he said, "The mark which you can use to identify those who really believe in me and are a part of my kingdom is this: In my name they will throw out demons; they will speak in languages they never knew; they will ignore with impunity the bite of the worst vipers and will drink the worst poison without any bad effects; they will lay hands on the sick and they will get well." That promise is every bit as valid and real and far reaching as Jesus' commission. That doesn't mean that every believer is going to have the same spiritual gifts or all of them.¹³ God's Breath decides which spiritual gifts each citizen of the Kingdom of Light receives.¹⁴ They are given to each of us as we need them to accomplish the mission and work Jesus gave us. That promise is just as valid and has just as much force now as it did in the days when the original founding leaders of the Christian Church were still alive. Jesus said it emphatically and clearly, "This is what people can expect to see happen if you're really one of the citizens of my Kingdom."¹⁵ This is a privilege any citizen of God's Kingdom of Light can claim by faith and expect results. We are foolish if we neglect what Jesus has promised to each of us as an endorsement of our faith and as a sign that we are really part of his Kingdom.

"They will lay hands on the sick and they will recover."¹⁶ This world is one sick place. No matter where you travel people are sick with every imaginable disease, and some we haven't ever imagined. Jesus came to offer freedom to Satan's captives and that includes those who are experiencing the effects of his rule in all of the diseases which run rampant in this world. Jesus is health and strength in person. When he was here on earth, he gave his life to those who were sick, to those in distress and to those who were demon possessed. He didn't turn away anyone who came asking him to heal them. Jesus realized that many of those who asked for help had asked for everything they were experiencing by the choices they made and the lifestyle they lived, yet he healed them anyway. As a result, many of them were convicted in their hearts that the lives they were living were wrong, that at heart they were rebels, and many of them were healed of the disease of rebellion as well. The gospel still possesses the same power and why should we not today witness the same results?¹⁷

Jesus feels the pain of everyone who suffers. When demonic powers tear people apart from the inside out, Jesus experiences the curse right with us. When fever is burning up our energy and strength, he hurts with us. And he is just as anxious to heal the sick now as he was when he was here personally on earth. Only now it is his intention to heal through the citizens of his Kingdom of Light, his ambassadors to the world.

Jesus heals people in all kinds of ways. As we look at his methods, we begin to discover how he wants to work through us. Sometimes he works through direct miracles and sometimes he works through simple and natural remedies such as the time he put clay on a blind man's eyes and told him to "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." He did as Jesus told him to do and "went and washed and came back seeing."¹⁸ It was Jesus who ultimately healed the man, but he used a natural remedy.

Jesus also taught preventive medicine. When people came for healing, Jesus told many of them, "This is a natural cause and effect result of your rebellion. So, surrender to God and give up a rebel's life or things will be worse the next time."¹⁹ Often the disease process is a direct result of violating spiritual or natural laws which God built into the universe. Jesus taught that most misery wouldn't exist in this world if we would just choose to live in harmony with the principles Jesus designed into the world.

Jesus had been the guide and teacher of ancient Israel and he taught them that good health is the reward of obedience to laws God set up in this world when he created it. Jesus healed the sick in all over Palestine and it was he who spoke to Israel from the pillar of cloud when he led Israel out of Egypt. He told them what they had to do to enjoy good health and told them what God committed himself to do in return. "If you will just listen to me," he said, "and do what I ask you to do; I protect you from the diseases I brought on the Egyptians. I am the One who heals you."²⁰ Jesus gave Israel definite instruction about their health habits and their lifestyle and he assured them, "I will take away all of your disease."²¹ When they fulfilled the conditions he laid out for them the promise came true. "They could not find one feeble person in the whole encampment of Israel."²²

There's a lesson in this for us. If we want to enjoy good health, we have to fulfill certain conditions. It is a cause and effect relationship. If we have any sense at all, we will learn what these conditions are. Not only is it dumb to ignore the laws which lead to good health, it disappoints and frustrates God when we are willingly ignorant about the natural and spiritual laws he put in place on this earth. He wants us to cooperate with him in restoring health to our bodies as well as our souls.

Not only that, he wants us to teach others how to preserve and recover their health. When we discover someone is sick, we should use the remedies which God has provided in nature and then point them to the one who created the remedy for them. At the same time, he gives us the privilege of presenting the sick and suffering to him in the arms of our faith. We are to teach people to believe in the only one who can truly heal them. It is our privilege and responsibility to

take his promises in hand and to pray for the manifestation of his power. Then we are to teach the sick and the hopeless and the afflicted how to reach out and lay hold of the power of God for themselves. The very essence of the gospel is restoration. First we take hold of God's power and use it for his glory. Then we teach others so that they can do the same. It creates an ever spreading and widening circle of Light in the darkness.

