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International Ministry and Missions

The Garden Training Center, Inc.
An Apostolic School of Ministry



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Holy Spirit is the inspiration for the content of this book, however someone put words to it. This book was written by Lauren Caldwell.

This book is one of a series of books written and distributed by The Apostolic School of Ministry from The Garden Training Center, Inc. The series arises from the foundational teachings of the school of ministry, founded by Brandy Helton. Brandy wrote several sections that are included in each book such as “God’s Love” and the prayers included at the end of each book.

Many thanks to the team of writers of the series for their collaboration to make the series available to the public. The writers are: Lauren Caldwell, Jessica Doggett, Danetta Ferguson, Paula Green, Elisa Griffith, Nancy Hadley, Robin Harmon, Brandy Helton, Grant Hill, and Kevin McSpadden. Each have sought Holy Spirit for the words He wants to speak through them. The result is a mixture of personalities and communication strategies that convey the total message in a beautiful, diverse way.

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Encouragement and Prayer for the Reader

Beloved of God, these teachings are written to reveal Jesus Christ and His heart of love for all who call upon His name to save them.

God has sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to save all who would believe in Him and His Word.

God desires to reveal Himself and to give us His divine nature in Christ Jesus our Lord through the power of His Holy Spirit.

God is Jealous. He wants us to encounter His presence daily and walk with Him in glory – intimate communion - today, while it is called today, and forever.

It is my prayer that this teaching would so impact the readers that all would come to know and believe JESUS, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Great God and Savior, and receive the PERFECT LOVE He has for us all as we grow up into Him and mature as true sons and daughters of God.

May you grow in faith and knowledge of your God and Savior and come to know the love that He has for you. I pray for you the Apostle Paul's prayer for spiritual growth:

Ephesians 3:14-21 The Living Bible (TLB)

"14-15 When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth— 16 that out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit. 17 And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; 18-19 and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.

20 Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. 21 May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages because of his master plan of salvation for the Church through Jesus Christ."

In Christ our Lord,
Brandy Helton
A child of God

God's Love

God's love is good news! Don't believe the lie that God is distant, unapproachable, and angry!

God is love. He is the only true, eternal God. He is perfect and holy, and He is truth. God is One. He has revealed Himself in three distinct, individual, equal persons: God the Father, God the Son – Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells the story of God's perfect love. In that love, God created the first family to live on the earth with Him. Through their deep intimate relationship with the Father, Adam and Eve were meant to fulfill all that was in God's heart on Earth just like it is in Heaven, for God's glory and purposes. Adam and Eve were chosen to walk with God, clothed in His glory presence and were perfect, as He is perfect, and they lived in His beautiful garden, the secret place called Eden. He gave them His breath, life and power to have dominion over all He created and wanted them to reproduce that LIFE replenishing the earth with it, until all the earth is filled with His glory.

Genesis 1:26-28

"26 Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our

image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

God created His children in His likeness. He made them spirit beings, with a soul – mind, will and emotions – and placed them in a physical body. He gave His children the choice to love Him and to walk with Him in obedience to His every word. He gave the first family the power to overcome any temptation offered to them through God’s adversary, the devil, who had rebelled against the Most High God in Heaven’s glory and was cast down to the earth. The devil, Satan, brought great darkness and chaos prior to Adam and Eve’s existence.

Adam and Eve were deceived into thinking that God was not perfect in love as Satan, the adversary, tempted them to believe that God would not keep His Word to them. Through their own will, Adam and Eve disobeyed the Father by eating from a tree that had the power to open their eyes to both good and evil. Through their choice of disobedience, they willfully gave their inheritance and authority over to the devil and his kingdom. Sin entered mankind, which produced death, eternal separation from a Holy God. Adam and Eve were banished from the dwelling and intima-

cy of perfection in the garden and were sent into the world as a fallen creation.

Father God knew He had to come Himself and save His family, and in His wisdom, He chose to send His Son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us and restore fallen mankind back to relationship with Him. Through His Son, He destroyed all the works of the devil and the curse of death. Hebrews 9:22 says, *“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”* Remission means to cancel the penalty, so according to the law there must be shedding of blood to cancel the penalty for sin. The Father cancelled the penalty for the sins of His children through the shedding of the blood of His innocent, holy Son Jesus, who was the Sent One, called and chosen to die for all, so all could live.

John 3:16-21

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may

be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Jesus was conceived by God’s Holy Spirit in the womb of a young virgin named Mary. He appeared as the second Adam, in the flesh, with the choice to walk in perfect love and obedience, full of God’s Spirit, as a man to do the will of His Father.

Jesus grew up as any male child did in the flesh but He had divine fellowship with His Father and Holy Spirit. At the appointed time, He was revealed as being sent from God to save. Jesus went around doing good and healed all who were oppressed by the devil spiritually and physically. He revealed His Father’s heart and perfect love to all who believed through His teachings, grace and miraculous power.

Salvation means eternal life, healing, deliverance, protection, peace, wholeness, and forgiveness. Salvation came to all men through the cross, where the Son of God, the perfect One, was slaughtered as a lamb, bearing all sin for all times from a fallen people. Jesus bore the wrath of God against the darkness that separated God’s family from Him. Jesus was punished for our sin and died to cleanse us from the guilt, shame and condemnation sin produces. Sin separates. Love restores.

Jesus was crucified, dead and buried, spending three days and nights in the depths of Hades, the realm of the dead fallen race. Jesus took back the keys of death and hell from that old serpent the devil, Satan, and therefore, all authority was restored back to Jesus.

Great Holy Spirit breathed LIFE into Jesus and raised Him from the dead. He appeared to His disciples, those who followed Him and obeyed His teachings. He showed them that He conquered sin, death and the grave and now, had the keys of hell and death, and would give ETERNAL LIFE to ALL who chose to believe in Him. King Jesus ascended back to the Father of glory where He ever lives to make intercession for us all, and He is coming again to the earth in power to establish His Father's Kingdom on Earth.

Jesus Christ is the head and Lord over His church, those who have made Him Lord and Savior, by believing He is the Son of the Living God and God in the flesh, who finished the work the Father gave Him to do. He not only died for our sins to save and heal us, He chose to give His authority to those He called and chose to follow Him as His disciples, His family.

Jesus has commissioned His followers to do the same works that He did while He lived on the earth.

John 14:12-14

“12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

God loves us and desires that none should perish. He desires for His family to be with Him where He

is. These books are written to inspire all who read them and to reveal the heart of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and Holy Spirit in order that we might RECEIVE THE LOVE HE HAS FOR US and be CHANGED INTO HIS VERY LIKENESS. God desires to dwell with His family forever and ever just as He did in the beginning. How glorious it is to live in His presence and dominion, beholding His goodness, forever and ever, amen.

The book of Revelation describes the time that is coming when all things are made new according to God's heart of love:

Revelation 21:1-7

"1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' 6 And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be

My son.”

To understand what is presented in the Bible, you must start by understanding God’s love. The good news is that God loves you!

The Heart of It

The heart of this overview of missions is to give you a simple foundation on which to build when considering what International Ministry and Missions means to you. Whether you travel somewhere or not, you must understand the basic principles involved in living a missions-focused lifestyle, one that reflects the heart of our Savior for those who don't yet know Him. Simply said, Jesus died to save the lost. He came on the ultimate mission from Heaven, and now He sends us on the same mission. Read this with an open heart and allow Holy Spirit to reveal your mission from the Father. Hear and obey!

International Ministry and Missions

When many people envision missions, they focus on going somewhere. While that's not necessarily a bad thing, that mentality does not quite capture the heart of Jesus for missions. Furthermore, it is possible to *go* somewhere in your own strength and understanding, but it's much more powerful to be sent out under the direction and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

That being said, what is the difference between going and being sent out? The difference is PURPOSE. *Why* are you going wherever you're going to do whatever you're doing? That simple question makes a huge difference in terms of the impact your mission will have.

In today's global village, it is much simpler to travel than it was in previous eras. With that convenience come blessings and curses. In times past, for example, to travel great distances and see the world was only for those living lives of luxury or those with a clear call to go and preach the gospel. A spring break mission trip was nonexistent. Today's transportation options make it possible

for almost anyone to travel just about anywhere they would like. That means more people have the ability to go and preach the gospel should they so desire. On the other hand, it also means that some people are heading out to do mission work whether they've been sent by the Lord or not.

To understand why that's not necessarily good, you have to grasp the true significance of missions. To be on Mission means to be "in submission to the commission of the primary mission" says well-known Pastor Bill Johnson. So what is the primary mission?

