

## The Method & The Means of the Great Commission

Lesson for Sunday, May 17, 2026

TEXT: Matthew 28:20 & Acts 1:8

### INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ The point of our current series is that the Great Commission is not just a command for pastors, missionaries, or especially gifted Christians. It is the marching orders of every follower of Jesus.
- ⇒ Each of us must ask a serious question: Am I personally taking part in what Christ has commanded?
- ⇒ The Great Commission is not only something we support; it is something we are responsible to obey.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Which part of Matthew 28:18-20 feels most challenging to you?
  - b. Remember what we have discussed in previous week:
    - i. This is Jesus' final command before His ascension; it's not a side note but His strategic plan for how His church will grow after He leaves.
    - ii. The only real issue is whether we will choose to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - iii. There are two primary ways that God intends His commission to be carried out.
  - c. The First Method: The \_\_\_\_\_ of individual Christians.
    - i. Read Acts 1:8. What does it mean to be a *witness* of Jesus?
    - ii. Jesus' command assumes that ordinary believers will go, speak, and teach as they live in everyday relationships.
    - iii. God's method includes the personal witness of Christian individuals – friends, coworkers, neighbors, and family members who share the Gospel with others.
  - d. The Second Method: The \_\_\_\_\_ of the local church.
    - i. The Great Commission is not private only; it's corporate and public.
    - ii. Baptism is a public act identifying someone with Christ and with His people, always done in the context of a local church.
    - iii. Preaching, teaching, and discipling in the church are the normal way believers are trained to “observe all that I have commanded you” across generations.
    - iv. What would be lost if the church stopped preaching the Gospel publicly (in services, outreach, etc.)?
  - e. APPLICATION: Which method is yours? \_\_\_\_\_!
2. The \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The Great Commission can be intimidating. But Jesus says, “I am with you always!” He doesn't send us out alone!

- b. Jesus' promise of His continual presence is the \_\_\_\_\_ of both personal witness and public proclamation.
- c. The Great Commission is not about our cleverness, programs, or personalities, but the presence and power of the risen Christ through the Holy Spirit.
  - i. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ hearts as the Gospel is shared.  
See John 16:8–11.
  - ii. The Holy Spirit gives boldness and \_\_\_\_\_ to those who witness.  
See Acts 4:31; 1 Corinthians 2:4–5.
- d. Personal witness is possible because the Spirit is with *each disciple*.
- e. Public proclamation by the church is effective because the Spirit is with *the whole Body*.
- f. The Great Commission is not ours to carry out in our strength, but to \_\_\_\_\_ in dependence on the One who promised, "I am with you always."

PERSONAL NOTES: