

Living as Sent Ones

2 Timothy 1:7

Thesis: We are a people who join Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence with others. Just as the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us. God is already at work in our spheres of influence where we live, work, and play. Our job is not to get God to come and bless what we are doing. Rather, we get to bless what God is doing and partner with him.

Text: Philippians 2:12-13; John 17:18, 20:21; 2 Timothy 1:7

Today, I want to cast vision for the joy of the Christian life in following the way of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit through communion with God. Why? Because we get to live as sent ones.

1. **Jesus declared that he was on mission or assignment for God by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14-19).**
 - a. *Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. 16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:14-19).*
 - b. The good news is that Jesus always did and said what God was doing and saying (John 5:19; 8:28). Jesus communed with the Father in a deeply intentional and intense relationship.
 - c. The good news is that everything Jesus said and did pleased the Father (John 8:29). That is evidenced by the fruit of the life of Jesus and the words of the Father.
2. **Since the beginning in Genesis through the whole of Scripture, God is at work and God is on mission.**
 - a. The Bible is one coherent story from beginning to end, declaring to us who God is and what God is doing. From the beginning, God is on mission.
 - b. In the beginning, man and woman were invited to co-rule and reign with God on the earth. We were on assignment to carry out the will of God in

the earth in partnership with God. From the beginning, God is on mission and we are invited to partner with God on his mission.

- c. In Revelation 5:9-10, we discover the worth of Jesus, the work of Jesus, and the purpose for which Jesus came for us:
 - i. *And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:9-10).*
 - ii. Jesus purchased us for God so that we might be kings and priests to serve our God and to rule with God on the earth, carrying out the will of our King.
 - d. Scripture is clear and testifies that our God is at work and on mission, and we are invited to join God on his mission.
3. **Just as God sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us.**
- a. In his High Priestly Prayer in John 17, Jesus prayed to the Father: *"As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world"* (John 17:18).
 - b. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples and said, *"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you"* (John 20:21).
 - c. Just as God sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us.
4. **We are a people who respond to the initiative of God, for God is already at work in our lives and our spheres of influence** (Philippians 2:12-13).
- a. *Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:12-13 ESV).*
 - b. We don't have to beg God to come and join us in what we are doing.
 - c. Rather, we get to pay attention to God, commune with God, and partner with what he is doing in us and through us.
 - d. God is on mission. God has already taken the initiative in our spheres of influence. We get to work out what God is working in, through, and around us as we respond to his initiative.

We are a people who join Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence with others. Just as the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us. God is already at work in our spheres of influence where we live, work, and play. Our job is not to get God to come and bless what we are doing. Rather, we get to bless what God is doing and partner with him.

We are sent, so we must go.

Most of us would prefer to gather in places where we are comfortable and not anxious. But, God says to go. According to my friend Ken Shuman, "Church is intended to be like an airport terminal. It is the place that we get launched from. We get equipped so that we can go."

Do you ever get paralyzed by your fears? What anxiety emerges in you when you think about being sent and living on mission with God?

To live as sent people, we must overcome our fears and manage our own anxiety.

Consider the words written in 2 Timothy 1:7: "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity [fear], but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline (NIV).

God has given us a spirit of:

1. Power: ability, capability, and strength.

- a. God has empowered you.
- b. You are capable; you are able and enabled.
- c. You can be bold; you can be courageous (Joshua 1:9). You have the opportunity to act as one who is empowered by God.
- d. God has given you permission, and God has given you courage.
- e. God has given you the power to overcome your fear.
- f. The spirit of power stands in contrast to a spirit of timidity or fear.
 - i. God has put in us the power and ability, both moral and physical, to do what he has asked us to do.
 - ii. And, even when I am weak, I am strong in Christ, for his power is perfected in my weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-12).
- g. 2 Timothy 1:3-6 talks about Timothy's true identity, giftedness, and ability.
 - i. In that context of the work of God, the faith in God in his family, and the impartation of spiritual gifts, God has not given Timothy a spirit of fear or timidity but of power.

2. Love: love for God, love for others, and love for self.

- a. Love is about affection, passion, devotion, and laying down our lives for others.
- b. Love is a powerful emotion.
- c. Love is a deliberate choice.
- d. Love seeks the well-being of everyone.
- e. Love means that we have compassion for others and for self.
- f. We can choose love, rather than reacting with silence or violence because of our fear.

- g. The source of love is God, who is love.
 - i. So, God gets to define love.
 - ii. And God expresses his love in and through us.
 - h. Love is the greatest weapon unleashed upon the world.
 - i. The love of God has conquered our lives and reached us even in our brokenness.
 - ii. The love of God makes us whole.
3. **Self-discipline: a right mind, a sober mind, a disciplined mind, a sound mind.**
- a. God has given us a self-regulated and thinking mind.
 - b. **We can be thoughtful, reflective, and self-controlled, rather than being reactive.**
 - c. We can choose to use our best thinking rather than simply reacting in the typical ways we usually do.
 - d. We need to disciple ourselves, to live with integrity into who we are designed to be in Christ.
4. **God has equipped us to overcome our fears with power, love, and self-discipline.**

In Faithwalking we believe that we are sent into our neighborhoods, workplaces, and third places. We are sent into those places where we spend the majority of our day. Proximity is important. Most of us will be sent local. What would it look like for the kingdom to come in your neighborhood? Is anyone in your workplace treated unjustly or unfairly? Does every person with whom you hang out or play have opportunity? Are people attracted to the kingdom by the way you live in your three places?

Would you be willing to give your word to thinking about the kingdom coming in at least one of these places? Would you be willing to give your word to pray that God would help you see where God is at work around you? (Faithwalking Foundations Module 5: *Living as Sent People* p. 8-10).

Application:

Here is an opportunity to live as a sent one and to live into our word for the year.

God has left a clear witness in our culture at Christmas and Easter to his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. So, God is already at work in our culture.

Researchers tell us that a vast majority of people around you would respond favorably to an invitation to join you for Easter at church. God is on mission. You just have to partner with God by making "the ask."

To help you make “the ask,” we have printed invitation cards for you to use. Please take as many as you need for your family, friends, neighbors, classmates, and co-workers.

Share the invitations to Easter Sunday where you live, work, and play.

Make “the ask.” Be clear, authentic, and passionate about what God has done for you. And invite them to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with you at Calvary.

You can bring your invitees or have them meet you here.

Breakfast is at 9:00am in the Life Center. Church starts at 10:00am. The Easter Egg hunt takes place right after the service.

Pray for the Lord to help you be aware of people around you. And, invite someone to join us for Easter at Calvary on March 31.

We are called to live as sent ones. And, our word for the year of 2024 is *Convergence: reaching others with the love of God*. May we live into our calling and into the Lord's word for us for this year.

Ministry Time:

1. Pray over the congregation, breaking a spirit of fear.
2. Pray and release a spirit of power.
3. Pray and release a spirit of love.
4. Pray and release a spirit of self-discipline.
5. Pray and release the strength and courage to overcome fear, timidity, and anxiety so that we can make “the ask” for Easter.
6. Pray and ask the Lord for divine appointments and for our awareness of whom God is leading us to reach with the love of God.