

In SPIRIT and TRUTH

*HE WHO SAID, “COME UNTO ME”
ALSO SAID, “GO YE”*

“COME UNTO ME,
all ye that labour
and are heavy
laden, and I will
give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28



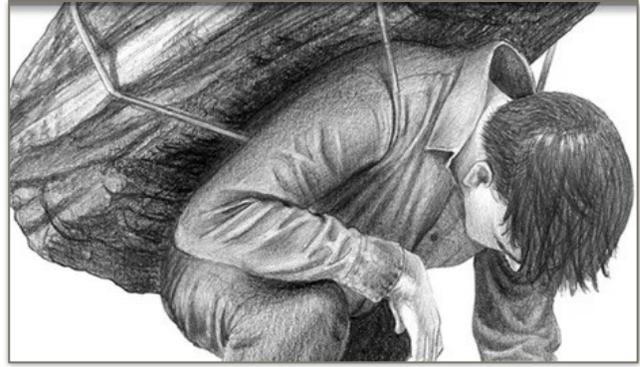
“And JESUS said
unto them, GO YE
into all the world,
and preach the
gospel to every
creature.”
Mark 16:15

Are you sick and tired, of being SICK and TIRED ?

One of my earliest memories of an encounter with God happened when I was a very young child. I don't remember how old I was, but I recall having a dream that I did not understand. In the dream, I saw an arm coming down from the heavens to earth, with an outstretched hand reaching towards me. I could not see who the hand belonged to, but *I perceived it was the hand of God*, reaching out to me, and asking me to *Come*. At the time, I didn't know what to do, so I just stood there looking, and did not respond; then the dream ended. Like I said, I don't know how old I was, but I was very young, and it made such an impression upon me that I never forgot it.

I later discovered in Jeremiah 1:4-5, that the Lord spoke to Jeremiah and told him that he was known of God and ordained to be a prophet, *before coming out of his mother's womb!* Of course, not everyone receives such a direct prophetic calling as Jeremiah did; however, I believe that when Jesus was on earth preaching the gospel to the multitudes, the invitation to “Come” was extended to ALL men. For the Scriptures declare that Jesus came to save those who were lost (Luke 19:10), and that “*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*” (Romans 5:8).

“COME unto me, ALL ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30



A study of the word of God would reveal that it was Jesus' plan (from the beginning) to restore mankind to a right relationship with the Father. For it was because of Adam and Eve's sin in *the Garden* that man became mortal and subject to death; however, because of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, all who come into covenant with Him can now be restored, and once again have eternal life.

“For as by one man's disobedience (Adam) many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Jesus Christ) shall many be made righteous.” Romans 5:19

It is also interesting to note what Jesus said to His disciples in John 6:70: ***“Jesus (said), Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?”*** This made me stop and think, *“Why would Jesus choose him, if He knew he was a devil?”*

We are told that Jesus spoke in reference to Judas, who was not *literally* “a devil”; but Jesus spoke prophetically, with the foreknowledge that Judas was predestined to be *a transgressor* (Acts 1:16-18, 24-25), and that he would open his heart to Satan to betray the Lord (Luke 22:3-6, 47-48). I believe Judas was chosen as an example to let us know that Jesus extended the invitation to His kingdom to *everyone!*

However, from Judas' example, we also learn that ***accepting the call to follow Christ does not guarantee salvation.***

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him SHOULD NOT perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

Please pay close attention to the words “should not” in the above passage (KJV). Even though this is one of the most quoted scriptures in the Bible, the use of the words *should not* lets us know that it is *conditional*. For according to Matthew 24:13, only those who *endure until the end* shall be saved.

Even though Judas walked with Jesus during His ministry on earth, Judas still had *freewill*, which allowed corruption to enter his heart. Unfortunately, when Judas hung himself, he forfeited eternal life. Therefore, Judas was not present with the others on the day of Pentecost, he did not receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and he was not able to be a part of the New Testament Church (Acts 2:1-6, 38-42).

But for those who would obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, **there is the promise of entering into God's rest**, where each believer is able to cease from his own labor (Hebrews 4:9-10), to receive the benefits made freely available in the kingdom of God. These benefits would include all of the provisions for daily living, as well as the peace and protection given to the children of God from their heavenly Father.

“And he said unto them, GO YE into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

In Mark 16:15-18, we find what has become known to the religious world as ***“The Great Commission”***. These were Jesus’ departing words of instructions to His disciples (“the eleven”) when He appeared unto them after His resurrection, and just before He ascended up into heaven. From the explicit instructions given, it is quite apparent that Jesus intended for the work that He began as Savior of the world, to be carried on by His disciples.



In Acts, chapter one, we are told that after He showed Himself alive to them, “being seen 40 days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God”, Jesus *commanded* His disciples to wait in Jerusalem to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, stating...

“But ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me... unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

However, before beginning to share the gospel of Christ, it is important that we understand the purpose of Pentecost (Acts, chapter 2). God poured out His Spirit on the early Church, so they would be empowered to continue the work He began on earth. Likewise today, we have a responsibility to preach the same gospel that they preached, demonstrated with *signs* following.

“And these SIGNS shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” Mark 16:17-18

The gospel of the kingdom preached by most Christian denominations today, is not the same message of salvation given by the Apostles and the early Church. Even though many today *call themselves Christians*, most Protestant denominations do not believe in the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of tongues (Acts 2:1-39). The examples given throughout the Book of Acts shows that the early converts all received *power*; just as on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4, 38-39; 8:5-17; 10:1-48; 19:1-7; 9:17-18). It was this power that enabled them not only to speak in tongues, but also to continue the work of the kingdom with miracles, signs, and wonders, just as Jesus and the original twelve disciples did.

So if you’re sick and tired, of being sick and tired, why not accept the Lord’s invitation to “Come”. And if you haven’t already done so, pray to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, so you too can receive *power* and the many provisions available to the children of the kingdom. But remember, ***“Don’t be selfish... as you have freely received, freely give!”*** Yes, GO YE, and tell someone the good news of the gospel of the kingdom of our Lord, JESUS CHRIST.