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The Great Commission

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INTRODUCTION

Grace and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:7).

It is with exceeding joy that The Great Commission from “The Little Book Series” is presented. The text introduces the reader to a **Seven-Step Process**, developed by Dr. Deryl G. Hunt, which requires the people of God to make a right turn, pivotal in the walk of believers. This process comprises GOMA and the ABCDs of character development. GOMA, a non-descript character, is an acronym for **Goal, Objective, Method and Attitude**, an inclusive community building approach to unifying God’s people. GOMA transcends all racial, ethnic, and gender boundaries. Simply stated, when these pillars of life are in operation within us, the outcome is enriching and empowering to the individual, as well as glorifying to God. The ABCDs focus on **Attitude, Behavior, Communication and Discipline**. When GOMA and the ABCDs of character development connect in the lives of people, deliverance happens and a state of humility is established to bring the people where things of the Spirit of Christ can be received. This signifies the complete operation of the **Seven-Step Process**. In this posture, the individual can continue to receive from the Lord reflected by a disciplined and a sustained walk in the Lord.

GOMA is a fluid concept that can be readily adapted across all sectors of society. However, within a faith-based context, GOMA can be viewed as God’s Ordained Minister Appearing who will lead God’s people (via mentoring) to the fullness of the statue of Christ. When the right goals, objectives, methods and attitude are employed, God’s Ordained Minister Appearing shepherds God’s people to higher levels of blessings positioning them to receive of God’s “fresh anointing.” GOMA is born out of the “**New Day Ministry**,” a dispensation where God pours out His Spirit; His Wisdom; His Power; His Creativity, all toward reaching mankind.

As Jesus visited the disciples prior to his ascension, his parting words to them were, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the

Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:18-20) (KJV). Do we really understand the underlying meaning behind the words?

Since the days of the apostles, the church has gone about carrying out this commandment of the Lord. In her zeal, the church has gone from place to place carrying this message. Does the church really understand what the Lord was calling for her to do? Was the understanding clear? Our focus in this “Little Book” series on The Great Commission is to enlighten the reader, and to provide spiritual reference to the command given by the Lord Jesus Christ.

UNDERSTANDING THE GREAT COMMISSION

The single most important work given by God unto the church is often misunderstood for the same reason that the church has had confusion with interpreting other scriptures in the Bible. This is no different from misunderstandings in carrying out the laws of the land. Individuals often get caught focusing on the letter of the law instead of the intent. With regard to spiritual matters, empowering the “letter of the law” is Satan’s way of counterfeiting the ways of the Lord. Satan desires to confuse the people of God to get them to move further away from the Lord’s salvation.

The “great commission,” as it is commonly referred, is the command made unto Christ’s church to teach and to baptize every nation. Satan, in contravention to God’s word, often offers an alternative to the people of God in an attempt to render God’s word ineffectual. Accordingly, following God’s command, Satan can be said to have also issued a command (alternative approach) that we will refer to as the “counterfeit commission” whereby he tries to redirect the focus away from what God intended.

Let us now examine this great commission versus the counterfeit commission using the Seven Step Process mentioned above. The Seven Step Process will allow us to first understand the theory and then understand the practice. The first three steps (**Goal**, **Objective**, and **Method**) are used as a roadmap to achieve a desired outcome. They include (1) defining the **Goal**, (2) identifying **Objectives**, and (3) prescribing a **Method** by which the objectives and ultimately the goal will be realized. What was the **Goal** when Jesus gave this commandment? At first blush, one could say it was simply to share a message. Going deeper, one could even say it was to carry out the will of the Father. The ultimate purpose, however, was to provide a charge to His Church to engage in a spiritual work of salvation toward the end of reconciling man to Himself. What was the **Objective**? Would it be to make disciples and followers of God? The desired outcome was to turn the hearts of the people towards becoming ministers of the gospel. What **Method** was given? To teach/share/mentor the things of God, resulting with the baptism of the people.

The following table contrasts the various positions the church has adopted in seeking to accomplish the “teach” and “baptize” commandment, whether by way of the spirit of truth or the spirit of error both of which are explained in detail later in this book.

