

HE SENT SEVENTY (TWO)

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THE QUESTIONS

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1. WHO WERE THEY?

In Luke 9 the twelve disciples were sent to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. The results were that they did just that, but that people were healed "everywhere".

When Jesus started His ministry He began proclaiming the good news, "the Kingdom of God is near", and then He went about healing and delivering people from evil spirits and teaching about what the Kingdom of God is like.

What did He mean when He said the Kingdom of God is near? Jesus did go on to teach how to enter and how it would be possible not to enter. The sin problem was not yet dealt with but the Old Covenant was relationship with God through obedience to the Law. However the day was coming when the sin problem was solved through the shed blood of Jesus, and then Heaven's door was wide open for those who would bring words with them. (Hosea 14:2) Whoever calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:13)

Proclaiming is speaking out the purposes of God, which is actually prophesying what is not yet so that it becomes reality. **Teaching**, on the other hand is methodically moving people's minds to a new concept, from what they already know so that they can take hold of something that they do not know. **Preaching** is not actually teaching as much as testifying and demonstrating what you have received from God so that people can see how the teaching works. It is supposed to move the spirit of the person to desire the teaching.

The 12 Apostles were therefore sent to demonstrate what Jesus had taught them. They certainly had the experience of doing the works of Jesus but it is recorded that they began to argue over who was the greatest. (Luke 9:46) They also thought that it was their exclusive right to do the works of Jesus but were corrected by Jesus. The man they criticised was obviously inspired to do the works of Jesus too and also certainly found out the power of Jesus' Name through using it to cast out demons.

We believe that these 72 were people who were so inspired by Jesus' teaching that the Lord saw their hearts and commissioned

them to the same experience that He had given His disciples. We believe that eagerness to do His work, to demonstrate love for Him causes Him to smile and empower that person to indeed do His work. His appointment was all that these 72 needed to step out in faith, believing that He was there to back them up. When the Lord said He needed workers for the harvest, 72 people put up their hands, just like children do in school when the teacher asks for volunteers. It is obvious that Jesus was thrilled with their success and their joy at what God had done through them. They are unnamed in Luke's gospel but not in the eternal scheme of things because their names are written in the books in Heaven.

It is not boldness or prestige or ambition that sent them but sheer love and the privilege of being **sent**. They were given the opportunity to try out works of faith in obedience and they experienced the power of God at work as they obeyed. Jesus gave them only basic instructions.

1. They would be lambs among wolves. They could be mocked and criticised for their naiveté or lack of Biblical knowledge – they were not teaching people because they were so well trained and qualified. Simple faith is not learned in a college but practised by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

2. They were not to take baggage. When the Israelites were in the wilderness their sandals did not wear out. They were to trust God to supply all their food and accommodation. It was important that the recipients of the blessing they brought were able to offer

accommodation in return to demonstrate that they had indeed received the blessing so that God could see their faith in action too.

3. They were not to greet anyone on the road. Jesus knew that if they met anyone they knew they would be easily put off their purpose, probably trying to explain or justify their commission, because there is always "someone" who thinks what you are doing is crazy, or is going to ask you who you think you are, doing the work of Jesus Himself. The simple fact is that if Jesus sends you, you are trusted and empowered to do the work He has asked you to do.

4. When they entered a house they were to bring peace with the creative word. This peace, *shalom*, is health, financial and restorative blessings, as well as freedom from anxieties. Speaking this would actually bring what was spoken if the people would receive it. The appropriate response of the recipient was to offer hospitality. This is the giving and receiving of the blessing of God and this flow of giving and receiving is the "currency" of Heaven.

5. People who would not receive the 70 became liable for God's judgment. Because the 70 were there by God's authority they represented God Himself and therefore those who did not receive had refused God's blessing. Therefore the 70 were to demonstrate, by shaking the dust off their feet, that God had rejected them. This might convict them so that they would repent before it was too late. It is a very serious thing to reject the Holy Spirit. Though God does give second chances, rejection of the Holy Spirit is the ONLY unforgivable sin, because it is the Holy Spirit who convicts of sin,

righteousness and judgment. Old Testament examples demonstrate that the heart hardens every time God is ignored. (eg, Pharaoh ignored Moses' warnings.)

