



TODD LEVIN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A monthly teaching publication to our partners and friends

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR WORLD

Dear Partners and Friends,

From time to time we hear someone preach on the “Great Commission” which is found over in **Mark chapter 16:15**. “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*” The truth still remains that: We must go and tell in order for people to believe and receive.

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Romans 10:14,15

I remember sitting down one day reading Acts chapter 26 when all of a sudden I found myself listening to the Bible instead of reading verses on a page. Suddenly I saw what I had never seen before and revelation came – something had been revealed to me. Before we look at Acts 26, I want to call your attention to a statement that Jesus made in the Gospel of John.

“...The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

John 6:63

I don't know whether you realize or not that there is a difference between the *spoken word* of God – “Rhema” and the *written word* of God – “Logos.” Often when we are reading our Bibles or listening to someone preach, we are hearing and seeing with our physical ears and eyes. The only thing happening is that our minds are being renewed and we gain more information and possibly understanding. When the Holy Ghost speaks to you about what you've just read or heard, then life is imparted. The scripture now changes from information to revelation – something has been revealed to you. You are now hearing and seeing from within – your spirit man, instead of analyzing it with your head. One minute you're reading a verse and the next minute you're asking yourself why you have not seen that before – why you've read it a 100 times! You see friend, he spoke to you and now impartation has taken place because something has been revealed to you.

Now let's go to **Acts chapter 26** and read verses 12-18. Paul is standing before king Agrippa recounting his miraculous conversion experience.

“Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, at midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun... ..shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

Acts 26:13-18

Notice that Jesus was the one who appeared and appointed Saul (who later was called Paul) and sent him out, not a church board. What was it that the Lord appointed him to do? To be a servant-minister and a witness.

As I was sitting there that day, it was a though I could hear the Lord speaking those words to me, *“I appeared to you to appoint you as a servant-minister and a witness.”* Now I’ve never seen the Lord personally in a vision, but he did appear to me and manifest himself the day I called on Him to be saved. He made himself real to me on the inside.

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

Revelation 3:20

“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself.”

I John 5:10

The day you committed your life to Christ is the day He manifested Himself to you. If Jesus did not make Himself known to you in a personal way, you would never have committed your life into His hands. He did appear to you and made Himself known the day you called on His Name.

All that He expects from you is that you serve Him by serving others and stand up for Christ, be that living witness. It’s really not that hard and not as difficult as it may seem. Serve others by being a witness for Christ. Testify of His goodness and mercy that He has shown you.

Let me give you an example. If you were called to testify in a court of law, the only thing the judge wants to hear is: What you have seen and what you have heard. Nothing more and nothing less. It’s not up to you to give the verdict. You’re only there to be a witness.

Testify of what you’ve heard God say and what you’ve seen God do. That’s it! Let the Spirit of God do the rest. You’ve done your part – you’ve served others by being a witness and taking a stand for Christ.

I remember preaching on the streets of the Czech Republic. When I would stand up and open my mouth, I began to declare what I saw God do. I would testify of the miracle working power of God that I have personally witnessed time and time again. I would then begin to tell the people what I heard God say – chapter and verse – how Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever! How God is so in love with them and would receive them and forgive their sins if they would call on His name. I would often quote **Jeremiah 29:11** showing them that God has a plan and a future for their lives. What was I doing? I was serving the people by witnessing and testifying of the goodness of God. For it is the goodness of God which leads people to repentance. (**Rom 2:4**)

Now let's look a little closer at **Acts 26**. The Lord said he was “*sending Paul to the Gentiles.*” Did you know the Lord is sending you also into the world you live in? Now the world you live in is not as big as you imagine it to be. It is comprised of the people and places that you normally come in contact with on an average day or week. For example, take a student, the world he lives in is his school; those in the work force, your job and fellow employees where you spend a considerable amount of time, is the world Jesus is sending you to reach. If you were a housewife, your children, friends and neighbors would probably be the ones you spend the most time around. That is the world you live in!

I think to often that Christians have this mindset that to go into “all the world” means going on mission trips and traveling to places they have never been to before. Some churches place more prayer emphasis and outreach on foreign missions (a world they do not live in), than they do on reaching their own neighborhood and surrounding areas. There needs to be a balance. Support missionaries; go on mission trips, but remember, that is not the world you live in or come in contact with day in and day out. If you will not reach out to those around you, then who will?

- THREE THINGS TO DO -

When the Lord sent Saul or Paul to go forth, He gave him very clear directions:

1. **Open their eyes**
2. **Turn them from darkness to light**
3. **Turn them from the power of satan to God**

Let's take a closer look at this for just a minute. How do you open the eyes of those whose minds and understanding have been blinded by the god of this world – satan? (**II Cor 4:4**) Doesn't the Word of God tell us that over in **Psalms 119:105**, “*God's word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path?*” In **Psalms 119:130**, the word declares that: “*The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*” Jesus said that His Word is truth and when we know the truth, the truth shall set us free. (**Jn 8:32; 17:17**) So the way we open the eyes of the unbeliever is by preaching the Gospel, thus exposing them to the truth of God's Word.

Secondly, the Lord told him, “*Turn them from darkness to light.*” What does that mean? He's referring to salvation and the kingdom of God. Remember what **Colossians 1:12,13** says, “*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of*

the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. The apostle John said it this way, “*God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*” (I John 1:5)

I like the way the Living Bible translates **Colossians 1:13,14**. “*For he has rescued us out of the darkness and gloom of Satan's kingdom and brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who bought our freedom with his blood and forgave us all our sins.*”

Thirdly, “*Turn them from the power of satan to God.*” This speaks of deliverance and healing. Over in **Luke 13**, we have the story recorded of the woman who was bound by a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years. Jesus said, “*And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?*” “*And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.*”

- WORKING TOGETHER WITH HIM -

Now I'd like to call your attention to the Gospel of **John chapter 14:12-14**. Jesus told us,

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

Here we have the very words of Christ – the anointed one – empowering believers (*He that believeth on me...*), to go forth in His name and continue the works that He did. The Lord is working together with you to get people saved, healed and delivered. **First Corinthians 3:9** states that we are “*labourers together with God.*” Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel for He knew it was “*the power of God unto salvation.*” (**Rom 1:16**)

I once heard T.L. Osborne say that, “God has given us the privilege of stamping people’s passports so they may go to heaven.” What an awesome privilege to carry the message, the power and the life of God inside of you. We truly are Christ’s ambassadors! (**II Cor 5:20**)

I would like to encourage you this month to stand up and step out for Jesus. He is searching the whole earth looking for someone whose heart is committed to Him and His cause. Are you available? You may have failed in the past and excused yourself for not reaching out and testifying of the goodness of God, but today friend is a new day. In fact today is the first day of the rest of your life. Remember, you have a message that people need to hear. You serve a God that they need to know. It seems to me as though the days are shorter and I realize that time stops for no one. Make a point to testify to somebody each day of the goodness of God. For it is the goodness of God that leads a man to repentance!

Your Friends and Partners,

Todd + Eva