Three Points	The Great Commission (via the Spirit of Truth)	The Counterfeit Commission (via the Spirit of Error)
Goal	To have eternal life and salvation with God	To prohibit eternal life and salvation with God
Objective	Making disciples / winning souls unto God	Make the disciples / winning souls unto the adversary / becoming a follower of men.
Method	To teach / spiritual baptism	To teach / natural (water) baptism as a means of salvation

At a glance, the differences are very subtle. So is the way of the devil. Satan wants the people to focus on the words in the Bible to draw their focus away from the intent of the message. We shall consider this commission in light of the scripture. The Lord has made it clear that He has people in all denominations and organizations, but His people have fallen victim to the spirit of error. A word about the spirit of error is needed for an understanding as to why the church has departed from doctrines preached by the early disciples.

THE SPIRIT OF ERROR

What is a spirit? A spirit is a nonmaterial entity capable of thoughts, words, and deeds when joined with a body in the earth. This is important because many people view spirits as an abstraction, and not as an entity capable of evil. In the Bible, there are several references to spirits, both good and evil.

Angels are called ministering spirits in Hebrews 1:14. The writer asked, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Angels are, thus, cast in a serving role. The heirs of salvation are served by angels when they walk in the Spirit. These angels bring to pass every word of God spoken by faith among the children of God. To this end, angels make sure that God's word does not return unto Him void. The Lord has said as much. Note Isaiah 55:10: "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it to bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to eater." See the productiveness of the water which came from above. Without the water, man would perish. Here, "water" is symbolic for "the word of God"; without the word or water of God, man is left to his own word. Man's word is of the flesh, and it is full of devilishness.

Verse 11 reads, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." It is important to note that the Lord did not vouchsafe the letters of the Bible; He spoke of His word. The word of God is spirit and life (John 6:63). When the Spirit is considered, we associate it with angels who go forth to perform that which God speaks. When a child of God yields to the Spirit of Christ in him and speaking words of the Spirit, he is not speaking from his own soul, but Christ speaks through him. Thus, these words can not fail. Failure comes anytime a person speaks words of the soul.

As God has angels called ministering spirits serving the children of God, so does the devil have angels serving his children. A well-known scripture of Satan's desire to be God is found in Isaiah 14:14. He said, "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." In seeking to be like the most High, Satan has organized his forces of evil on the order of that which is revealed in the Bible about God's plan for mankind and angels. That which God has done in the Spirit realm, Satan attempts to duplicate, as best he can, in the realm of the soul. The soul is a spirit, but not a heavenly Spirit. The heavenly Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. The soulful spirit is the spirit of antichrist. The Spirit of antichrist operates as if it is Christ. In other words, God brings forth in the Spirit: salvation, healing, miracles, tongues, prophecy, discerning of spirits, love, peace, joy, gentleness, etc., Satan brings forth counterfeit of these in the realm of the soul.

These natural works of the soul look very much like the works of the Spirit. A person not led by the Spirit of Christ cannot tell the difference between these works. Only the Spirit of Christ can divide the soul from the Spirit (Heb. 4:12). Whenever any person yields his members subject to obey the soul, he becomes under the power of Satan. This is a spirit of error. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servant ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Rom. 6:16). This scripture is important, because one of the devil's historical tricks is to get people to believe there is a gray area between serving God or the devil.

Many people fall victim to the notion that though they are not perfect, they are not so bad. Although they are not serving God, the thought goes, they are not actively serving the devil. Romans 6:16 explains how many persons are indeed serving the devil unaware. This is a truth of God. Ignorance of God's word does not guarantee the security of the mercy of God.

In fact, ignorance of God's word is a tactic of the devil. The reference to God's word does not simply mean the Bible as a written book of letters. If taken literally, this is "the word of the soul." Hear what is being said because deception is always found in the realm of the soul. The word of God is not the letter written in the Bible; it is the spirit (God's intent) locked up in the letters. Only the anointing of God can unlock this wisdom. Deception comes when men and women fail to understand that the natural words of the Bible are not the word of God. This is a very big deceptive tool of the enemy. Often times, men and women accept what is being spoken or what has been written rather than seeking the higher power. In short, men and women must seek God for a higher revelation of what is written in the Bible. Does the Bible contain the word of God? Yes, but it requires the Spirit of Christ to reveal that word unto man. The spirit of error works with the letters of the Bible. 2 Corinthians 3:6 states that God "hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." From Genesis to Revelation, Satan has doctrines associated with the letter. These doctrines are taught in schools of theology by some of the world's greatest scholars. Because they are "the world's scholars," they seek to understand God using the literal words of the Bible. In so doing, they are not scholars of God and they know not the things of the Spirit. While they may be

celebrated as astute biblical scholars this in no wise grants them status as scholars of God.

