

# The Great Commission #2

Sept. 16, 2007 (AM) - Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

## POWER OF THE COMMISSION

Text: Matt 28:18 *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

### I. CHRIST'S POWER IN HEAVEN

1. To Create - Psalm 78:26 *He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind. 27 He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea:*
2. To Give Power To Kings - Dan. 2:37 *Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.*
3. To Deliver Miraculously - Dan. 6:27 *He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.*
4. To Return
  1. Mark 14:61 *But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? 62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*
  2. Matt 26:64 *Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*

### II. CHRIST'S POWER IN EARTH

1. To Declare His Name - Exod. 9:16 *And in very deed for this [cause] have I raised thee up, for to shew [in] thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.*
2. To Give Earth To Whom He Will - Jer 27:5 *I have made the earth, the man and the beast that [are] upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.*
3. To Forgive Sins - Matt 9:6 *But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*
4. To Send Out His People For A Witness - Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

### III. DISCUSSION

1. Our text says that Jesus has all power in heaven and in earth. That means that he is Head and Ruler of both heaven and earth. That means that he has insight and connection with both physical and spiritual things. He rules not only our lives but also our spiritual existence with God.

2. The word power here is the word EXOUSIA, and it means authority. It is not the word for strength, power, or energy. The word in Acts 1:8 is the Greek word DUNAMIS and means strength or the capacity to do the work that Holy Ghost gives for us to serve God.
3. At this point we need to discuss a little about the Kingdom of God.
  1. First, the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven are the same thing; there is no difference between the two.
  2. The Bible also speaks of the Family of God in Eph. 3:15 *Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.* This family is made up of all who are related to Jesus Christ through is shed blood by grace through faith in Christ whether they be on earth or in heaven.
  3. But we also need to understand that within that kingdom there is a church. I believe that the Kingdom of God on earth includes all believers in Jesus Christ, but the church of the Lord Jesus Christ does not include all believers.
  4. The church is made up of only those who have been added:
    - a. Acts 2:41 *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
    - b. On the Day of Pentecost there were approximately 120 disciples gathered together—this was the church – Acts 1:15 *And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty.)*
    - c. When Peter was finished preaching, there were added to this number about 3,000 souls – Acts 2:41 *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [unto them] about three thousand souls.*
    - d. As time went on, many thousands of believers were added to this little number of 120. Acts 5:14 *And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)*
    - e. It was to the apostles that Jesus gave the Great Commission, and it was unto them that other disciples were added, so this commission was given, not to just the twelve, but unto the church of Jesus Christ.
      - (1) If it had been only to the apostles, the commission would not have lasted through the first century, because the apostles died.
      - (2) If the commission had been to every believer, then Christ's giving to the apostles alone would have had no significance.
      - (3) But if Jesus gave the Great Commission to his kind of church, then it will continue throughout the length of the days of this earth, because he says at the end of the Commission in Matt 28:20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
  5. The church of the Lord Jesus is the administrator of the Great Commission.
    - a. Yes, every believer should be a witness of what Jesus has done for him, but each individual believer was not given a commission as was given to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - b. The Kingdom of God is made up on all believers on earth, but the administrator of

the orders of the Kingdom have been given to the Lord's churches, thus the churches of Jesus Christ have this Commission and are responsible for keeping it and executing it according to biblical principles.

- c. God's work is to be done through a local, visible church -- Eph 3:21 *Unto him [be] glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*
6. One more point for discussion is that of the churches' of today receiving this power or authority to carry out this Great Commission.
  - a. We believe that local, visible churches of the Lord have existed ever since the days of Jesus Christ when he started building his kind of church.
  - b. We have a promise that these churches will perpetuate throughout time: Matt 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
  - c. But how does a new church receive this authority? There are several theories of this:
    - (1) Some seem to think that where two or three are gathered together in the name of the Lord, they automatically have the power to carry out the Commission. This is taken from Matt 18:20 *For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*
    - (2) Some believe that the authority of one church (a mother church) transfers its authority from itself to a group of believers who have been scripturally baptized in order to organize a second church.
    - (3) Personally, I believe that Jesus is the Head of his churches and only he has the right to give this authority to an assembly.
      - (a) In the New Testament, when groups of believers began to meet together somewhere away from Jerusalem, a delegation from Jerusalem was sent to that group, and the apostles worked with them to establish them.
      - (b) Paul and Barnabas were sent out by the local church in Antioch to do work in other lands, and as a result, many churches were established.
      - (c) The authority, however, is not passed from one church to another; but when we practice the procedures as the ones practiced by the apostles and others in the Bible, when we release members from our church for the purpose of having a separate church, then Jesus himself authorizes their existence, not the church from which these believers came.
      - (d) There must be a transfer of membership out of one's present church into that group which has come together to start a new church. Upon this release of their membership, these believers have the authority to operate as a church independently of any other church.
      - (e) First Baptist Church is a church of the Lord Jesus Christ. This church is responsible for the Great Commission. We will see just how involved that responsibility is as we get into the Commission itself and learn what the Lord wants us to do and how extensive this commission really is.

## Conclusion

Today we have considered the power in the Commission. We need to understand that a commission of this kind and of this extent needs authority behind it. That authority is Jesus Christ, who is the Head of his kind of churches, and he will hold his churches responsible for this commission and no one else.

Essentially, the first principle of the commission is to give the Gospel to every creature, so let us be on the job seeking the lost and giving them the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is our Lord's death, burial and resurrection. We must tell people to have faith in Jesus Christ, believing that he died as a substitute and that he was victorious over that death through his resurrection and that anyone who believes in him will be saved.

1. John 6:47 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*
2. Joh 12:46 *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*
3. Ac 16:31 *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*
4. Eph. 2:8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*