

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central text is set against a white background that is partially framed by these blue shapes.

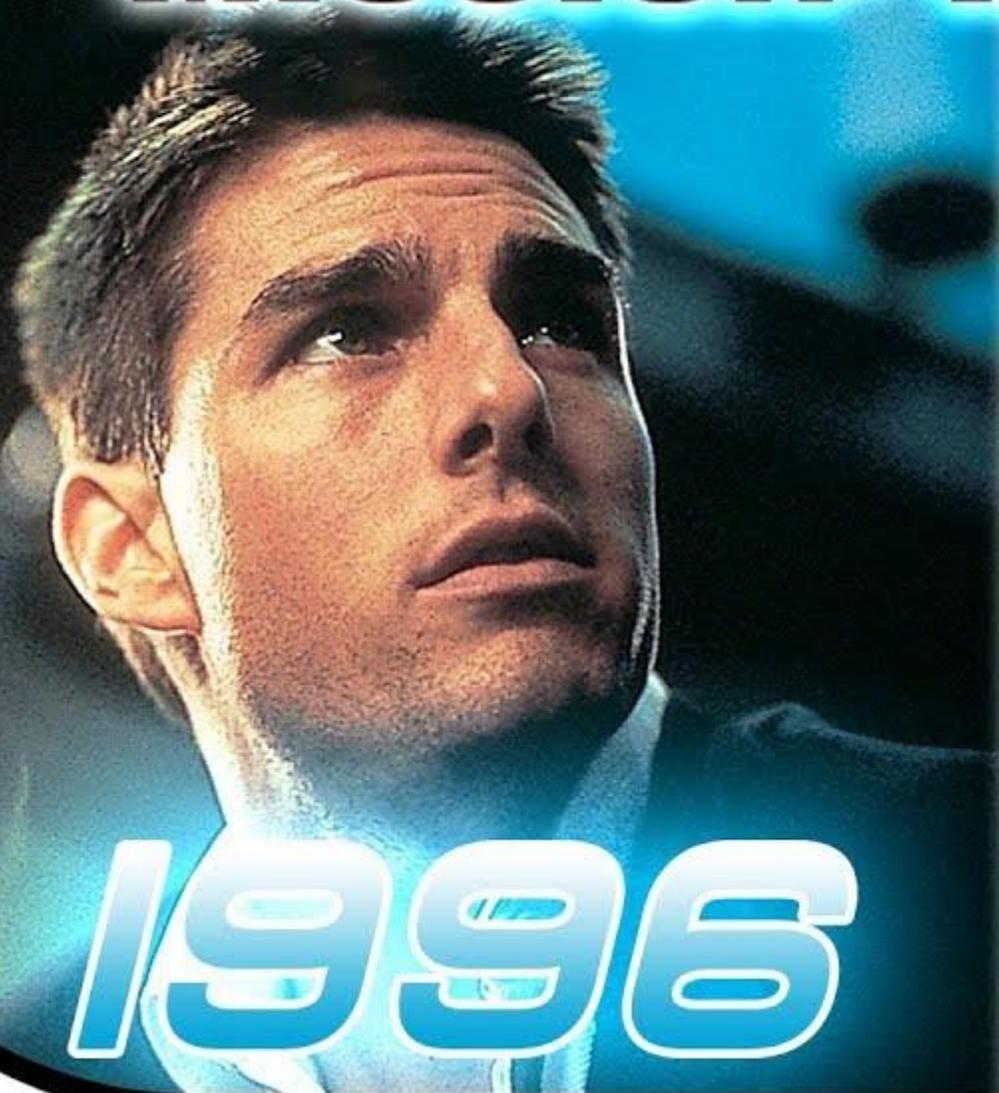
Reaching people for Christ: Mission Possible?