The deceptive work of the enemy is seen in Paul's words pertaining to an angel of light. Satan goes forth as if he is God. His ministers go forth as if they are the ministers of righteousness. The deception seems so real, but then deception would not be deception if it did not appear real. See the spirit of error at work. In writing to the Corinthians, Paul said, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Cor. 11:2-3). Paul's concern for the Corinthians is the major problem of the church today. The spirit of error has corrupted the minds of the church from the things of the Spirit and has offered instead, things of the soul. For Paul, the matter boils down to the gospel. Take note of the words Paul used pertaining to "the simplicity that is in Christ." Paul's gospel was a simple message about Christ as the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:9). The very Christ of God was known as Jesus in the flesh.

However, during Paul's day, there were those who preached "another Jesus." The "other Jesus" was not Christ in the Spirit, but a natural Christ. This was an antichrist of the soul, presenting himself by the name of Jesus. This Christ is called a false Christ in Matthew 24:24. The reason he is false is because he is not of the Spirit. Keep in mind that the Holy Ghost has revealed unto man via the scriptures that there are only two spirits at work in heaven and on earth: the Spirit of God, which is the Holy Ghost or the Spirit of Christ, and the spirit of the devil, which is an unclean spirit or the spirit of the antichrist. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of truth; it is that Spirit which proceeded from the Father (John 15:26). This is the heavenly Spirit known as the Spirit of Christ and referred to simply as Christ in the Bible. The opposing spirit is the spirit of the devil. This spirit knows not the things of the Holy Spirit. Thus, it is the spirit of error because it proceeds from "the eroding one." This is the spirit of antichrist, referred to in the Bible as antichrist.

Men and women often confuse antichrist with Christ. They offer worship up to God during Christmas for a "Christ (natural being) born on Christmas day." Such a Christ is antichrist because the Christ of God is eternal. The spirit of error offers antichrist as Christ unto the

church, not as a Spirit but as something natural: an office, a function, even flesh and blood, thus, men and women are led to equate Jesus with Christ in a natural sense, and not in the Spirit. Then they proceed to preach unto others the antichrist thinking that this is the Christ of the Spirit. Because they only understand the letter of the Bible, they can not see their error, thus, they preach “another Jesus.” This is the Jesus that the church makes to be her God.

Now this false doctrine falls right in line with Satan’s design to “be like the most High.” Satan is a natural spirit like unto the soul of a man. The soul is of the flesh, by offering the church a man of the flesh as God, he has set her up to receive the coming of antichrist in the name of Jesus. Satan has deceived many with “another gospel.” This gospel is about his Jesus. His Jesus is preached as having died and arisen from the dead, and that salvation from sin is found in Jesus’ name. While this may sound true, it is another deceptive work of the soul because the focus is on the flesh (namely, on Jesus the man).

Let us examine the naturalization of Christ and the concept of antichrist. “Anti” means against, so “antichrist” means against Christ. Whereas God has showed that Christ is a spirit (not materialized), the antichrist can be seen on church tapestries and calendars. The Christ Spirit is eternal but the antichrist hangs on a cross and crucifixes around the globe. The spirit of error causes the individual to rely on the senses or things that can be seen.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was of the flesh (Matt. 1:16; Luke 1:31; Heb. 2:14). When Jesus died, he went to the dust (as would any natural body); his soul went to hell, but it was the Christ Spirit which suffered in hell and brought about salvation for man. This is a work of the Spirit. Thus, Paul wrote, “For when we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6). It was Christ who arose from the dead. Jesus was raised from the dead by the Spirit which dwelt in his spirit (Romans 8:11). But it was not the same body that died which arose. Paul has written, “And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body” (1 Cor. 15:37-38). Jesus died a natural body, but he was raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body (v. 44). The body raised is called the church. This is the body known as the spiritual body. We are

the body of Christ. Jesus was swallowed up in the Spirit. He is “the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5).

