

Commissioned!

Part 2: The Natural Desire of Our New Nature

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Full Text (for reading on your own)

A Word from Bobby Conner

Bobby Conner has said that there is coming a fiery fusion, joining of the generations, young and old! They will be unstoppable. There is a roar of revolution - a revolution of unction for function! A radical revolution that in many ways will redefine the way the modern day church has been defining Christianity. This coming move will be about action (see Mark 16:20). It was never the plan of God to establish the kingdom of God with mere words but with Christ-centered works. Not just mere doctrine but God inspired deeds (see 1 Cor. 4:20).

He went on to say that there can be no revolution with contented people. So God has been busy fanning the flame of discontentment within the hearts of His people so we will not settle for less than He has for us. So what you feel brooding within your spirit is a Divine dissatisfaction. The seed bed for true revolution is dissatisfied people, reaching a place of radical reaction, responding to the lack of action. It's high time to awake and arise (see Romans 13:11-14).

This summer I preached on "Moving the Needle: it's time for measurably more! There is a revolution of unction for function! God is working in unity across the Body of Christ and those who have ears to hear will hear!

Commissioned!

It's good to be commissioned - and it is good to be operating in your commission! We don't want to be out-of-commission Christians. In order to be in our commission, we need to know our job description. If you don't know your job description, you will do what you think your job is, but not do what your job really is!

The Great Commission is the Christian job description. Every Christian has the same job description. There are five-fold ministers (Eph. 4) for the equipping of the saints for the works of service. And these five-fold ministers still have the same job description. They just have an additional job description in addition to the Great Commission. All Christians have the same job description. You cannot get transferred to a different department in the Kingdom of God.

We do not want to compromise the Great Commission. We want to be able to truly look at the Great Commission. We want to not avert our eyes, not average out our effectiveness on the different parts of it, and not say “been there, done that, didn’t work.”

In addition to not compromising the Great Commission, we also do not want to get into condemnation about the Great Commission. When we read the Word and see that we don’t yet line up with it, we can get into condemnation. Condemnation can actually be a cop-out. It can actually be an excuse in which we villain-ize the person or the Word of God that told us the truth so that we don’t need to stay in the tension of potentially needing to change. But, as we need to embrace the tension that exists between the Word and where we are at and the Word will start to do the work!

Your New Nature!

In 2 Corinthians 5:16 Paul says “Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh.” Paul was saying “there is something different on the inside of you now! Your body might get stinky if you forget to put your deodorant on, but that is not how we are considering you any longer! We are not looking at you on the outside because we know you have something else - Someone Else - on the inside!” What do you have the inside? The Holy Spirit! You are the temple of God as a born-again believer! Depending on where a newer believer is at, they might not look like the temple of God yet (on the outside) but they are on the inside!

Paul continues in verse 17: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” When Jesus removed your transgressions from you, He stole them from you. You could have tried to hang on to your sins, but He stole them away. And how far did He run away with them? As far as

the East is from the West! That's how far He has removed our transgressions from us! He has taken them, buried them, and done away with them forever. He can't see you with your sins because they are not with you! Old things have passed away! All things have become new!

You may think to yourself "are the new things good things?" Well verse 18 answers that! "Now all things are of God who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." When we got born-again, the Holy Spirit took up residence on the inside of us. This was a major change; we in a moment received a new nature!

When you have so radical of a change in nature, it is important that you understand the change that took place or else you can become very frustrated. Consider the illustrative movie Shawshank Redemption. In that film, there was an elderly gentleman who had spent his entire adult life behind bars. All he knew was the nature of a prisoner. He was released in the movie in his old age - becoming a freed man, but he ended up killing himself because he was not able to adjust to the freedom. He had an old nature and upon getting put into a new nature, he didn't know what to do with it.

I believe that it is actually out of mercy that Jesus gave us the Great Commission. He was saying "you have a new nature now! I don't want you to be confused about what to do with your new nature! All things have been made new in you! You used to know how you "do life." But you have a new nature! Old things have passed away, behold all things have been made new, and now all things are of God!

You have a new nature that is bent on doing the will of God! If you got saved in your adulthood, surely there were sins you did before you knew the Lord that you did not even think twice about. And then, after being born again, as a new believer, those same sins repulse you. You feel terrible if you do them! Just think! How could you now feel so bad for something that before did not even bother you? Because you have a new nature! You have God on the inside of you. He's saying "not that! We don't do that! That's not us! That's not you!"

All things have been made new in you and now all things are of God. You need to understand your new nature and what the desires of your new nature are or else you are going to become very frustrated in your walk with God.

Your Heart's VIP Guest

Imagine that a "VIP friend" of yours is coming stay with you and your spouse for the weekend. This is one of the most important people in the world to you. They fly in and spend a weekend with you. Initially the weekend was great. On Friday night you all had an awesome dinner and it was really fun. On Saturday, you started to notice a bit of a tension in the house. By Sunday, it was almost like they were happy to leave.

After they left you thought to yourself "what happened? I know that they love me and I love them, but what happened? Why did it go from being so good at the start of the weekend to pretty rough by the end of the weekend?" A few weeks later as you are talking with them on the phone (because you are good friends) one of you sheepishly brings up that tension during their visit - to see what's going on. As your friend shares, you find out your friend only really had two things they wanted to do in coming to visit you for the weekend. One was to see you, and, two, they wanted to go see as many of the museums in town as they could.

Here you had invited them into your house and had never taken them out of the house the entire weekend! So, dinner on Friday night was great because there was no expectation that you were going to take them out on the first night when they had just arrived. But, by mid-day Saturday, they had started to be a little frustrated because they knew they wanted to see a number of museums. By Sunday they were ready to go home because they just were not getting to do what they came there for.

So it is with the Holy Spirit if we do not know His prerogatives! Jesus said "it's good that I go so that the Holy Spirit can come and live inside of you." If you don't know the prerogatives of the Holy Spirit - His desires in being the VIP guest of your heart - you will become frustrated. There will be tension in the house. He's the greatest guest we could ever host. He actually has prerogatives in being in our heart. One of them is to know us and vice versa. But there is more than that! If we don't ask Him what He is

wanting to do, we can be like the host that becomes frustrated and with whom there was tension with - because there were unspoken prerogatives that were not aligned and tended to.

The Holy Spirit's Prerogative

In Genesis 1:2 we see "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." One day Reinhard Bonnke was asking God "why was the Holy Spirit having to wait - having to hover?" He wondered how long the Holy Spirit had to wait. But then God revealed to Evangelist Bonnke the "why." The Holy Spirit was waiting on the Word of God to be spoken because the Holy Spirit can only respond to the Word of God!

I envision it like this: the Father told the Holy Spirit that they were going to do this amazing thing - they were going to make the earth and all that is within it! "It's going to be beautiful! We are going to make man in our image and give him dominion over the earth. It's going to be a beautiful thing!" It's almost like the Father has told the Holy Spirit "here's what we're going to do ... but WAIT for my Word!" So there's the Holy Spirit in verse 2 hovering over the waters waiting for the word of God! The Holy Spirit can only respond to the Word of God!

Then in verse 3 we see "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." As soon as the Holy Spirit heard the Father speak He was at full attention and ready to do whatever God said! And we see that as soon as God spoke "let there be light" there was light! When the Holy Spirit hears the Word of God, the Holy Spirit acts!

The Holy Spirit is hovering and waiting for the Word of God to be released in this earth! In that initial age (in the "creation age" so-to-speak) the Holy Spirit was waiting for the Word of God to be released for the earth to be created.