John 20:19-23



MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE



1996



2018

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

KAJANG BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP



MISSION POSSIBLE

KAJANG BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

- ▶ Jesus was God in human flesh; I am not.
- ▶ Jesus never sinned; I often sin.
- ▶ Jesus walked in unbroken, intimate fellowship with the Father; I do not.
- ▶ Jesus never made mistakes; I make them all the time.
- ▶ So with the apostle Paul, I often feel “And who is adequate for these things?” (2 Cor. 2:16)
- ▶ But in our text, Jesus turns mission *impossible* into mission *possible*.
- ▶ Paul followed up his feelings of inadequacy with the triumphant explanation “Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, **but our adequacy is from God.**” (2 Cor. 3:5)

I. The risen Christ has given us great **peace**

- ▶ “So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘**Peace** be with you.’” (John 20:19)
- ▶ Then after He showed them His hands and side, He repeated “**Peace** be with you.” (John 20:21)
- ▶ **Peace** with God is foundational to your mission for Him. You can’t begin to serve the Lord unless you first are reconciled to Him through the **peace** that Christ accomplished on the cross
- ▶ When you trust in Christ, you enter into a new relationship of **peace** with God (Rom. 5:1).

- ▶ Not only does Christ give us **peace with** God through His blood, but He also gives us the **peace of** God through His steadfast presence as we seek to accomplish the gospel mission.
- ▶ As Jesus concluded the Great Commission He assured his disciples, “And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” As we proclaim the gospel to a hostile world, the Lord’s presence gives us “the **peace** of God, which surpasses understanding” (Phil. 4:7).
- ▶ The **peace** that Jesus gives also extends to our relationships with one another. When churches get into internal conflicts, they can destroy their witness to the watching world. Many passages in the New Testament encourage us to work for **peaceful** relationships. Christ is the basis for resolving relational conflicts. As Paul said “For He Himself is our **peace**, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall”
- ▶ Christ has given us **peace with** God, the **peace of** God, and **peace with one another**, so that we can carry out His mission.

II. The risen Christ has given us great **proof**

- ▶ “And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.” (John 20:20)
- ▶ Jesus’ resurrection body still has the scars to remind us of the great price that He paid to save us from our sins (see Rev. 5:7).
- ▶ But on that first resurrection Sunday, Jesus showed the disciples His hands and side to convince them (**proof**) of the truth that He was risen bodily.
- ▶ Luke (24:39, 41-43) adds that He invited them to touch Him and then He asked for a piece of broiled fish, which He ate as they watched. The Lord has given us convincing **proof** that He is risen.

- ▶ That historical fact should be at the center of our witness for Christ. While it's true that Christ can help people with their personal problems and struggles, that's not the message of the gospel.
- ▶ The gospel is that Christ died for our sins and was raised again according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3-4). In other words, don't believe in Jesus in the hope that He will solve all your problems.
- ▶ Believe in Jesus because you're a sinner and He is the only Savior and He is risen from the dead and is coming again to judge the living and the dead (1 Thess. 1:5-10)!
- ▶ We can proclaim the gospel with confidence because we have great **proof** of His resurrection.

III. The risen Christ has given us a great purpose

- ▶ “So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’” (John 20:21)
- ▶ John’s Gospel frequently emphasizes the theme of Jesus being sent by the Father.
 - ▶ He was sent to do the Father’s will (John 4:34; 6:38-39);
 - ▶ to speak the Father’s words (John 3:34; 12:49); and
 - ▶ to perform the Father’s works (John 4:34; 5:36).
 - ▶ to bring salvation to the world (John 3:17). In John 18:37
- ▶ Jesus told Pilate, “For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth.” In Luke 19:10, Jesus said, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.” The apostle Paul put it (1 Tim. 1:15), “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.”

- ▶ Jesus taught us to pray (Matt. 6:10), “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
- ▶ He came to establish the Father’s kingdom by bringing people under His lordship to do His will. By sending us in the same way that He was sent, His **purpose** becomes our **purpose**.
- ▶ We should live in obedience to Christ and teach others to do the same (Matt. 28:19-20).
- ▶ And yet it seems we live in a world where people have no **purpose** or meaning in life.

