

# The Great Commission

5-Day Devotional

## Day 1: Mountains of Transformation

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### Scripture Text

Matthew 5:1–16 (NIV)

*Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven... You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” — Matthew 5:1–16*

### Devotion

Jesus consistently brought His disciples to mountaintops—places of transformation and divine encounter. Like the Garden of Eden described as a mountain where rivers flowed to bring life to the earth, these high places represented opportunities to walk closely with God. Today, consider what mountaintop experiences God has given you—moments when you felt particularly close to Him. The Sermon on the Mount teaches us to notice blessings even in difficult circumstances. Where are you seeing God’s presence today? Are you noticing the hungry, the poor, the meek—recognizing that even in these places, blessing exists? Transformation begins when we shift our perspective from focusing on what’s wrong to discovering where God is already at work.

## Day 2: Faith and Doubt Walking Together

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### Scripture Text

Matthew 28:16–17 (NIV)

*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. — Matthew 28:16–17*

### **Devotion**

“When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted.” This honest statement reveals a profound truth: faith and doubt often coexist. The original Easter season was filled with uncertainty, confusion, and questions. The disciples had walked with Jesus, witnessed miracles, yet still struggled with doubt when facing something new and unfamiliar. Where are you today? Fully connected and diving deeper, or wrestling with doubts? Jesus doesn’t condemn the doubters; He meets them where they are. Like a one-year-old following his brothers with complete trust, we’re invited to that kind of faith—but Jesus understands when life’s disappointments make us hesitant. You’re still chosen, even in your doubt.

## **Day 3: Authority and Mission**

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### **Scripture Text**

*Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV)*

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” — Matthew 28:18–20*

### **Devotion**

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go...” Jesus bridges His authority with our mission. This isn’t about creating an exclusive club of followers; it’s about sharing light with everyone. From Abraham’s original calling, God’s intention was always for all nations to be blessed. Baptism represents God’s personal promise to each individual—you are valuable, sacred, deeply loved. Your calling may not be to literally baptize, but you can offer that same personal consecration to others: “Your life matters. You are seen. You are loved.” This week, who needs to hear that message from you? The Great Commission isn’t a burden—it’s an invitation to participate in God’s redemptive work throughout the world.

## **Day 4: Witnesses of Love**

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## Scripture Text

*Luke 24:44–49; Acts 1:8 (NIV)*

*He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” — Luke 24:44–49*

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”  
— Acts 1:8*

## Devotion

The word “witness” in Greek is “martis”—originally meaning simply to share your story, not necessarily to die. You are called to witness: to tell what you’ve seen, experienced, and received from God. Captain William Swenson exemplified this when he kissed each wounded soldier on the forehead while carrying them to safety—a witness to love in the midst of chaos. How often do we rush through our days, too busy for these sacred moments of connection? Jesus commands us to love God and love people. That’s the witness we carry. Today, slow down enough to truly see someone. Share a blessing. Speak words of life. Your story of God’s faithfulness might be exactly what someone needs to hear.

## Day 5: The Promise of Presence

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### Scripture Text

*Matthew 28:20; Genesis 3:8–9; Revelation 21:1–4 (NIV)*

*“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” — Matthew 28:20*

*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” — Genesis 3:8–9*

*Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s*

*dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” — Revelation 21:1–4*

### **Devotion**

“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” This is Jesus’ final promise—a return to Eden, where humanity once walked with God in perfect communion. The mountaintop experiences throughout Matthew’s Gospel all point toward this restoration: temptation overcome, blessings recognized, prayer offered, truth revealed, death defeated. Now we carry that light forward, not alone, but with Christ’s abiding presence. Sharing your light isn’t meant to be burdensome; it restores your own soul. When you offer love, hope, and grace to others, you discover life yourself. As you go into the world this week, remember: you don’t carry your candle alone. The One who holds all authority walks with you, always.