And then there was another age after man sinned. Now it is the prophetic age that leads up to Jesus Christ. In that season, the Holy Spirit is waiting for the Word of God to be released about the coming Messiah! And there was a series of prophecies that were released in that era. When John 1:14 says "the Word became flesh" it is referring to

those prophecies. The Word of God that was released - the prophetic declarations of the coming Messiah - were the Word that was released that became flesh in Mary! Why did it take 4000 years after the fall for Jesus to be born? Because that is how long it took for the prophecies to come forth!

Initially, the Holy Spirit was partnering with the Word of God to make the earth. Then, Holy Spirit was partnering with the Word of God to bring Jesus to the earth! Now, we are in the church age (the age after Jesus paid for our sins but before He comes back on Judgment Day). He was making the earth. Then, He was bringing Jesus to the earth. And now, in the church age, what is the prerogative of the Holy Spirit? What is the prerogative of the VIP guest of your heart? What is the prerogative of the Gift of God that's been given to you?

He has a prerogative. It is to know you, but it is also to bring the earth to Jesus! He made the earth. He brought Jesus to the earth. And now, He wants to bring the earth to Jesus!

THIS is the pulse beat of the Holy Spirit. This is what He is interested in. As the guest of your heart, this is His "museum desire." This is what He wants to do! When Holy Spirit comes into your heart, He wants to bring the world to Jesus!

Let's do a thought experiment to see if I am right about this. Consider the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. The Holy Spirit falls on the 120 or so believers that are in the upper room. What does the Holy Spirit do immediately after He falls on the 120 believers? The first thing that happens after the Holy Spirit has His way with 120 believers is that thousands are saved! Why? Because the Holy Spirit came and He has one agenda! Before He was waiting for God to speak for the worlds to be made. Then He was waiting for the Word to be released so that Jesus, the Messiah, could come to earth. Now Holy Spirit is waiting for the Word that causes the earth to come to Jesus!

The first thing that happens after the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is massive numbers of salvations. That's the pulse beat of the Holy Spirit. That's the epicenter of the passionate will of God! That's what the guest of your heart is after! That's what makes Him tick!

The Holy Spirit was listening when Jesus gave the Great Commission. He only responds to the Word of God. If you speak the Word of God in faith, if you activate and step into the Word of God in faith, the Holy Spirit cannot help but respond! He will respond!

We have to understand we have a new nature with new desires! We have to understand what Holy Spirit is after so that we don't feel a tension or a friction or a little bit dull in our lives. We have a new nature! The old things that used to motivate you are gone. Now all things have been made new! Now all things are of whom? God!

So if all things are of God, we have to know what God wants to do! He wants to bring the earth to Jesus! This is epicenter of what the Holy Spirit is responding to in this season! If you've ever led anyone to the Lord, disciplined someone out of a very difficult time, seen someone healed, or seen someone set free of a demon, then you know that nothing satisfies the deepest craving of your heart like that does! The core of who you are wants nothing more!

When we talk about the Great Commission, we are not talking about something that you're not. There is nothing more core to your new nature as a born-again believer than this pulse beat, this heartbeat of God. This is what the Holy Spirit is getting behind in this season.

Daniel Webster, who wrote the dictionary we all know and use defines history like this: "History is God's providence in human affairs." In other words, if you don't know what God's doing in a season, you won't understand history. We have to be sensitive to what the Lord is doing within a certain era. Remember, during the "Law era" God was tutoring people to Christ (see Gal. 3). Many of the Jews just prior to Jesus' time, not understanding the era they were in with God came up with elaborate books and manuals about how to fulfill all the particular aspects of the Law for righteousness sake. They tried to define "just how much of something can you lift up on the Sabbath without it becoming work." But that's not what that season in God was about! It was about realizing you needed a Savior. So who's the culminating prophet of that whole season? John the Baptist! And he captured the message of that season: "repent you're not

righteous! And you over there that think you are righteous are actually a brood of vipers!”