Paul speaks of a third leg of Satan’s deceptive trilogy: “another spirit” (2 Cor. 11:4). This is the spirit of error, which we have been discussing, and it is this spirit that the church has received. Because the devil operates by a spirit, he is able to unify men in the church around a common doctrine derived from the letter of the Bible and not the Spirit. In their numbers men feel safe, but there is no safety in a lie. The outer workings of the spirit of error are observed in verses 13-15. Take note that all that God has made known unto man by the Bible, Satan has incorporated into his satanic religious system. This system is known as “Babylon” (Rev. 17-18), and as a whore (Rev. 17:5).

In Paul’s day, we can see how the devil operated as a counterfeit to Christ. There were those who called themselves apostles, but they worked deceitfully. They made themselves out to be “the apostles of Christ” (2 Cor. 11:13). Their head (Satan) changed himself “into an angel of light” and so it was no great thing that his ministers presented themselves as “the ministers of righteousness” (v. 14-15).

As it was in Paul’s day, so it is today. Our study of great commission affords us the opportunity to build on our efforts of exposing the spirit of error. And once this is observed and reckoned with, we can make that “right” turn towards carrying out and living God’s commission to us. We can now move to the next four steps in the Seven Step Process which are Attitude, Behavior, Communication, and Discipline (The ABCDs).

LIVING THE GREAT COMMISSION

As we continue to unfold the workings of the great commission and the challenges faced by the church in understanding what God meant in pronouncing it including God’s intended Goal, Objective, and plan or Method for realizing the commission, take note of how the early disciples began to carry out the great commission.

In reflection, we have looked at the goal, objective, and God’s intended method for disciples to carry out His commission. We will now focus our attention on their attitude. What was the attitude of the disciples? The Thesaurus English US Dictionary defines attitude as an approach,

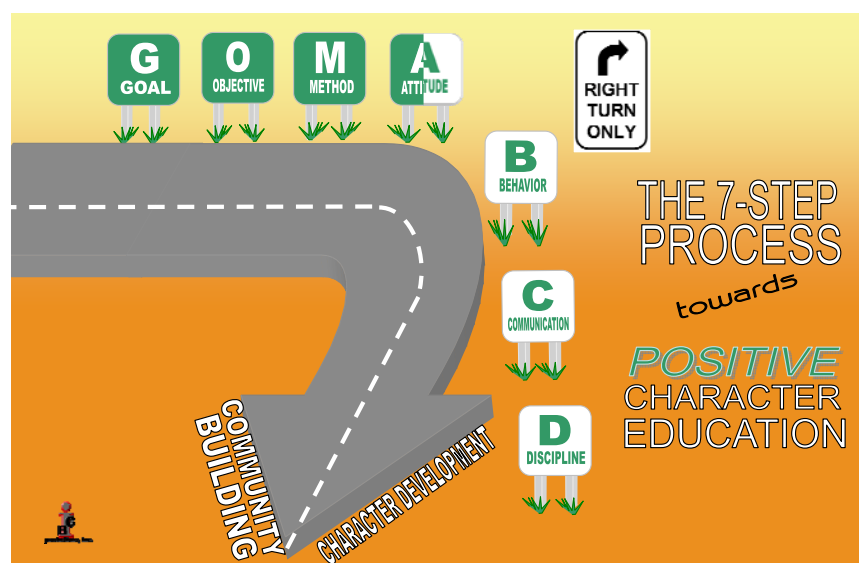
outlook, manner, feelings, thought, mindset, and stand. Attitude really speaks to one's mental state involving beliefs, feelings values, and disposition to act in certain ways.

In reading Matthew 28: 1-9, we see how the disciples reacted to receiving the news of Jesus' resurrection prior to his ascension.

1. *In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher.*
2. *And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.*
3. *His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:*
4. *And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.*
5. *And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.*
6. *He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay.*
7. *And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.*
8. *And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.*
9. *And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.*

Clearly we see here that the disciples honored Jesus as the Christ of God. In this case, honor is another way of saying respect. Their attitude reflected the positive inward disposition of their hearts toward Jesus and the things of the Spirit which they were taught throughout his

ministry with them. In order to carry out a work of God, one must have the right attitude which is the mindset of God. “Let this mind be in you which is also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). The disciples agreed with the words that were spoken and in obedience went forth in the authority that was given unto them. The right decision will produce the desired outcome which in this case was to teach and baptize all nations. We can say that the attitude component of the Seven Step Process represents a pivotal point of transition as it is the point at which the person travels down the “right path” which we refer to as a right turn. (See figure below)