174

GENERAL STORE

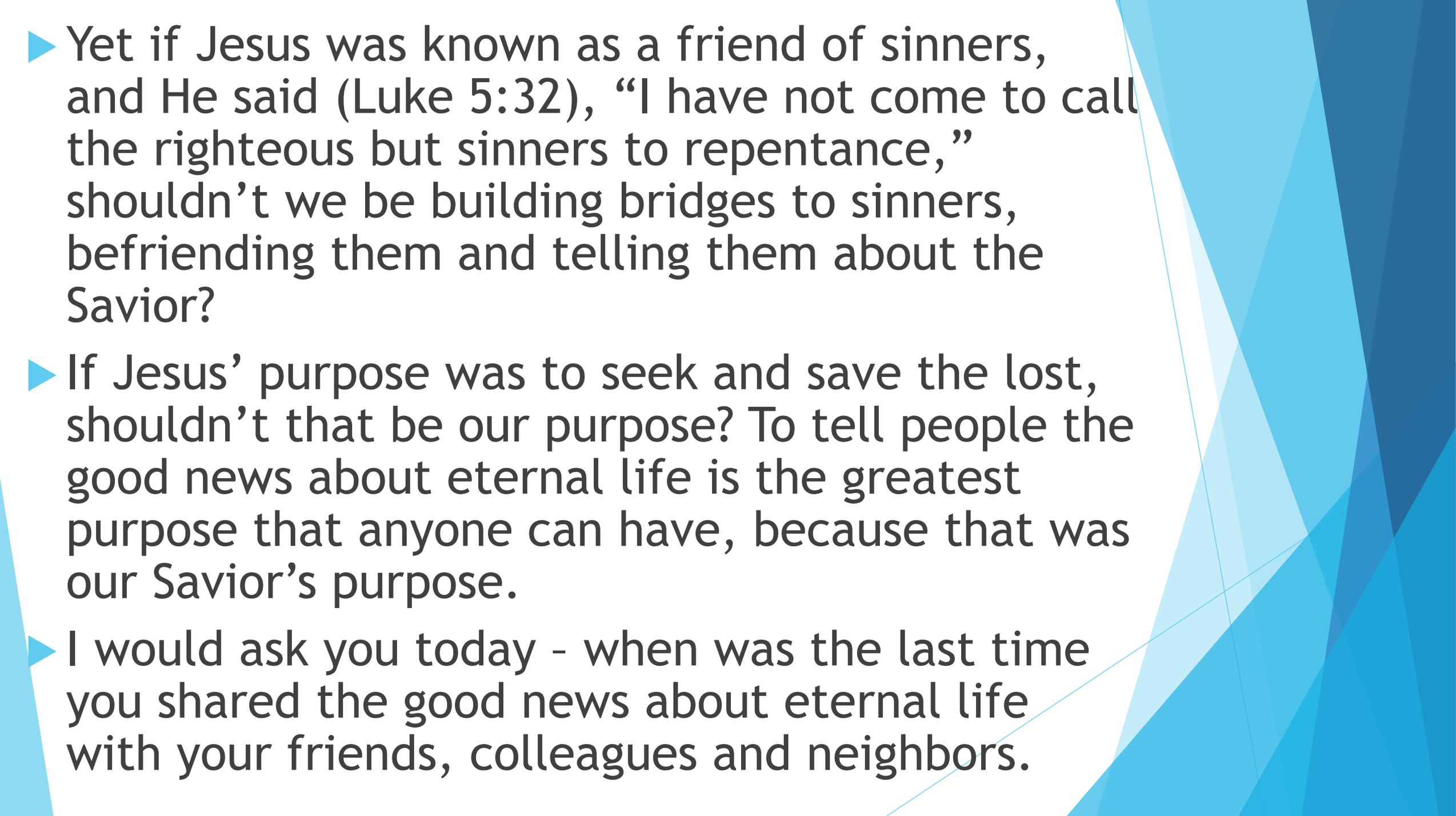
174

GROCERIES



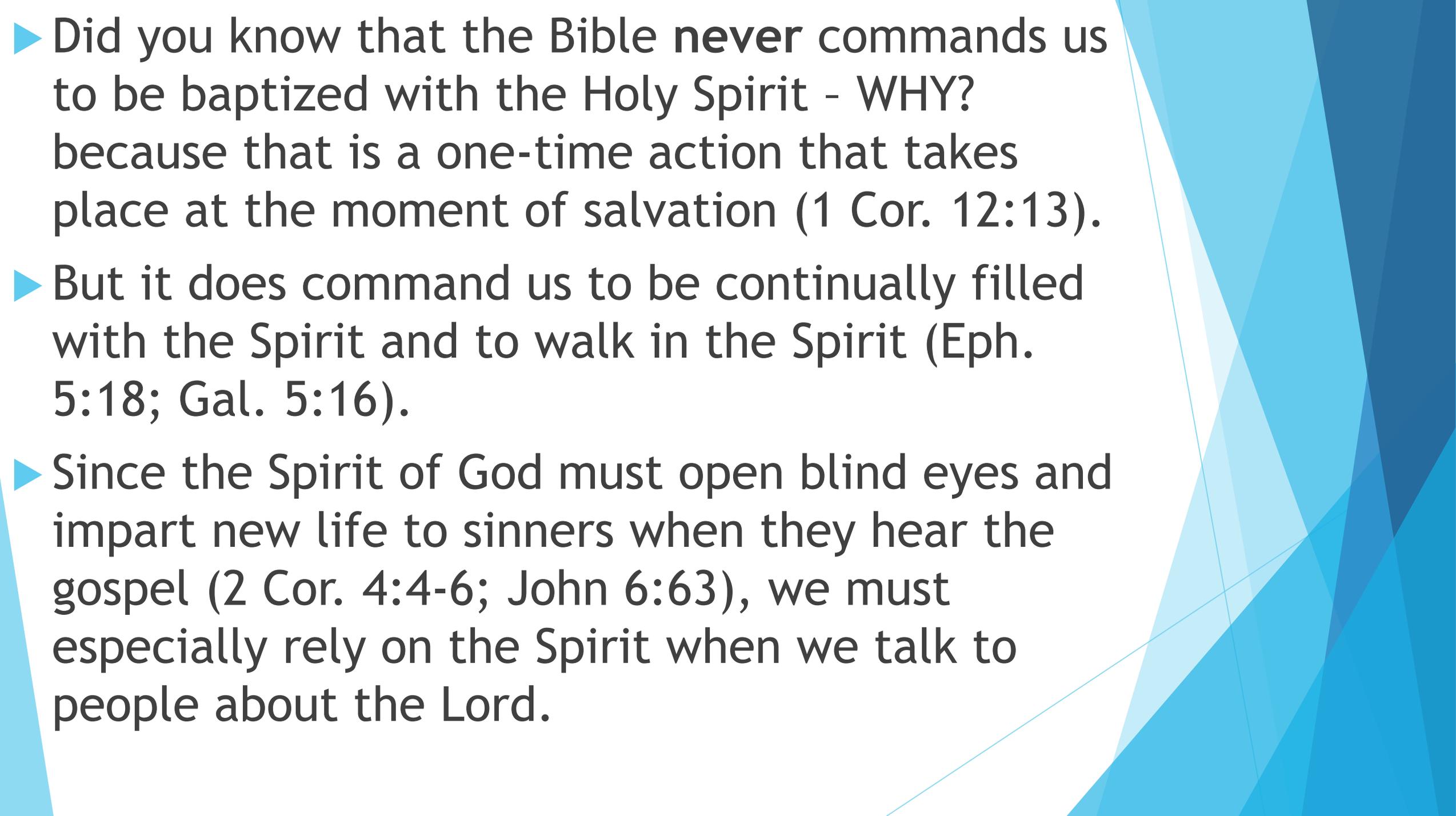
PROVISIONS



- 
- The background of the slide features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent blue triangles and polygons of various shades, creating a modern, abstract geometric pattern. The colors range from light sky blue to a deep, dark blue.
- ▶ Yet if Jesus was known as a friend of sinners, and He said (Luke 5:32), “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance,” shouldn’t we be building bridges to sinners, befriending them and telling them about the Savior?
 - ▶ If Jesus’ purpose was to seek and save the lost, shouldn’t that be our purpose? To tell people the good news about eternal life is the greatest purpose that anyone can have, because that was our Savior’s purpose.
 - ▶ I would ask you today - when was the last time you shared the good news about eternal life with your friends, colleagues and neighbors.

