

On a Mission From God

*“The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins.
They shall raise up the former devastations;
They shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.”*
--Isaiah 61:1-4

I believe that everyone who follows Jesus is called to embark on a mission from God! The spirit of the Lord is upon each of us, because God has anointed us. God has sent us to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners, etc. Imagine the impact that we could have on the lives of other people, if we believed that this was part of our calling as disciples of Jesus!

Doing “evangelism” or being an “evangelist” is **not** difficult work! It is merely recognizing the opportunities that God presents to us during the course of our lives and sharing God’s love with people in ways that make a difference in their lives.

Here are some basic outreach questions for us to consider:

- Is the “spirit of the Lord” upon you? In what ways has God “anointed” you?
- What has God “sent” you to do? What is God calling you to do?
- What “good news” can you share with others?
- Who are the “oppressed”, the “brokenhearted” and/or the “captives” that you know personally? What can you do to help improve the quality of life for them? To whom might you provide “comfort”?
- What “gifts” might you give or share with others as part of your ministry?
- What can you do to help “build up”, “raise up” and “repair” the lives of those you know who feel like their lives have been “ruined” or “devastated”?

I invite you to identify one person that you know personally, who needs to know that God loves them and cares about them and then be the person who shows them that God’s love is real. Call them, text them, email them, visit them, be a friend, listen to them, support them, encourage them. Doing “evangelism” or being an “evangelist” is nothing more than helping people know that God loves them and it is through what we say and do that they catch a glimpse of what God is like.

If I can be of any help to you as you explore your ministry, or if you have any further questions about how you can make a positive impact on someone else’s life, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me. I look forward to serving with you and together, as we embark on God’s mission, I am both hopeful and confident that God will bless our ministry.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob Dealey
Coordinator of Stewardship & Outreach