2. WHY WERE THEY SENT?

There is difficulty with the number. Were there 70 or 72? The King James records 70 as does the Amplified but NIV records 72. The actual number does not really matter unless we understand Biblical numerology. The number 70 is connected with God's administration of the world. After the flood the world was repopulated through 70 descendants of Noah. (Genesis 10) Seventy people went down to Egypt. (Genesis 46) Seventy elders were appointed to help Moses. (Numbers 11:16) (*New Bible Dictionary* page 898) This indicates that this is not only a record of what actually happened but also sets a pattern for this ministry, as authorised by Jesus. Jesus did not mind the excess volunteers in that day or at any other time!

God's plan always was to empower humans to reflect the image of Him on the earth. He is Love and He loved His world so much that He sent His only Son to redeem all from Satan's control which Adam and Eve had unwittingly given him when they disobeyed God. Jesus came to seek and save what was lost. (Luke 19:10) Now He is teaching all those who want to learn how to bless others by demonstrating the Kingdom of God. He had sent His Apostles but this work was not

just for a few to do. He said that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Obviously even 72 were not enough to bring it in.

Why did He say the workers were few? It seems that most people are quite satisfied if they are OK. It does not seem to occur to many believers what it will be like for those who do not know what Jesus has done to save the world. People will go to hell because no one cared enough to tell them that God has made a wonderful plan so that they can enter the Kingdom of Heaven easily, but that the decision must be made while we are on this earth. After death it will be too late. Paul puts it like this. "How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14&15) "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News."

Jesus told His disciples they must allow Him to wash their feet otherwise they would have no part with Him. (John 13:8) For Him to abide in us we must have our feet washed. This begs another question. What does having the feet washed really mean? "You should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you...no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him." (John 13:15&16) The messenger is there to serve the recipient of the blessing. The workers might be few because some who are called to go to the "mission" field want honour and glory and are not prepared to do the hard part. They are not prepared to minister to

those who do not look right or have no money to pay. They are not prepared to put their money or their lives on the line, and they are not prepared to love as Jesus loved us. Many churches also forget that the mission field is not necessarily the uttermost parts of the earth but is also the neighbourhood. When they remember they do not put the same dedication to the work. This does not call for "full-time" mission but anyone can do the local work and still work at another job but it should still be done "as if" it is through the "calling" of God. Just as in the foreign field the Kingdom of God is the priority so also the local work is Kingdom oriented and should not be just to build a local denomination. This is a mistake that many churches make when they do go into the streets to invite people. They say "come to our church", and then they hope the person will join that denomination and eventually come to accept Jesus into their hearts, whereas Jesus said to seek FIRST the Kingdom of God, a relationship with God the Father through Himself, the Way, the Truth and the Life. On the mission field the desire is to introduce people to Jesus and pray that they will "take the hem of your garment and say 'you are going to the Lord's house and we will come too because we can see that God is with you'". (Zechariah 8:23)

3. WERE THEY EFFECTIVE?

The seventy (two) returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your Name". (Luke 10:17) Jesus has made several promises which we can rely on.

1. "If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples." (John 15:7&8)
2. "Anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My Name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in My Name and I will do it." (John 14:12-14)
3. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name". (John 15:16)
4. "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours". (Mark 11:24)

Jesus promised Peter that He would build His church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Matthew 16:18) The foundation of the church is Jesus, the Rock, and the revelation that Jesus is the Christ. People only need the revelation that Jesus is the Christ to qualify to be in Jesus' church and to receive all the blessings of the Kingdom. The limitation is only whether people **will** receive. This seems to be why Jesus said, "He who listens to you listens to Me; he who rejects you rejects Me; but he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me". (Luke 10:16)

"No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him". (Luke 10:22) When the message goes out and

people accept, by faith, the word of the messenger who has been sent, the Son promises to reveal the Father and the Father reveals the Son. This is actually a miracle and God also promises that if He has begun a good work in you He will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (meeting us in the air). Our hope becomes a visible reality when we see Him in His glory.