But now we are in the church season. Jesus has died and paid for everyone’s sins. We are not to impute their sins to them. We have been given a ministry of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:18). That’s the pulse beat; that’s the heart of God. Look again at 2 Corinthians 5. It says all things have been made new and now all things are of God. You have been reconciled to God and “you’ve been given a ministry or reconciliation.” When you have God on the inside of you, you have a ministry of reconciliation pulsing inside of you! “Reconcile others. Bring others to Me! Disciple them up! Make sure they are set free. Make sure they’re healed. Get rid of any demons in their life. They ought to be totally free!”

In John 14:2-3 we see hear Jesus, the Bridegroom, talk about the beautiful mansions He is preparing for His Bride -the church! So, Jesus went to prepare a place for us, but then sent the Holy Spirit to us to prepare the Bride for Him!

The Great Commission is a bride-preparation mission. The Holy Spirit has been sent to prepare the Bride of Christ. A beautiful bride! People brought to the Lord. Cleaned up. Discipled up. Not a tattered bride that doesn’t know up from down, left from right, and right from wrong. Not a bride that is dying from sickness when they are 55. The Holy Spirit has come to prepare a beautiful, healthy, vibrant bride! This is God, He has a Son, and He wants a beautiful bride for His Son because He has paid for it! Jesus has gone and He has prepared a place for the Bride of Christ and the Bride of Christ is to be radiant!

The Holy Spirit has been sent to prepare the Bride of Christ!

A New Nature Naturally Comes with New Desires

The Holy Spirit wants to burn inside of our hearts with passion. We are to baptize in the Holy Spirit and in fire! When God gave us the Holy Spirit, He gave us the Holy Spirit without measure. The Bible makes it clear: God gives the Spirit without measure. (Jn. 3:34) When God gave us the Holy Spirit, He did not measure to see which part of the Holy Spirit He was going to give us! What part of the Holy Spirit did He give us? The

whole part! We have been given the Spirit without measure, but we can still quench the Holy Spirit by throwing the cold water of unbelief on His work in our heart.

Imagine if you had a young teenager whose body was starting to change and you told them nothing about puberty. They would almost be surprised at some of the new feelings and some of the new drives that they had in them.

Some of you are about to go through a “spiritual puberty.” When you go through a physical puberty, you find a drive that you didn’t have before. Some of you are about to have a spiritual, Great Commission drive that you’ve never had before. This message is to warn you ahead of time to not be confused by it. You need to know what the Holy Spirit’s prerogative is. This is who you are now. There is no believer that deep down does not have the pulsating heart of God that is burning with passionate purpose to do the Great Commission! That’s at the core of the Holy Spirit and that’s who you have on the inside of you!

Some of you may be thinking “I’ve had the Holy Spirit on the inside of me for about 30 years and I just don’t have those sorts of desires.” If so, God is speaking to you today! In Ezekiel 37, God told him to prophecy to dry bones. God will never prophecy that you are dry bones! In verse 3 of that chapter, God asks Ezekiel “son of man, can these bones live?” Ezekiel responded with wisdom “oh God, you know!” Then the Lord tells Ezekiel to speak to the bones to put flesh and sinews and breath into the bones! And those bones became a mighty army!

You may be thinking “I have been in the Lord and I know the Great Commission is the Holy Spirit’s desire but I still just don’t feel those sorts of desires.” Some of you are about to go through a spiritual puberty! You’re about to come alive to the Great Commission! If you feel dry in your bones about the Great Commission, you are going to be surprised in this season as the Lord works a suddenly sort-of work in you and you wake up one morning with a strong desire for the Great Commission! This is just as a parent may be surprised that their 12 year old son all of sudden realizes that he likes girls!

The desire for the Great Commission is so natural for your born again spirit that it's like that! It's so natural that it is going to get to the point where you think "how could I not want to do this?" The Great Commission is natural to you as a born-again, new nature believer. The Holy Spirit heard Jesus speak the Great Commission and that's the Word that He's waiting to act on.

