

Mission Impossible?

The Mission is Possible Through the Holy Spirit

John 16:1-15

Mission Impossible was a TV show that began in 1966 in which the special agents would be given a mission and the message would self-destruct after a few seconds. The missions always seemed to be impossible, but the agents always seemed to be able to do them.

Define the Mission: John 15:26-27 bring this into context. The mission is to witness the glory of Jesus Christ to the world. Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20.

I. The Conditions of the Mission (John 16:1-4) Jesus is leaving his disciples with final words of what to expect. He is not sugarcoating hardship associated with the mission of bringing Christ glory. Listen to Luke 9:57-62 ***“As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” 61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”*** If you were to say, wow, this mission seems impossible, I would say that you are right. We as mankind can not do this on our own. God has equipped every believer with what we need to accomplish the mission. We see this in the next text.

II. The Courage Needed for the Mission (John 16:5-7) The courage that we need for the mission is knowing that the Holy Spirit is with us! Joshua 1:9 reminds of this promise: ***“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*** In verse 7, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Helper. The word literally means an intercessor. The KJV uses the word Comforter. It is most comforting to know that the mission ahead is indeed possible because of the courage we now have as a result of the Holy Spirit. A great example of this is Acts 4:31 ***“And they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”***

III. The Conviction Needed for the Mission (John 16:8-11) We cannot convince someone of their sin. I cannot, as hard as I want to persuade someone of their need for Jesus. The Holy Spirit has to do the work of conviction and convincing. The Holy Spirit does a better job than you or I can ever do! We must expose passages like 1 Cor. 6:9-11 ***“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And***

such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” We all stand guilty before a Great Holy God, but praise God that Christ has forgiven all who place faith in Him. We the mail carrier delivers a bill, even if the resident rips it up, the resident is still responsible for the bill. We are responsible for our sin, until Christ’s blood washes it away! The Holy Spirit provides the conviction we need for the mission to glorify God!

IV. The Continued Guidance for the Mission (John 16:12-15) The Holy Spirit’s ministry to believers is to guide Jesus’ followers. This promise of the Holy Spirit guiding us should give us overwhelming comfort. The word “declare” used in verse 13 and in verse 15 occurs over 40 times in Isaiah to convey promises to come. We will be provided insight to glorify God through the Holy Spirit along the way. I don’t think the Holy Spirit gives us the big picture to begin with for what I believe is two reasons 1. It would scare us. 2. We would not be desperately dependent upon the Holy Spirit for this guidance if we knew the big picture. Listen to this verse from Isaiah 41:10 that drives me to continue on the mission of Christ: **“fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”**

Your mission if you choose to except it, is to glorify Jesus Christ! It may seem impossible, but praise God that through the Holy Spirit, God has given us the courage, conviction, and the continued guidance needed for the mission.