What then is effective in God's estimation? Whatever God has done in the person who received the message is effective ministry because God Himself will finish it in His own way and His own time. Some "plants" will grow quickly and some might grow very slowly. Only God knows. But the seed of the word has been planted by one and is watered by another, according to the assigned task of His disciple. It is only God who makes things grow. (1 Corinthians 3:5-8)

Therefore no one can say to another worker that they should do planting and watering so that the results are visible because we all have a part to play so that no one can say he did it all.

Effectiveness is measured by faith in God's promises. We must take care not to know it all but, like children, do our part and appreciate that there are others on the team.

4. DO THESE 70 (72) GO IN THESE DAYS?

This question is asked because this could be a historical story, but not a pattern for future ministry. When we read this story a long time

ago we really wanted to be one of those who were sent by Jesus, even though we live in the 21st century. Like a child with a hand up in class for the teacher to look with favour. "Choose me!" Yet we know we have God's favour and He has promised that those who ask in faith will receive. God gives gifts in generous measure so whatever happened to and for these 70 must be for today. They were told to heal the sick who are there and tell them that the Kingdom of God is near them. What is even greater in these days is that Heaven's door has been opened by Jesus who has paid the price for all sin for all time. The benefits of the Kingdom of God are more accessible than when the 70 (72) were sent.

We do hear of wonderful miracles on the "mission field". I believe that this is because the people hear the word and receive gladly like children. Too much knowledge can counteract child-like faith and limits the receptivity of the one who has heard the message. Paul quotes Isaiah, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate". (1 Corinthians 1:19)

When Isaiah had his vision of the glory and awesomeness of the Lord Almighty, all he could say was, "Woe to me. I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." (Isaiah 6:5) When anyone in any age has this vision, even in their imagination, they become aware of what they have been saved from and what is in store for those who are still captive in Satan's kingdom by default. When God asked, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for Me?" Isaiah's response was, "Here am I. Send me". This is the right

response for those who put up their hands when Jesus asked the question that prompted the 72 to go.

There is another response that is possible because each one of us can be ambitious for recognition and fame in this world. When the disciples went out (Luke 9) they fell into this trap, later arguing over who was the greatest. Jesus' example was always to know and do the Father's will and this was His focus all the time.

If we want to be followers of Jesus we must do His work in His way.

We do not believe that it is different in these days. Jesus is still sending harvesters and the fields are still "white to harvest". There are even more needs, more physical and especially emotional problems and manifestations of the devil's power, more violence caused by evil spirits and godlessness. Paul prophesied that in the last days there will be terrible times. (2 Timothy 3:1) There are false prophets and false beliefs propagated. "Scientists" make pronouncements that are in direct conflict with what God has said in the Bible and even the believers are deceived. Humans still do unspeakable and wicked acts which cause grief and despair, and often these have caused lifetime problems. We read about them every day in the newspapers.

Jesus came nearly 2000 years ago to save what was lost – man's connection to Heavenly Father because of sin. He has no other plan than that His family **GO** and preach the Good News of the Kingdom. This sending is not just historical facts but an eternal command until He returns.

5. WHY IS THE PLAN NOT AS EFFECTIVE IN THESE DAYS?

The world has become very selfish and self-focussed, even the "world" that has penetrated the church. Most people are out to look after themselves without reference to their Maker. Many people have been exploited by those who have more power and the Third World (so called) is in desperate straits because of natural disasters or the aforesaid exploitation and through war and folly. Many caring people want to know what God is doing and some are angry with God for apparently not caring. Worldly knowledge has not given many answers and even the advances in medicine have not solved the problems. Instead of understanding that God placed people in nations so that some would call out to Him, even in their troubles, racism is common and divides people into tribal groups, instead of rejoicing in our common humanity and wanting to appreciate our different revelation, yet seek the truth.

We need the wisdom of God more than ever but most leaders, even if they believe in God, are too ashamed to openly declare their dependence on Him. It is said that power corrupts. Even some church leaders exercise power in the wrong way. Instead of empowering those who trust them for teaching they demand subservience. They are so preoccupied with pomp and ceremony they come across as modern day Pharisees, and the unsaved find their witness totally irrelevant to their lives, which follows that the

church is irrelevant to their lives, and thus the message of the Gospel is also irrelevant in their estimation.