Purpose of the Mission

Matthew 28

During His time on earth Jesus made the mission clear: go and make disciples of the nations. This command and others similar to it were certainly intended for Jesus's disciples, yet they also clearly apply to us today. Consider the well-known passage from the twenty-eighth chapter of the book of Matthew:

"18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

As Jesus's modern-day disciples, we carry on this

Mission, whether that occurs in our neighborhood, the marketplace, through prayer, etc. Recognizing the call of Jesus to all of His followers as messengers of the gospel, we can better understand that most missions will not actually involve a trip. They take place right where we live. In fact, if we believe that God is changeless and has already ordained the times, seasons, and boundaries in which we will live, that revelation empowers us to reach the lost who already share our lives. Furthermore, we can expect the same impact as those mighty apostles who first received the Great Commission. After all, God's word and Spirit still speak today, and they powerfully deliver the same relevant message to our world today.

Additionally, this trend toward "local" missions has taken hold throughout the nations. In fact, the emerging missions model across the world is one where followers of Jesus live out our call and destiny wherever we are, part of which involves preaching the gospel to the lost and making disciples.

One essential key to this missions-centered lifestyle is surrender to the Holy Spirit. The book of James admonishes disciples to remain surrendered in our thinking as we consider what we will or will not do with our lives:

James 4:13-17

"13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas, you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

James's admonition reminds us why we must not simply go, but be sent out – who's doing the sending and for what purpose? If you choose to go simply because you want to, you're serving your own desires. On the other hand, if you go because you are led by the Holy Spirit with a specific purpose, you can expect to see Him move. It's *His* mission! We would do well to remember that.

Nevertheless, when Jesus sends us out on a mission, we go with His power and authority, and His kingdom manifests in power. Consider these passages that show the power of being sent on missions:

Luke 9:1-2

"1 Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. 2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."

Matthew 10:7-8

"7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

John 20:21-23

"21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Each passage above describes the glory and the power of Spirit-led missions, and they all illustrate the primary mission: to draw people to Jesus, to save souls, and ultimately, to make disciples out of those who were previously lost.

Mission Components

There are different components to specific missions over time. Different words such as "calling," "election," and "destiny" are often used to describe these components. Your **calling** is your present assignment, which can be temporary. **Election** is your ultimate destiny. This means the portion of God's work on earth to which He has ultimately assigned to you and your **destiny** is your portion in the Kingdom, which is Christ's inheritance. An illustration of all of these terms would be something like being **called** to serve in a homeless shelter. As you are faithful to this assignment you begin to find that you have influence and responsibility amongst those in the inner city of that particular city in which you began serving homeless people. **Election** is the increased role which you fill as you walk as you've been faithful to your calling. You are part of restoring and fulfilling the **destiny** of that city until Jesus returns and possibly into the coming reign of Christ on earth.

When it comes to missions, the Lord will often call specific people to certain works or places for the

sake of the Kingdom. If you are called to missions, you may recognize the call and embrace it, but you must also continue in it. Kim Clement, describing the importance of being faithful to one's call brings you into your election/destiny. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit is very good at supplying passion and fortitude along with His call.

Nevertheless, throughout your journey of love with Jesus, you can expect testing and trials. However, testing and trials are for your benefit because they are designed to bring you to maturity and produce character and intimacy with God. Character Counts! To see just how much value God places on character, read the Pastoral Letters in the New Testament, such as I and II Timothy, Titus, Thessalonians, etc. Here's a prime example of trials producing character for those engaged in missions:

Philippians 2:19-30

“19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. 20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. 23 Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. 24 But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly. 25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; 26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had

heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; 30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.”

Both Timothy and Epaphroditus embraced the call of the Lord on their lives. They both endured hardships and testing as they preached the gospel to the lost. However, what a great reward that there is an enduring testimony to their character written into Scripture for all generations! Yet the most important part was not the commendation. Ask Timothy or Epaphroditus why they were so willing to endure such trials, and you will see the answer in verse thirty: for the work of Christ.

Qualifications

2 Timothy 4:9-22

“9 Be diligent to come to me quickly; 10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. 12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him accord-

ing to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. 16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also, I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! 19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick. 21 Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren. 22 The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.”

As we have seen, the way God works in you to fulfill the mission He entrusts to you may be quite different from what you expected. Furthermore, the qualifications required to finish a mission may surprise you. Just because you are called doesn't mean you will fulfill that calling and arrive at your destiny. It doesn't guarantee that you will at first agree with the call or that it will come to pass on your timetable, much less look like what you expect it to. Because it is God's mission, not your own, you may have to make changes or even sacrifices in order to carry it out. These sobering realities are what make surrender such a key to successful mission work.