Referring to the diagram above, it should be noted that prior to the turning point on the road, the travelers (disciples) moving along this path has not yet put in practice the action plan devised in the Goal, Objective, and Method steps. Executing the plan is done by way of the Behavior, Communication, and Discipline Steps. It is the right Attitude that spurs one to action and allows one to make the “right turn.” It can be said that Jesus’ disciples were on a philosophical path as they were being taught by way of Jesus’ words and him performing miracles before their eyes. There was agreement in their hearts as they believed and understood what was being communicated to them. The next course of action would be to execute God’s plan which leads us to the behavior step in the seven step process.

Matthew was directed in his writing by the Spirit of Christ. His attitude towards the Lord's mission was based on him knowingly moving in the authority of the Spirit. It takes that same Spirit to impart the meaning of the words written by Matthew. A common error in the church is to accept a statement found in the Bible as if it were the word of God and not the letter. All that Matthew wrote in Matthew 28:19-20 was the letter. Thus, the church has taken the letter and made a doctrine out of the literal words. Men and women have gone forth for centuries preaching the scripture (v. 19) to support a trinitarian doctrine. All of this has been done in the flesh. This has led the church to adopt a self-righteous attitude. Men have believed for centuries in their ability and knowledge gained, that they have the answers; that they can decipher through their own judgment.

When we look at behavior, it speaks to things such as performance, action, deeds, activity and conduct. In examining their behavior, we see that as the disciples aligned themselves to carry out the will of the Father and by faith they demonstrated proper conduct as they went forth in a spirit of humility and meekness. Again, right thoughts lead to right words and deeds. In Genesis 1:26, God said "Let us create man in our own image and in our likeness." As man was made in the image of God, so must the attitude and the behavior be fashioned in the image and likeness of God.

The next step, which is communication, goes hand in hand with behavior. Communication can be seen as an extension or expressed behavior where a message is actually transferred from one individual to another. When Jesus spoke to the disciples giving them the authority to go and teach all nations, the disciples received the words of God, and were empowered to go forth in ministry.

This leads us to our final step in the process which is discipline. Were the disciples disciplined? By virtue of them being called disciples of Christ clues us that they exhibited some form of discipline. The discipline component of the Seven Step Process is critical as it ensures the sustainability of the process. As it is important to have a good start, so is it important to have a good finish. Note in Jesus' instructions he made specific reference to the disciples to teaching the people to Observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you. They were commanded to stay the course and carry out the charge. Note the importance of sustaining and maintaining a work of God, one must be

disciplined. This step is the key to the successful implementation of the great commission.

In defining the great commission, the church teaches that Christ gave the church authority to go into all the nations of the world to make disciples. These individuals are to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. These words are found in scripture, Matthew 28:19-20: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen."

As for salvation, we have shown that "...salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9). "Now the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Cor. 3:17). All works of God are done by the Spirit. This is what distinguishes the heavenly works from the works of men. Men work from the realm of the soul. The soul is an enemy of God. The soul seeks glory of herself. Therefore, the soul is contrary to God, and must be brought under the control of the Spirit for a work to be of God.

When men claim that water baptism saves, they claim it unto the soul, yet the glory due should be unto God. Man desires God's glory when he operates in the soul because this is an outward work of the devilish spirit operating in man. It is the humble servant of God who gives the glory unto God for the salvation of man. But how does one develop that behavior of humility and meekness? It is only by the Spirit of God that the pride of man is removed from him. Therefore, that same Spirit also develops the meekness and humility in man. Again, it must be stressed that every work of God is done by the Spirit. There is no work of God to which a man can point, and say it was not done by the Spirit of Christ. When this is understood, then man understands the proud hearts of those who affirm water baptism as a saving work.

What was Jesus communicating in Matthew 28:19, when he told the disciples "teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost?" Was he even speaking about natural baptism? There is clear evidence in scriptures that water baptism is not the subject of Jesus' commission. This should not come as a surprise, given that Jesus' words are "spirit and life," and only the Spirit of Christ is able to open the meaning of them.