God said through Paul's writing (1 Corinthians 13) that everything must be done in love. **Love** is the will to do good to others so that they are also able to love. Love has a power that is unique, to turn all things to good, and there certainly are people who do good works in the world.

There is a higher level though. Jesus went about in the "Anointing of the Holy Spirit" doing good. (Acts 10:38) The works of God restore what was lost. This is not just reaching those who do not know the God that Jesus revealed but also those who are not intimately associated with God, with a confidence that they are in God's family by the grace of His adoption and love. In this world we are (to be) like Him. (1 John 4:17) If a church leader wants the power and does not equip the believers to be Jesus to others, if he is threatened by zeal and what he sees as unnatural enthusiasm then he has stumbled the one who has trusted him to equip. These are called and commissioned to make disciples of all nations, but end up trying to do the works of God in their own strength and this is not effective enough. This of course is not limited to church leaders but leaders of any religion or organisation. However, God has ordained that His people are to be the Head. This means that if His people fail to attain to the standard that God has decreed then the default standard becomes the community standard.

The Apostles declared their allegiance openly and boldly. They prayed for boldness because of the persecution which Jesus

promised would happen. The church has mostly retreated into buildings where they expect outsiders to be enticed by art shows, film nights, special occasions and other programs and they only venture out to invite people to these, sublimely confident that the people who come will embrace their offers, however well motivated. What Christians have to offer is the **NAME OF JESUS**. Peter testified that it was faith in the Name of Jesus that made a man well. (Acts 3:16) He is King of kings and Lord of lords and is mightier than any other god that has been worshipped by those who have not met Jesus.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and for ever. (Hebrews 13:8) He still does the work of God through the Holy Spirit but He chooses to use His followers just as He did the 72. The reason the plan is not as effective is the fault of believers. Jesus asked the question, "When I come will I find faith?" This is not religious belief but His works being continued on the earth – preaching Good News to the poor, setting captives free, giving the blind their sight, proclaiming the Lord's favour.

6. PREACH OR TEACH?

The church system is very strange to the uninitiated. Since the Reformation they have adopted a teaching mode which they have called a sermon. It used to be called a homily which the dictionary

defines as a sermon, a tedious moralizing discourse. The sermon is defined as a discourse on a religious or moral subject, especially based on a text or passage of Scripture and delivered by way of religious instruction or exhortation; admonition or reproof, a lecture. The person who gives the sermon is usually very conscious of the Scripture that says "All Scripture is ... useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be equipped for every good work". (2 Timothy 3:16&17)

We have left out two words – God breathed. God inspired the original writers to put down His thoughts which only the Holy Spirit can interpret. (1Corinthians 2:10&11) It is very easy to say what the Bible says and moralise without actually doing the instructions oneself. The teacher can look in all the literature from the past and teach what others have taught in a forceful and confident way. Jesus inspired His followers by example. Yes, He taught the Sermon on the Mount but He lived out His teaching so that people were inspired to embrace the "preaching". It is very unfortunate that the world sees only the hypocrisy of the teaching and judges the church on this witness, because there are some who really preach. But then there are those who are prominent who "fall into sin". If they had never become prominent it would not have been a stumbling block to those who are watching and judging.

Moralising and teaching without example have brought great discredit to the cause of Christ, the Anointed One. The main cause of scepticism of the beliefs has been doing things in "His Name" that were not in His character and in the power of the Holy Spirit. The

Anointing is only in the power of God, and the "flesh" weakens or even nullifies effectiveness. Yet God promised that the Anointing would break yokes and remove burdens from people.

The Anointing comes from the Holy One. (1John 2:20) This gift is for all children of God who have been born (again) into His family by faith in Jesus Christ. Obedience to His commands is proof that we have come to know Him. (1John 2:3) God's love is truly made complete in the one who obeys His word. This is how we know we are in Him: whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did. (1John 2:5&6) People who say they are followers of Jesus and do not do what Jesus commands are liars and walk in darkness. Their deeds are evil, inspired by Satan, and they are serving Satan's cause. The Holy Spirit in us is the power of God to do the will of the Father, just as Jesus did.