The Great Commission is by Faith

Let's look at Matthew 10:5-8. Here Jesus sends out the 12 apostles. While this is not the actual Great Commission, it is so closely related to it that it is illustrative in this case: "These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

Now let's look at this more closely. Jesus sends out the 12 and tells them to heal the sick, cleanse lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. My question for you is can they heal the sick, cleanse lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons on their own? The apostles were successful in their mission, so how did the apostles manage to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons? While Jesus doesn't indicate the mechanism of how they were to do these miracles, we know from the rest of scripture that what had happened was Jesus had spoken this and then as they stepped into it, the power of the Holy Spirit backed their words and actions because they were actually God's Words and God's actions! In other words, they did those 4 things by the power of God.

Now, did you happen to notice that there were actually 5 things they were commanded to do (not just 4)? What was the first item on the list of 5? "As you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' So, now let me ask you this: by whose power did they do that first item on the list? By whose power do they preach about the kingdom being at hand? Jesus did not change the sentence structure in giving this list of 5 items the apostles were to do. I simply left out the first item on the list and for the last 4 items

on the list I am sure that you are very confident that it was the power of God that did those things. But, if I asked you, without those other items, “how do you go about preaching the gospel” I don’t know that many of us would immediately say “the power of God works through you!”

Proclaiming the gospel takes faith! When you’ve heard teaching on divine healing, did you at any point assume that the preacher was going to ask you to go into hospitals on your own and then on your own accord tell people to get out of their beds? Of course you did not! Yet, we hear a pastor speak on the Great Commission overall (not just divine healing) but also including preaching the gospel, baptizing those who believe, discipling individuals and nations and we assume the pastor is going tell us to go preach the gospel on our own.

We look at Matthew 10 and think that all the miracles in the list are by faith - except preaching the gospel! If we think we can preach the gospel by ourselves (or said, differently, if we put any of the pressure for being able preach the gospel on ourselves) then apparently we don’t think it’s by faith. The Great Commission is not a will-powered mission. It is a faith-powered mission!

We think “all I have to do is share the gospel ... even a politician could do that.” We are thinking “you just have to read the party platform to people.” NO! We are so wrong to think that we in and of ourselves could ever cause the new birth! It is the Holy Spirit that causes the rebirth! Every time the Holy Spirit carries out the regeneration, it is so much greater miracle than any physical healing! We are so wrong if we think we can share the gospel effectively on our own. You can’t cause anyone to get born again. You can’t do it. The Holy Spirit does it! You start speaking the Word of God and stepping into the Great Commission, the Holy Spirit will back you up! The Great Commission is not a will-powered mission. It is a faith-powered mission!

So, what can do with your will? You can run, skip, jump, sing, speak, sleep, work, think, and even brush your teeth - by your will. What can you not do with you will? Carry out the rebirth! Baptize people in the Holy Spirit! Disciple nations (anyone done that on their own?) Heal the sick! Can we cast out demons on our own? Can we pick up snakes

with no problem on our own? Can we not be harmed by poison by our own power of will? Who carries out all of those things? It's the Power of God - the Holy Spirit - that carries out all of those things!

If we need faith to carry out the great commission then we need to be clear about how to get faith! The first thing we need to know is that actually, as believers, we have already all been given the FULL measure of faith. You were given the full measure of faith when you were born again. Galatians 2:20 says "we live by THE faith of the Son of God." Romans 12:3 says "we have each been given THE measure of faith." Similarly, Peter tells us in his second letter that we have each "received LIKE precious faith" as he had.

People were placing their lame and sick out in the streets on cots so that when Peter came, his shadow could pass over them, and they would be healed. Acts recounts that ALL were healed by Peter's shadow. We say "Wow! The power of God that was in Peter! The measure of the Holy Spirit that was in Peter!" But Peter wrote to us that we have each received "like precious faith" as he had! Peter had the same faith as Jesus and we have the same faith as Peter and Jesus - it's all the same faith. It's all the same Holy Spirit. We all, as believers, have access to the same measure of it.