IV. The risen Christ has given us great **power**

- ▶ To attempt to serve the Lord in any capacity, without relying on the **power** of the Holy Spirit would be futile. As Zechariah 4:6 reminds us, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts.”
- ▶ The symbolic gesture in this passage of imparting the Holy Spirit pointing ahead to Pentecost, seems to be a temporary imparting of the Holy Spirit to strengthen the disciples during the 40 days of Jesus’ time with them so that they could understand and remember His teaching.
- ▶ It also served to renew the disciples after their failure. In Acts 1:14, we find the disciples gathered together with one mind, devoting themselves to prayer, and eagerly waiting for the promised Holy Spirit to come. That unity and fervent prayer may be attributed to the temporary imparting of the Holy Spirit in this passage.

- 
- The background of the slide features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent blue triangles and polygons of various shades, creating a modern, abstract geometric pattern on the right side of the page.
- ▶ Did you know that the Bible **never** commands us to be baptized with the Holy Spirit - WHY? because that is a one-time action that takes place at the moment of salvation (1 Cor. 12:13).
 - ▶ But it does command us to be continually filled with the Spirit and to walk in the Spirit (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16).
 - ▶ Since the Spirit of God must open blind eyes and impart new life to sinners when they hear the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4-6; John 6:63), we must especially rely on the Spirit when we talk to people about the Lord.

V. The risen Christ has given us a great **proclamation**

- ▶ “If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.” (John 20:23)
- ▶ The gospel that we proclaim is not so much about Jesus helping people with their personal problems but rather about God forgiving their sin through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross.
- ▶ “The ultimate reason of the mission of the Church in the world, is to deal with sin.”
- ▶ Romans 3:23 declares, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Jesus didn’t die to save us from personal failure or shortcomings, but from the just wrath of God against our rebellion and sin.

- ▶ Some have distorted this verse to teach apostolic succession - that apostle-ship is passed down through generations. There is no biblical warrant for apostolic succession. The apostles had authority to found the church (Eph. 2:20), but once the church was founded, that authority ceased.
- ▶ The New Testament is clear that there is no distinction between ordained clergy and laity. Jesus is the only mediator (1 Tim. 2:5). All believers are priests before God, with equal access to His grace (1 Pet. 2:9; Heb. 4:14-16).
- ▶ Second, only God can forgive sins, which He does the instant a person repents and believes in the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 5:21; 24:47; Acts 2:38; 16:31). To add penance as necessary for forgiveness is to add human works to the finished work of Christ.
- ▶ Third, there is no example in the Bible of the apostles forgiving or retaining the sins of anyone.
- ▶ So the meaning and application for us is that we have the authority to proclaim to those who repent and believe in Christ “Your sins have been forgiven you.”

George Stott



MR. STOTT.



James Calvert

Thoughts to Ponder:

- ▶ “Jesus . . . wants us to see that the neighbor next door or the people sitting next to us on a plane or in a classroom are not interruptions to our schedule. They are there by divine appointment. Jesus wants us to see their needs, their loneliness, their longings, and he wants to give us the courage to reach out to them.” Rebecca Manley Pippert
- ▶ “God is not saving the world; it is done. Our business is to get men and women to realize it.” Oswald Chambers
- ▶ “How many people have you made homesick for God?” Oswald Chambers
- ▶ Someone asked Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved? It is more a question with me whether we -- who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not -- can be saved. -- Charles Spurgeon

▶ The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose. --C. S. Lewis

▶ “I am wired by nature to love the same toys that the world loves. I start to fit in. I start to love what others love. I start to call earth "home." Before you know it, I am calling luxuries "needs" and using my money just the way unbelievers do. I begin to forget the war. I don't think much about people perishing. Missions and unreached people drop out of my mind. I stop dreaming about the triumphs of grace. I sink into a secular mindset that looks first to what man can do, not what God can do. It is a terrible sickness.” - John Piper

That's our mission: To proclaim forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name to all who will believe. That mission is possible because the risen Savior has equipped us for it by giving us great **peace**, great **proof**, a great **purpose**, great **power**, and a great **proclamation**.

Will you share with someone this week?

Remember: If your Gospel isn't touching others, it hasn't touched you!