

Sermon: Moving Outward: Seeking the Ministry We Need

Text: [Matthew 28:16-20 ESV](#)

Gary L. Wackler

October 3, 2021

Introduction: When we move inward it becomes clear that we need to change and be transformed. When we move upward, we become aware of God’s power and provision, and we worship Him. But when we move outward it becomes just as obvious we need to help others be made aware of their spiritual needs, and what God can do for them.

If you are a Christian, the Lord Jesus expects you to:

I. Be in _____.

II. Be in _____.

III. Be Willing to _____.

Conclusion: (Richard Foster, *Prayer*, p.168) Transformation and intimacy both cry out for ministry. We are led through the furnace of God’s purity not just for our own sake but also for the sake of others. We are drawn up into the bosom of God’s love not merely to experience acceptance, but also so we can give his love to others.

Lord, You know there will always be a need to forgive others as they violate holy principles which You have made clear in your Word. But we also still require forgiveness for our failings and own inaction — even when we know we should be involved.

[Matthew 28:16-20 ESV](#)

The Great Commission

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[into] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus offers us baptism as the way to enter into communion with God, Father, Son, and Spirit, and to live our lives as God's beloved children. Through baptism we say no to the world. We declare that we no longer want to remain children of the darkness but want to become children of the light, God's children. We do not want to escape the world, but we want to live in it without belonging to it. That is what baptism enables us to do.

- Henri J. M. Nouwen

[Acts 22:16 ESV](#) 16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.”