The motivating factor in every healing miracle Jesus performed was love. He can only use us if we love like he did. If we neglect to keep the connection to him open; if we fail to do our part which is to maintain an intimate, ongoing, personal relationship with him; then there is no way that the power of God can flow from him through us to the people he wants to touch. It is like the high tension power lines coming from the generators of a nuclear power plant. The wires are there, but if they are not connected to the source of power they are just wires. It is only when they are connected to the generator that the power flows through them to those who need it.

If you want to know why the church is so lifeless today; why the miraculous so seldom happens; why people look elsewhere in their search in their quest for the supernatural; why we are so powerless; it is because we are not constantly connected in intimate, ongoing, personal relationship with God. If we are connected, it is intermittent, occasional, weak. As his ambassadors, our lack of faith disappoints God because it distorts his reputation with the very ones he wants to reach through us.

It is when we are doing his work that Jesus promises us his presence. "Go tell the world," he said, "and I will go with you everywhere you go to the ends of the earth."²³ If we want to receive the power he promises us, we have to stay connected with him. It is the first condition. Our very life as his Kingdom of Light depends on our commitment to taking the gospel to our community and onto the end of the world. If we neglect to do what he has called us to do; if we get sidetracked, distracted or detoured from doing that task, it is guaranteed that we will become spiritually feeble and decay. When we are not actively involved in reaching others with the message God has given us to take to the world, our love for God gradually seeps away and our faith grows dim.

The task God has given the leadership of the Kingdom of Light is to teach the citizens of the Kingdom how to take the Good News to the world. It is their job to teach people how to seek and save citizens of the Kingdom of Darkness. Too often, the leadership is as distracted from their task as the people they are supposed to be leading. Instead of lighting spiritual fires in the spiritual darkness which surrounds us, all too often we spend time and energy trying to fan stray sparks of life in churches that are in the process of dying. Instead of looking for lost sheep, to use an agricultural illustration, the leadership of the Kingdom of Light too often spend their time and energy tending lambs that are willingly weak and feeble. While billions of people are the walking dead for lack of a relationship with Jesus, we spend our time focused on our selves and our desires and interests and concerns. Instead, we should evaluate everything we do, every penny we spend, every activity in light of whether it enhances or detracts from our mission.

Think about the contrast. God, the creator of the whole universe, so absolutely powerful he easily and effortlessly controls quantum energy has been moved to the very foundation of his heart with the condition of humanity. Angels stand in amazement watching how little that kind of love impacts us. We glibly give lip service when it comes to thanking and serving God because our understanding and appreciation of his love is so shallow and superficial. Heaven is frustrated beyond description by our lack of interest in the lost people who are all around us! Do you want to get just a glimpse of how Jesus feels about it? Picture a father or mother who discovers that you deliberately walked right by their child who is in the process of freezing to death and left it to die when you could have picked it up and brought it into the warmth and saved it. They would be desperately hurt, hysterical, violently angry, frustrated and disgusted and probably homicidal. They would call you a murderer and they would have every right to do so. Their anger would be as hot as their love was deep.

Lost people are God's children. Their suffering impacts him the way our love for our children impacts us. When we ignore lost people and fail to take the message of God's love to them, his righteous, legitimate anger is as intense as his love for the lost. The word for that anger in the Book of Revelation is "The violent anger of the one who sacrificially died for us."²⁴ He is going to only have one thing to say to those who claim to be citizens of his Kingdom yet are indifferent to the needs of their fellow men - "I don't know you; I don't know here you came from, but I know where you're headed. Get out of my sight! You are rebels just like the rest of them!"²⁵

In his commission to his followers, Jesus not only outlined their work, he also gave them their message. "Teach the people," he said, "to live out in their daily lives the things I have told you to live."²⁶ Jesus students were to teach what Jesus taught. That doesn't only apply to just what he personally said when he was on earth as a human; it includes everything he taught through the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament as well. Human ideas don't count in this arena. Neither does tradition, human theories and conclusions, nor church legislation. Canon law and rules and regulations issued by ecclesiastical authority are not part of Jesus' commission to his followers. It is not our job to teach these. The treasures we have to share with the world are the Old Testament combined with the record of Jesus' words and actions and the rest of the New Testament. Jesus' name is our password and countersign; it is our badge of distinction; the glue that holds us together; the authority for our actions; and the source of our success. If it doesn't come from Jesus, it doesn't carry weight in the Kingdom of Light.