If you were having someone over to your house and you were going to give them money (not a specific amount like \$100, \$200, or \$322.25 but all of your money), there is no need to count because you just give them the whole bank. That's what God did with you! He gave you the full measure of the Holy Spirit. He gave you the Spirit without measure. He didn't need to measure because He knew how much He was going to give to you - all of it!

So, as believers we all have the full measure of faith, but we are not all walking in the full measure of faith yet. Allowing all of the faith that is within us to be released requires knowing His Word! Romans 10:17 says "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

We know that principle, but what we tend to do is hear a great word and say, "Aha! I know what I am supposed to do now!" We then go do it on our own, attempting to make

the fruit on our own! So we see in Christian homes this fake fruit that's plastic with paint slathered. We're trying to make our fruit look good, but this just isn't right. It's not the real thing. Jesus told us that apart from Him we cannot bear fruit - you can do nothing apart from Him! There is only one way that you get Kingdom fruit! It's by receiving faith and abiding in the vine. How do you abide in the vine? Being in prayerful communion with the Holy Spirit and being the Word. Do you know that every time you read the Word you are also actually praying? He's speaking to you, isn't He? If you ask questions of God as you read the Word, you are praying. Often, during my prayer time, I will meditate on specific scriptures He highlights to me. That process is actually prayer! I ask Him, "Why were you speaking to me about this? How does this apply to my life right now?"

Jesus was no different. He said He did nothing apart from the Father. All His works were from the Father. All His words were from the Father. Jesus was totally dependent!

Start your Work with the Word!

We want to approach the Great Commission God's way - not just "the logical way." So what's God's way? The Commission is by faith and faith comes through the Word. Now you may think "that sounds too simple or not practical." You wouldn't be wrong to think like that because in a way it doesn't make sense because God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours.

Look at just John chapter 1, and we can see this very strong Kingdom principle. "In the beginning was the Word." That means that if you want to start anything in your life, start with the Word! That's what God did after all! Then we see that "all things were made through the Word." And "nothing that was made was made apart from the Word." So how does God make things? By His Word! So if we want to operate like God, how do we make things? By His Word!

Mark Crawford recently said "The greatest way you could ever please God is to believe His Word." So true!

In John 6:28-29, the people were asking Jesus “What shall we do, that we may do the works of God?” The Great Commission is the work of God, correct? So what shall we now (as believers) do so that we may do the works of God/ Great Commission? Look at Jesus’ response “This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He sent.” Who’s the “Him” that we’re supposed to believe in? It’s Jesus! The Word! The work of God is to believe in the Word whom He has sent!

How do we do the works of the Commission? Jesus said “don’t be confused! Don’t do it man’s way! THIS is the work of God - that you believe in His Word!” That’s powerful! Don’t do it man’s way. It’s a faith-powered mission! Not a will-powered mission! Faith comes through the Word and God begins everything through the Word! The work of God is to believe the Word! That’s the work! It like “labor to enter His rest!” It’s all backwards to us, but it’s how He operates!

So, your homework is to do the work of God - to believe His Word! Your homework is to memorize the Great Commission according to Matthew. Memorization sows the Word into your heart. Meditation causes it to grow, and action causes it to explode! Memorization is powerful because is nearly guarantees meditation! As you memorize and mediate on the Great Commission you will be amazed at what starts to birth in your heart!

Text Summary (for reading as a group)

Bobby Conner has said there is a roar of revolution - a revolution of unction for function! This coming move will be about action. It was never the plan of God to establish the kingdom of God with mere words but with Christ-centered works. Not just mere doctrine but God inspired deeds. There can be no revolution with content people. So God has been busy fanning the flame of discontentment within the hearts of His people so we will not settle for less than He has for us. So what you feel brooding within your spirit is a Divine dissatisfaction. The seed bed for true revolution is dissatisfied people, reaching a place of radical reaction, responding to the lack of action. It's high time to awake and arise! In other words, it's time for measurably more!