Let us go to 1 Cor. 1:12-17 for a discussion on baptism. In verses 12-13, Paul reproves the church because of her divisive work. We read in verse 14, "I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius." If water baptism was the subject of Matthew 28:19, Paul certainly did not know it. Else why was he thanking God for not carrying out "the great commission?" Now consider Paul's words in verse 17: "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect." Christ did not commission Paul to baptize. Paul's commission was to proclaim the gospel. With these words from Paul, let us return to Matthew 28:19-20 for further discussion. We note the dominant theme of "teaching" in these verses. First, note that "all nations" were to be taught (v. 19). In verse 20, the teaching is associated with observing all things the Spirit had taught the disciples. This notion of teaching is consistent with Paul's words. Teaching is an aspect of preaching the gospel. To disciple anyone, you must teach that person. Thus, the words, "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" are also directly related to instructions.

To baptize carries a number of meanings. In this instance, the appropriate meaning is to imbue. "Imbue" means to fill the mind. The disciples were to make disciples of all nations. They were to baptize these disciples "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost" (Interlinear Greek - English New Testament). In other words, they were to instruct the disciples in matters pertaining to the Godhead. This should make good sense because unless a person knows God, he cannot teach others of spiritual things. In today's churches, one is taught very little knowledge about God, and thus, the spirit of error brings forth many high things of the soul, and these same high things of the soul are said to be spiritual things. In Ephesians 4:5, Paul speaks of "one baptism."

In the Spirit, "one" means singleness of kind. "One" can be used in the flesh to mean a single unit among many units, but this is not one in the Spirit. Follow Paul's usage of "one" in Ephesians 4:3-6. Verse 3 speaks about unity which is another way of expressing oneness. Unity is shown to be "of the Spirit." This unity joins spirit to Spirit, and all is of the same Spirit. The oneness of the Spirit can be seen in the writing of Paul to the Corinthians. Paul said, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operation, but it is the

same God which worketh all in all” (1 Cor. 12:4-6). The Spirit, the Lord, and God are of one kind - the Spirit kind. In the realm of the Spirit, works take place via the empowerment of the Spirit, and thus, all works are of God. There may be one thousand men working, but if the work is of God, their work would be simply yielding to the Spirit that Christ might work through them. Note the different gifts and operation of the gifts in verses 8-10. Now note verse 11: “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.” Returning to Ephesians 4:4, we read, “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.” The one body is a spiritual body. This body is not the members on the church roster. Members on the church roll refer to natural individuals. The one body is the spiritual body of Christ. In this body, all members of the spiritual church can be found. While there are many members, they all make up the “one new man” (Eph. 2:15). We have shown the unity of the one Spirit, one Lord, and one God. The one faith is trust in the oneness of God. This brings us to baptism.

Baptism is also spiritual. As there is something made to show forth God (Rom. 1:20); spiritual baptism is made known by natural baptism. In the Old Testament, the spiritual baptism can be seen in Israel, as in 1 Corinthians 10:2 “baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.” As the Red Sea was parted, the children of Israel passed through the sea on dry land. Thus, they did not so much as get wet (Ps. 66:6).

We must look for the spiritual meaning of baptism. The children of Israel had to know their anointed leader, not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. They were baptized (imbued or had their minds filled with the knowledge of God pertaining to the spiritual Moses). This was the baptism in the cloud. It was a spiritual baptism. Regarding “the sea’s” part, we know of a “brazen sea” (1 Kings 7:23). The priests were required to wash often in this “molten sea.” This too is a spiritual baptism. The sea, used for washing, was a type of the word of God. Jesus said, “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you” (John 15:3). The word of God washes the heart of a man. In this sense, the baptism of the sea was to keep the children of Israel pure from idolatry by imbuing them with God’s holy law.

Note David’s prayer unto the Lord after that he had sinned. David wrote, “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my

transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (Ps. 51:1-2).

Verse 7 declares, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." David understood what occurs when a person sins, even a righteous man. When sin occurs in a person, Satan is given room to steal the word of God from that heart, and to fill that heart with deceptive lies. At the heart of David's prayer was his request found in verse 10: "Create in me a clean heart, Oh God; and renew a right spirit within me." The heart of a man is his human spirit. David's spirit had to be baptized (imbued or filled) with the word of God to cleanse him from the defiling work of the flesh.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ told Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water (the word of God) and of the Spirit (the anointing of God), he can not enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:6). Peter told the Jews, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). This command of Peter shows that something proceeded the giving of the Holy Ghost.