Additionally, it is even possible to disqualify yourself from a mission. These scriptures emphasize

this fact:

Ezekiel 36:17

“17 Son of Man, when the house of Israel was living on their own land, they defiled it with their lifestyles and behavior; they were as disqualified to be with me as a menstruating woman is to you.” (International Standard Version) (Emphasis Added)

1 Corinthians 9:27

“27 Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.” (Holman Christian Standard Bible) (Emphasis Added)

2 Timothy 3:8

“8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these people -- who have warped minds and are disqualified in the faith -- also oppose the truth.” (Lexaham Expanded Bible) (Emphasis Added)

Titus 1:16

“16 They profess to know God, but they deny Him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, and disqualified for any good work.” (HCSB) (Emphasis Added)

In short, to be qualified for missions to be obedient to the Lord and live above reproach. That is why we must honor not only the call, but also the One who calls us to missions.

Confirmations and Sending Out

If you are indeed called to missions, God will confirm the call and establish you in the work. These confirmations may come to you through an “inner knowing,” prophetic words, godly counsel, and various other means. It is good to humble yourself before godly counsel and those who are in authority in your life. These authorities may be among those who send you out on a specific mission, whether local or international, according to the call of God. Consider these passages about humbling yourself and accepting a call of God:

Proverbs 3:34 (New King James Version)

“34 Surely, He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.”

Numbers 13:2

“2 Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.”

Acts 12:25-13:1-3

“25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

“13:1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid

hands on them, they sent them away.”

1 Peter 5:1-11

“1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. 5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Finally, please understand that just because you are called to missions, demonstrate the appropriate character, and receive confirmation, that doesn't necessarily mean you will “go.” You may

have an assignment to pray for a region, people group, movement, or various other categories the Lord will bring to you. For example, you may have dreams and visions of a specific people group. It does not mean you will become a missionary who lives in that geographical location. Perhaps you are called to pray for that people group individually or lead a team in prayer. This prayer assignment may be for a lifetime or a season. Epaphrus is an example of one who lived in one place yet prayed for specific people in another place.

Colossians 4:12

“12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

Whatever your call, the important thing is to remain humble and obey what the Holy Spirit says. If you can do that, you can rest assured that you will both make an impact for the Kingdom and receive the approval of your King.

Alignment and Authority

Not only must you be rightly related and aligned with authority, but you must also grow in authority yourself. Authority comes through obedience. Additionally, there are limits to our authority demographically and geographically. As mighty as they were, even the Old and New Covenant Prophets were assigned geographic regions, demographics/people groups, and even specific individuals. These prophets carried such authority precisely because they remained faithfully within the bounds of their assignment. Read the saluta-

tions/beginnings and closings of each book of the New Covenant to see more examples of this principle. Paul captures the heart of remaining within your God-ordained boundaries beautifully in the following passage:

2 Corinthians 10:12-18

“12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you. 14 For we are not over-extending ourselves (as though an authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; 15 not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men’s labors, but having hope that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, 16 to preach the gospel to all regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man’s sphere of accomplishment, 17 but “he who glories, let him glory in the LORD.” 18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.”

Notice that all of these letters are to people with whom Paul has spent time, people he cares about deeply. These spheres of influence or ministries grew out of RELATIONSHIP then structure, not the opposite. They were created because of LIFE, not to get it. It can go very badly for you to step outside the boundaries the Lord has established for you! These men in the book of Acts found out the hard way:

Acts 19:11-20

“11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.”

We certainly do not want to overstep our bounds, since that clearly makes us a target for the enemy. Furthermore, it is essential to honor those the Lord has chosen as our spiritual authorities. Numbers 16 also recounts a story in which the sons Korah questioned the leadership of Moses and Aaron. God answered by a mighty sign and wonder when the authority He had given his set

men was challenged.

Numbers 16: 28-33

“28 And Moses said: “By this you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. 29 If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the Lord has not sent me. 30 But if the Lord creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the Lord.”31 Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, 32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. 33 So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.”

It should be clear by now that God is very strategic, and He values submission to His order. He calls, He anoints, He sends, and He empowers. Ultimately, God knows the end from the beginning and has a plan for every soul on the earth, as well as every people group.

Deuteronomy 32:8

“8 When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel.”

As missions focused followers of Jesus, it is our

job to trust and obey God's plan. Overstepping results in calamity, but submission results in the manifestation of God's goodness.

Geography and Culture

Specific places and objects within the set boundaries matter as well as specific instructions.

Joshua 6:18

“18 And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.”