We don't want to be out-of-commission Christians. The Great Commission is the Christian job description. All Christians have the same job description. You cannot get transferred to a different department in the Kingdom of God. We do not want to compromise the Great Commission, but we also do not want to get into condemnation about the Great Commission. When we read the Word and see that we don't yet line up with it, we can get into condemnation. Condemnation can actually be a cop-out - an excuse in which we claim to be victimized by the person or the Word of God that told us the truth - all so that we don't need to stay in the tension of potentially needing to change. But, as we embrace the tension that exists between the Word and where we are at, the Word will start to do the work!

"Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh." You are the temple of God as a born-again believer!"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." Jesus removed all your transgressions from you. He can't see you with your sins because they are not with

you! Old things have passed away! All things have become new! “Now all things are of God who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” When we got born-again, the Holy Spirit took up residence on the inside of us. This was a major change; we have received a new nature! We need to understand our new nature and what the desires of our new nature is!

Imagine that a “VIP friend” of yours is coming to stay with you and your spouse for the weekend. Initially the weekend was great but by Sunday, it was almost like they were happy to leave. After they left you thought to yourself “what happened?” Later, you find out your friend only really had two things they wanted to do. One was to see you, and two was go see as many of the museums in town as they could. Here you had invited them into your house and had really not taken them out of the house the entire weekend! So, dinner out on Friday night was great because there was no expectation that you were going to take them out on the first night when they had just arrived. But, by mid-day Saturday, they had started to be a little frustrated because they knew they wanted to see a number of museums. By Sunday they were ready to go home because they just were not getting to do what they came there for.

So it is with the Holy Spirit if we do not know His prerogatives! If you don't know the prerogatives of the Holy Spirit - His desires in being the VIP guest of your heart - you will struggle to catch traction in your walk with Him. There will be tension in the house.

In Genesis 1:2 we see “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” Why was the Holy Spirit having to wait - having to hover? The Holy Spirit was hovering over the waters waiting for the word of God! The Holy Spirit can only respond to the Word of God! Then in verse 3 we see “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.” As soon as the Holy Spirit heard the Father speak He was at full attention and ready to do whatever God said! And we see that as soon as God spoke “let there be light” there was light! When the Holy Spirit hears the Word of God, the Holy Spirit acts!

The Holy Spirit is hovering and waiting for the Word of God to be released in this earth! Initially, the Holy Spirit was partnering with the Word of God to make the earth. Then,

Holy Spirit was partnering with the Word of God to bring Jesus to the earth! Now, He wants to bring the earth to Jesus! THIS is the pulse beat of the Holy Spirit. As the guest of your heart, this is what He wants to do! When Holy Spirit comes into your heart, He wants to bring the world to Jesus!

Consider, for instance, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. The first thing that happens after the Holy Spirit has His way with 120 believers is that thousands are saved! Why? Because the Holy Spirit came and He has one agenda! The Holy Spirit only responds to the Word of God (Jesus), and He was listening when Jesus gave the Great Commission!

We have to understand we have a new nature with new desires. The old things that used to motivate you are gone and all things have been made new! Now all things are of who? God! So, since all things are of God, we have to know what God wants to do! He wants to bring the earth to know Jesus! When we talk about the Great Commission, we are not talking about something that you're not. There is nothing more core to your new nature as a born-again believer than this pulse beat, this heartbeat of God. In John 14:2-3 we see hear Jesus, the Bridegroom, talk about the beautiful mansions He is preparing for His Bride -the church! So, Jesus went to prepare a place for us, but then sent the Holy Spirit to us to prepare the Bride for Him! The Great Commission is a bride-preparation mission. The Holy Spirit has been sent to prepare the Bride of Christ!

Imagine if you had a young teenager whose body was starting to change, and you told them nothing about puberty. They would almost be surprised at some of the new feelings and some of the new drives that they had in them. Some of you are about to go through a "spiritual puberty." When you go through a physical puberty, you find a drive that you didn't have before. Some of you are about to have a spiritual, Great Commission drive that you've never had before. This message is to alert you ahead of time to not be confused by it. You need to know what the Holy Spirit's prerogative is. This is who you are now. There is no believer that deep down does not have the pulsating heart of God that is burning with passionate purpose to do the Great

Commission! That's at the core of the Holy Spirit and that's who you have on the inside of you!