John the Baptist prophesied that the One who came after him would baptise with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism in water was for repentance; Jesus' baptism is the Holy Spirit. This baptism (overwhelming) is not just a mark of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13) which is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance. The overwhelming of the Holy Spirit changes us from our hearts – stone to flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26&27) It causes us to loathe our sins and detestable practices. (Ezekiel 36:31)

God promises that He will show the holiness of His great Name so that the nations will know that He is the Lord. (Ezekiel 36:23) Our "preaching" is by our holy living and by the tangible glory with which we are clothed; otherwise our words count for nothing.

7. EQUIPPING THE SAINTS?

There is a five-fold ministry appointed to equip the saints. The apostle (sent one) goes to prepare the way, lay foundations and the prophet speaks creatively what God wants to happen, binding territorial spirits and loosing the presence of the Holy Spirit so that things might be on earth as they are in Heaven. When everything is clean and ready in the spirit realm the evangelist leads a person to receive Jesus into his life in and by the power of Christ the Anointed One and in His Anointing. The presence of the Holy Spirit creates an atmosphere of the glory of God. When a person is new-born into the Kingdom of God they are as hungry as any new-born baby and have a great longing to receive the milk of the Word. This is where the pastors and teachers come in. They have an important work to do to help the newly born Christian grow up.

The pastor does the teaching inside the church building, which is full of problems due to sin and unholiness. This is perhaps why the church begins by singing songs of worship, to acknowledge that they desire God's presence. Indeed, some pastors welcome the Holy Spirit aloud, but in some churches there are people who are afraid of welcoming the Holy Spirit in case He asks them to pray in tongues or some other "outdated" (as they believe) practice. Many people are not born again by the Holy Spirit so they cannot know the mind of God and understand spiritual things. (1 Corinthians 2:11) Visitors to these churches drift along with what is happening without real understanding if they are not yet in the Family of God. These

churches have been established quite a long time and what was the custom then continues to be the practice because people do not want to change. Change is uncomfortable, so even if the Holy Spirit shows a new idea He is resisted strongly. Some leadership accedes to the prevailing spirits rather than follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, if they do not want to lose support.

When the Holy Spirit speaks He brings unity. It is therefore obvious that the "saints" in a church that resists the Holy Spirit have not been trained to hear the sweet, soft voice of the Holy Spirit nor do they understand the purpose of the church, which is the same as the responsibility given to Israel – to be a light to the nations. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven". (Matthew 5:16) When the people of the church are seen as hypocritical, not practising what they preach, this brings dishonour to God and unbelief flourishes. In the streets we meet people who have been disillusioned by the church and they have difficulty believing that there is even a God at all. Yet outside the walls of the church is where the lost are, people who desperately need God's love and power in their lives so that they can "work the works" that God has shaped them for. Jesus showed that His strategy was and is to use His people to continue His work on the earth. God has brought a "mission field" to Australia, those whom He hopes will reach out to Him and find Him because it was prophesied a long time ago that this is the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. We believe that He would like to see Heaven on

earth; all nations, all tribes, all tongues living together in harmony and valuing each other.

There is a fascinating and mysterious statement that Jesus made when the Greeks came, seeking to speak to Him. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies it produces many seeds". (John 12:24)

We have put this in this chapter because we believe this has a great deal to do with equipping the saints.

Jesus would have known all the prophecies concerning Himself, which would reconcile Him to the very repugnant reality of why He had come into the world in human form. He would also know that His Father had decreed that there would always be "seedtime and harvest". (Genesis 8:22) God required a seed to be sown, to die in the earth so that there could be growth and harvest.

Jesus said that He came first to "the house of Israel". It was a tremendous grief to Him that they did not accept Him but He knew that the Gospel would go eventually to the Gentiles (called Greeks in the New Testament). When these Greeks came seeking Him He would have felt the reality and closeness of the time of His sacrifice. He would have a clear picture of what the Father had promised Him in Isaiah 53 – the pain and rejection but also the end result of His obedience. He was to pay the price of sin for the whole world, both Jew and Gentile. He knew that He was God's seed that would produce many seeds when He fell to the ground. He is also warning His disciples, including us, that we each have to "die" in order to produce fruit that remains. In equipping the saints we become His

servants and plant each seed of His word, expecting growth and harvest which is greater than we are. Those who follow us will go further and increase His Kingdom in greater measure by this principle that the Father has set.