In today's world that may mean being aware of what seems harmless but is actually meant to hurt you. For example, you may be attracted to an interesting souvenir, such as a mask, without realizing it was used in a demonic ritual. It can also be a “gift” given to you by someone with ungodly motives. In either example, what you thought was innocent could open doors for demonic access to your life. In these situations it is better to be safe than sorry. Do not accept or embrace something that Holy Spirit is causing you to question.

Cultural traditions and norms matter too. While you do not want to compromise clear instruction on matters in Scripture, it is important to recognize that the culture you are in may simply do things differently than you do. The goal of missions is to build His church not indoctrinate others into the culture from which you come. At the same time, it is important to hold tight to the traditions of God which align with a walk worthy of the calling of God and His Word. A very simple

example of this can be regarding clothing. While in some cultures it is perfectly fine for women to wear pants, there may be other cultures in which this is offensive. Or some may worship on Saturdays rather than Sunday. Paul exhorts us to keep the main thing the main thing.

Romans 14:1-13

*“1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. 2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. 3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. 4 Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. 5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. 9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written:
“As I live, says the Lord,*

*Every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall confess to God.”
12 So then each of us shall give account of him-
self to God. 13 Therefore let us not judge one
another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to
put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our
brother’s way.”*

Ultimately it is biblical truth that must be our standard, not culture. As Kim Clement wrote, “At some point you must be willing to reject the confining limitations of your cultural perspective and review your position from a Biblical Worldview.”

Kim Clement also wrote, “*Do not be nourished by the culture you are in spiritually. Be nourished by vision and destiny.*”

Exhortation

As mentioned, you are on Mission wherever you are. No matter where you are, keep Jesus's words in mind as you fulfill His commission to go and make disciples:

John 15:9-17

“9 As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. 17 These things I command you,

that you love one another.”

References used in this lesson – “Destiny” Course,
School of the Prophet by Kim Clement

Recommended reading:

Under Cover John Bevere

The Mind of a Missionary David Joannes, Nik Rip-
kin

Prayer for Salvation

If you have not made Jesus Christ your personal Lord and Savior, and you desire this with all your heart, then please, join me in prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I choose to believe with all my heart, Your love for me. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son, the Son of God, and that He is God in the flesh. I believe that You sent Him to this earth to save me. Thank You. I believe He died on the cross for my sins and He was dead and buried three days, and then rose again from the dead and that He ascended to Heaven and is now seated at Your right hand and is returning again.

Father, please forgive me for all my sin and iniquity and I choose to forgive others who have sinned against me. I give You all my heart and choose to live with You forever. I believe I have been born again according to Your Word and that I have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light. I declare I am forgiven and healed! Now, I ask for Holy Spirit to fill me. Jesus, baptize me in Holy Spirit and fullness in order that I may know You intimately and serve You all my days.

Thank You, Lord, for loving me. Amen.”

Scriptures:

John 14:6

“6 Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

Romans 10:8-13

“8 But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

John 3:3-8, 16-18

“3 Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ 4 Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ 5 Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said

to you, “You must be born again.” 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.’”

II Corinthians 5:17

“17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

I Corinthians 15:3-5

“3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”

II Corinthians 5:21

“21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Colossians 1:13-14

“13 He has delivered us from the power of dark-

ness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Luke 11:9-13

“9 So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

I Timothy 3:16

“16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

*God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.”*

Fresh Infilling of Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

If you have been born again and filled with Holy Spirit and you desire MORE and want to encounter the Lord's presence afresh and anew, please join me in prayer:

“Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You for loving me and I ask according to Ephesians 1:17-19, that You would give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, Jesus, and the eyes of my understanding would be enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places. Amen.

Father, according to Colossians 3:9-12, I ask in Jesus name, that I would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that I would walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power. Amen.

I surrender and yield my life to the fullness of Holy Spirit; His power and anointing; the spirit of wisdom and revelation; counsel and might; the spirit of the fear of the Lord and knowledge according to Isaiah 11:2, in Jesus' name. Amen."

The Garden Training Center, Inc. The Apostolic School of Ministry

The Garden Apostolic Training Center is a place that fosters spiritual growth. The center provides training to equip believers in Jesus Christ for the work of the ministry and to be victorious and free in all areas of their lives through the supernatural empowerment of the Holy Spirit. For more information check out **thegardenstc.org**.

The Garden Gathering Church

The purpose of The Garden Gathering Church is to encourage believers in Jesus Christ: to fully embrace the love of God; to walk in freedom; to carry His presence and glory; and to be equipped and trained for the work of the ministry through worship, teachings, and impartation.

“It’s all about Love. When you see His eyes of Love for you, nothing else matters. That’s it. That’s all you need to know.”

-Brandy Helton