We are not to share the Good News as dry, lifeless theory. It is a living force with the ability to change lives and people who come into contact with Jesus' ambassadors should experience its power! In fact, it is his desire that everyone who chooses to receive treatment from him that is much, much better than we could ever hope to deserve will discover his power. It doesn't matter how heinous your rebellion, how offensive your attitudes and actions were to God, he will accept you if you come to him. When you choose to turn your life around with his power, he gives you God's Breath, places you in high positions of trust and responsibility and sends you out into the enemy's camp to proclaim his unlimited mercy. The message we carry to the world is the message that through his treatment of us in ways we in no way deserve, our characters can

become like Jesus and we can celebrate his incredible love. He wants us to tell everyone we meet that he will never be satisfied until everyone who wants to be is reclaimed and reinstated in their position of privilege as his sons and daughters.

In Jesus we discover the tenderness of a shepherd, the affection and love of a parent, and the incredible grace of someone so anxious to save us that he will treat us far better than we deserve. He presents everything he offers us in the most attractive, alluring terms. He doesn't just put the information out there in sterile ways; he offers us every blessing he wants to give us in the most tantalizing and appealing and seductive ways he possibly can in hopes that he can excite in us a desire to possess them. He calls for the same tactics from his followers as we offer his incredible gift to others.

Jesus' love spoken and lived out in our lives will melt and subdue rebel hearts in ways those teaching doctrines can never do. "God says, Comfort my people; comfort my people!"²⁷ "My ambassadors, you are carrying Good News. Get up on the mountaintops! Shout for all your worth! Don't be chicken, yell! Tell all Judah, look! Your God! . . . He is like a shepherd getting ready to feed his flock the very best forage: Look, he's standing there ready to gather the lambs in his arms and carry them to their mother's breasts."²⁸ Tell people that they couldn't find a better friend if they went through ten thousand looking for a better one.²⁹ He is the most attractive option there is.³⁰ Words cannot describe what a tremendous person he is. Live it out in your lives; let it show in your character.

Jesus is sitting for his portrait in every one of his followers. God's plan is that every single human being will become like Jesus.³¹ His patient love, his integrity, his mercy and humility and his commitment to truth is to be lived out by every citizen of his Kingdom of Light.

Jesus first ambassadors went from that meeting proclaiming the word of God. They revealed Jesus in their lives. And Jesus worked with them, "confirming what they said with the miracles they performed."³² They prepared themselves for what they would do by meeting together before the Feast of Pentecost and getting rid of any problems in their relationships with each other. They became unified. They believed Jesus would keep his promise to send God's Breath and they prayed in faith. They didn't ask just for themselves; they were burdened with the desire to save the slaves of the Kingdom of Darkness who surrounded them in their culture. They looked at the impossible immensity of taking the Good News to the ends of the earth and they claimed the power Jesus had promised them. It was at that point that God's Breath was poured out on them and in them and thousands defected from darkness to light in a single day.³³

The same kinds of things could happen now if we really wanted them to! If we would just preach God's word instead of human speculation it could and would happen all the time. If we would just be willing to put away all of our conflict and arguing and differences and give ourselves wholeheartedly to God for his use in saving lost people, we would see it on a regular basis. Under those conditions, all we have to do is claim God's promises, ask for his blessing, and it will come. What happened at Pentecost was just a sprinkle, a shower and look what

happened. It is nothing compared to what God will do when it really pours!³⁴

Everyone who makes a serious commitment of body, soul, and spirit to God will constantly be revived and regenerated physically and mentally. The inexhaustible resources of the Kingdom of Light are at their command. Jesus gives them His Breath, the life of his own life, and God's Breath goes to work with everything he's got in our heart and mind. When we belong to him and are focused on building and maintaining an intimate, ongoing, personal relationship with him, God increases and multiplies the inherent thinking and perceptual powers of our minds and God goes to work in us with all of his abilities to save people in darkness. When we cooperate with Jesus, our incompleteness becomes complete in him and weak people are empowered to do things only God can do.

God doesn't play favorites. In Jesus, he issued an amnesty for every human who would ever live on this earth. He wants to make us all like him. He paid the ransom price and he wants to make every person in the world free, pure, and completely committed to living the life of the Kingdom of Light. Satan works every angle he can think of to defeat God's goal, but the blood price Jesus paid to ransom us is constantly reaping rewards. His followers are winning skirmishes and battles over darkness everywhere you turn. The reputation of The Three in One is growing throughout the world. Jesus will not be satisfied until victory is complete and "all of his hard work pays off."³⁵

One way or another, Jesus is determined that every people group on earth hears the Good News that he is absolutely different from how the King of the Darkness has portrayed him. He realizes that not everyone will respond, but he also knows that the seed of the Kingdom of Light that is planted will take root in human hearts. He is confident that there are those who will choose to become a part of his Kingdom and that future generations will hear about his love from those who make the decision to serve him.³⁶ It will become a chain reaction, each generation sharing the Good News with the next with growing numbers of people becoming citizens of the Kingdom of Light.