This means that we must expect and accept that our "children in the Lord" and those we have trained will go past where we have gone, so we must love this and not feel threatened and hang on to power and position. This is the example Jesus set and this is what He taught by this mysterious statement. Recently we were in a church where we could not identify who the pastor was and had to be told. This showed us that this pastor had understood the principle we have outlined, so that his people were really being equipped to do great things for God. He was a very humble man who had an open heart to be faithful to his calling. The Holy Spirit was welcome and so the people of the church were friendly and welcoming to visitors. Unfortunately this is quite a rare experience for us. For years we longed to be equipped to do great works for God but all we were offered was more courses to attend and more theoretical training. This seems to be a common experience, unless people apply to go to the "foreign mission field", when after the procedures for acceptance one gets to do the practical work. When we pray with Christians in the street we are surprised that they do not know that they have power and can bless people in Jesus' Name. They seem to be waiting for permission from the pastor, but they are so glad to hear that Jesus commissioned all of His disciples, whether they have a title or not.

8. CONCLUSIONS

God has said that He will do even more than we ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20) He has said that when we commit our way to the Lord, when we delight in the Lord, He will give us the desire of our hearts. (Psalm 37:4&5) Jesus has said to go and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19) He has said to pray for workers for the harvest field. (Luke 10:2) He has said to seek His Kingdom. (Luke 12:31) He has said that whoever believes in Me...streams of Living Water (the Holy Spirit) will flow from within him. (John 7:38)

There is a fascinating prophecy where the water flows from the Temple. It flowed deeper and deeper until it was essential to swim. This river had trees on its banks and their leaves were for healing. What if there were many more than 72 and all had the living water flowing out into the streets? The sheer amount would have such a powerful effect. This is our dream – to be in the team that goes out with "our cup running over", to do the work that Jesus told the 72 to do.

God has also said, "the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever wins souls is wise". (Proverbs 11:30) In another place (Daniel 12:3) those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens.

God is pleased when we take Him at His word. By believing what He says is as true today as it ever was, we are honouring Him, and those who serve Him, He will honour. (John 12:26) This is what pleases the Father. Jesus said, "if you love Me you will obey what I command...I will give you another Counsellor to be with you for

ever...you know Him because He lives with you and will be in you (after Pentecost)...On that day, you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. (John 14:15-19) In this world we are like Him (1John 4:17). Anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these... (John 14:12)

Yes, Jesus is still sending the 70, except that He is sending many more than that, because He said a very long time ago that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. (Luke 10:1) Maybe the church you are in will not send you because their emphasis is on the training but they apparently do not know how to just go and bless people according to the commission that Jesus gave. "Heal the sick and tell the people that the Kingdom of God is near you".

This is an interesting statement. Jesus goes on to say "he who listens to you listens to Me". As Jesus' representative, just receiving us as His representative somehow conveys the power of His salvation. Jesus has opened Heaven's door by His death and Resurrection. The punishment for sin is paid and there is nothing to prevent anyone coming to God in Jesus' Name. "Anyone who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him". (Hebrews 11:6). Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1) What we hope for is only in our imagination but by claiming God's promises as totally reliable we move by faith to seeing the reality of what we had faith for. Abraham was commended by God for calling things that are not as though they were, and against all logic he

believed until the hope came to be. (Romans 4:17&18) These words were not written for him alone but also for us... who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. (Romans 4:23&24)

We choose to believe these promises then we can put up our hands too. "Jesus, please choose me. I am willing to be trained by your Holy Spirit. I want to serve you in the power of your Holy Spirit, to bring honour to the Father and to you". We can say with Isaiah, "Here I am Lord. Send me". And He will answer, "Go and tell the people". (Isaiah 6:8&9) "Surely I am with you".

I AM RIGHT BEHIND YOU, AND BACKING YOU ALL THE WAY.

THANK YOU LORD.

If you have enjoyed or been challenged by this book, please contact us at
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