You may be thinking "I've had the Holy Spirit on the inside of me for about 30 years, and I just don't have those sorts of desires." If so, God is speaking to you today! In Ezekiel 37, God told him to prophecy to dry bones. God will never prophecy that you are dry bones; He'll prophecy life into them! "Son of man, can these bones live?" Those bones became a mighty army! You are about to come alive to the Great Commission! If you feel dry in your bones about the Great Commission, I believe you are going to be surprised in this season as the Lord works a sudden work in you. You might just wake up one morning with a strong desire for the Great Commission! This is just as a parent may be surprised that their 12 year old son all of sudden realizes that he likes girls! The desire for the Great Commission is so natural for your born again spirit that it is going to get to the point where you think "how could I not want to do this?"

In Matthew 10:5-8, Jesus sends out the 12 and tells them to heal the sick, cleanse lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. The apostles were successful in their mission, so how did the apostles manage to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons? They did those 4 things by the power of God of course! Now, they were actually commanded to do one other thing too: "As you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" So by whose power do they preach about the kingdom being at hand? God's!

If I asked you, without those other 4 miraculous acts, "how do you go about preaching the gospel" I don't know that many of us would immediately say "the power of God works through you!" Proclaiming the gospel takes faith! If we put any of the pressure for being able to preach the gospel on ourselves then apparently we don't think it's by faith. The Great Commission is not a will-powered mission. It is a faith-powered mission! We think "all I have to do is share the gospel ... even a politician could do that." NO! We are so wrong to think that we in and of ourselves could ever cause the new birth! The Holy Spirit does it!

You can run, skip, jump, sing, speak, sleep, work, think, and even brush your teeth - by your will. But you cannot carry out the rebirth, baptize people in the Holy Spirit, disciple nations, heal the sick, cast out demons by our own will power! It's the Power of God - the Holy Spirit - that carries out all of those things!

Like I mentioned earlier, if we need faith to carry out the great commission then we need to be clear about how to get faith! The first thing we need to know is that actually, as believers, we have already all been given the FULL measure of faith. That said, we are not all walking in the full measure of faith yet. Allowing all of the faith that is within us to be released requires knowing His Word. Romans 10:17 says "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

We want to approach the Great Commission God's way - not just "the logical way." "In the beginning was the Word." If you want to start anything in your life, start with the Word! That's what God did after all! John 1 also says that "all things were made through the Word" and "nothing that was made was made apart from the Word." So how does God make things? By His Word! So if we want to operate like God, how do we make things? By His Word!

In John 6:28-29, the people were asking Jesus "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" The Great Commission is the work of God, correct? So what shall we now (as believers) do so that we may do the works of God - that we may do the Great Commission? Look at Jesus' response "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him (THE WORD) whom He sent." The work of God is to believe in the Word whom He has sent!

How do we do the works of the Commission? Jesus said "don't be confused! Don't do it man's way! THIS is the work of God - that you believe in His Word!" It's a faith-powered mission! Faith comes through the Word and God begins everything through the Word! The work of God is to believe the Word! That's the work! So, your homework is to do the work of God - to believe His Word! Memorization sows the Word into your heart. Meditation causes it to grow, and action causes it to explode! As you memorize and

mediate on the Great Commission you will be amazed at the desire that starts to birth in your heart!

Points to Ponder . . .

- What does the Holy Spirit want to do in the “church age?”
- What’s your new nature / new desires for the Great Commission?
- By whose power do you carry out the Great Commission?
- How do we develop our God-given faith?
- Why start working on the Great Commission with the Word?
- Is anyone willing to try to share the Great Commission (Matthew’s account) from memory?