Surely, Peter was not referring to water baptism because the Gentiles received the Holy Ghost before they were water baptized (Acts 10:44-48). Peter's words were words of the Spirit. Upon hearing "the water" (word of God), the Jews were commanded to turn from their religious ways to obedience to God's word. Upon doing so, Peter showed them they would be baptized in Jesus Christ's authority (name) to remove their sins. No one can become a member of the body of Christ by joining the church. Believing the gospel of Christ preached by Peter coupled with repentance brings the grace of God unto the person. Thus, by one Spirit, he is baptized into the one body (1 Cor. 12:13). The gift of the Holy Ghost is a promise unto this one. All the person has to do is receive the gift. This message is not an argument against water baptism. I was baptized in water in Jesus Christ's name. My goal is to show the proper place natural water plays in baptism. To this end, we may say that the natural baptism is a picture of the true baptism, which can only take place in the Spirit.

CONCLUSION

The great commission is the single most important work given by God unto the church and is often misunderstood, in interpretation. When the wrong understanding is ascribed to a scripture, it signifies that a spirit of error is at work. The great commission is the command made unto Christ's church to teach and to baptize every nation; in short, a spiritual command. However, when God's people are not watchful and are lacking in knowledge relative to spiritual things; Satan is able to usher in another spirit, which causes God's people to operate in error. However, hope is not lost. In this book, the deceptive devices that Satan uses to cause confusion and division among God's people are revealed and God's Church is free to go forward in carrying out the great commission as God intended.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Deryl G. Hunt is a Pastor, CEO of ICB Productions, international consultant, educator, noted author, and lecturer. He is legendary in the fields of cultural diversity and inclusive community building and is a forerunner with his new and innovative approach in addressing issues of these genres. His ground breaking works are thought provoking and transformational in providing answers to current, as well as age old dilemmas fraught by society. Dr. Hunt engages and captures the attention of even the most jaded minds. His diverse background spans the spectrum of his work to include management training to executives, middle level managers, and line workers in the U.S., Europe, Panama, Haiti, the Bahamas, and most recently the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI).

As an author, Dr. Hunt has written many books on the topics of inclusive community building, mentoring, and conflict resolution. Some of his most distinguished publications include the following:

- *Miami: The Place Where Cultures Meet and Opa locka, The Good City*, 1995.
- *Understanding Culturally Different People: A Training Manual*, 1995.
- *From Diversity to Unity Handbook on Developing Inclusive Community*, 1998.
- *Building the Inclusive Community: An Alternative Student Services Delivery System*, 2002.
- *The Ellison Executive Mentoring and Inclusive Community Building Model*, 2002.
- *Community Moments and Teachable Seconds*, 2002.
- *The Ellison Model Management Plan*, 2002.
- *Administration of Justice (unpublished)*.
- *Building Sustainable Marriages and Healing the Pain of Divorce, Co-author: Dr. Michele Rice*, 2004.

As an educator, Dr. Hunt's higher education consisted of a B.A. Degree in Sociology from Fort Valley University, a M.A. in Sociology from Atlanta University, and a Ph.D. in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. He has held many prominent administrative and faculty positions from consultant to the National Office of Housing and Urban Development, Assistant City Manager, Opa locka, Florida to major universities throughout the nation: University of Pittsburgh, Southern Illinois University, Florida International University, Florida Memorial University and Miami Dade College. Dr. Hunt received the William R. Jones Most Valuable Mentor

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Which Jesus
Denominational Religion
The Book
Talking About The Blues

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The Great Commission focuses on the deeper meaning behind the words. It is about meaning behind the meaning. It is one of the commanding heights of the Christ Spirit in the disciple. Again, it is men who tagged this commission as "The Great". But how great is great is what the book is revealing. A natural man cannot grasp this. Even someone with a higher amount of the natural (super-natural) cannot see this truth. You need the Spirit of God to open your inner mind to understand this deep teaching. When I read this work, I could not resist the naked truth here. I recommend this work to missionaries, pastors, teachers, scholars, leaders, and students.

You can apply this teaching to every day details; even in business. This is very timely. The devil is too late! No more tricks!

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