The day is coming when dominion of this earth is going to be restored to God's people. They are going to be made kings and queens on earth and all of the privileges and power of kings and queens will be theirs. When that day comes, our minds and hearts will all be once again completely in tune with God and an understanding of his love and goodness will blanket Planet Earth like the dew. North, South, East and West - you can travel as far as you can go in any direction and God's love will reign supreme!³⁷

1. Mark 16:15
2. Matthew 28:18
3. This subject is one of the most confusing in the Bible if a person doesn't read everything the Bible says on the subject.
4. Matthew 28:19,20
5. In one sense, heaven is a place, the capitol of the Kingdom of Light. But a place doesn't really capture the intent of this term. The capitol of a nation or kingdom isn't really the focus - the real focus of power is the king/president/prime minister. The capitol is really wherever the ruler is. So in Jesus, heaven, a portion of the capitol of the universe came to earth and was in humanity's presence.
6. John 14:12
7. Mark 16:17,18
8. Matthew 9:35-38; 10:1
9. Matthew 10:1
10. The term "ecclesia," the called out ones, "the church," doesn't refer to any particular Christian sect or denomination. It is God's people whoever and wherever they are and no matter what group they are a part of. It is true, God raises up certain groups of his people at particular moments in earth history to accomplish certain particular tasks for him and to fill certain roles in the great "Drama of the Ages." He raises up people and groups with a prophetic ministry to remind people of things which are important to him and to restore truths that are forgotten or lost. Martin Luther is an example of someone raised up by God to restore the core truth that we can only qualify for restoration and adoption to the Kingdom of Light because of Jesus' perfection and the ransom he paid on the cross. God commissioned John Wesley to restore the truth that being a part of the Kingdom of Light is more than a claim, it is a lifestyle committed to living like Jesus. It involves spiritual and personal discipline. God raised up Evan Roberts to spark the Welsh Revival that blazed around the world with a new understanding of the power of prayer in a person and community's life. He raised up William Miller to spark Christians of many faith streams to begin a new study of the judgement and what it is all about. He raised up the early "adventists" to remind people that Jesus is coming soon and he raised up the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to remind the world of how important the Seventh-day Sabbath is to God and to confront pagan ideas about death which had crept into the Christian Church. But he has never given leave to any group to claim sole right to being "his church" any more than the Jews could rightly claim to exclusively be his people in Old Testament times. In fact, their exclusivity was what finally led God to establish the Christian Church to accomplish his work on earth. Rather than seeing themselves as the envelope in which God desired to send the Good News to the whole world, they began to see themselves as "the letter." The group became what was important. It was as if a particular group of people became an ark or a ship; if you were in it, then you were saved, if not, then you were lost. Pride and exclusivity replaced humility and a "servant's heart." It is that exclusive idea which disappoints God and which seriously hampers the spread of his Kingdom on this earth.
- The "church" is God's people forgiven by his grace, filled with his Breath, committed to living the life of his Kingdom of Light, and focused on representing him and taking the Good News of his saving to everyone, everywhere on this earth and looking forward to an eternity with him in heaven and eventually on this recreated world.
11. Revelation 22:17
12. This is one of the hardest concepts there is or many people to grasp - particularly when it comes to preference. A person may engage in a lifestyle or have attitudes or practices we find repugnant or which we know from the Bible is going to keep them out of the Kingdom of the Kingdom of Light; we may even be so different in personality that we have no natural affinity, but we are still called to love them, to see them through the eyes of Jesus and to see what they could become through his grace. That love does not start when they have somehow changed to be as we want them to be; it begins in unconditional love that sometimes, if the person freely chooses, becomes the catalyst for the change God desires to accomplish in their lives and hearts.
13. Note Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4 for a discussion of the whole subject of "Spiritual Gifts."

14. 1 Corinthians 12:11

15. Mark 16:17

16. Mark 16:18

17. Perhaps because we do not really believe that they are available to us or that God will really give them. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 12:30-31 - But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1 - Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 - So, my brethren, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues; but all things should be done decently and in order.

Jesus promised: John 16:23-24 - In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name. 24 Hitherto you have asked nothing in my name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

18. John 9:7

19. John 5:14

20. Exodus 15:26

21. Deuteronomy 7:15

22. Psalm 105:37

23. Matthew 28:19,20

24. Revelation 6:17,17

25. Luke 13:27

26. Matthew 28:20

27. Isaiah 40:1

28. Isaiah 40:9-11

29. Song of Solomon 5:10

30. Song of Solomon 5:16

31. Roman's 8:29 Would that everyone chose to accept that destiny

32. Mark 16:20

33. Acts 2

34. Joel 2:23

35. Isaiah 53:11

36. Psalm 22:30

37. Daniel 7:27; Isaiah 11:9; Isaiah 59:19; Isaiah 52:7-10

