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**Founder and Executive Director  
Bridget Osborne**

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**Monthly Newsletter**

**Were You Sent Or You Just Went To Preach The Gospel?**

To preach the Gospel—the Good News is a beautiful thing. However, I believe a person must be set apart, spiritually equipped, filled with the Holy Spirit and be knowledgeable of the scriptures in order to carry out this task effectively.

As a Christian, it is okay to tell others about your testimony--what the Lord has done for you. You can also invite unbelievers to church, pray with and for others and let your light shine for others to see. The Bible says, “**For whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.**” (Romans 10:13.)

However, throughout the Bible Scriptures clearly tell us that it is God who appoints individuals and sends them to preach the Gospel. Today, many people are treating the Gospel of Jesus Christ as if it is a product for sale. They are copywriting their own version, diluting it for financial gains, dissecting it to gain popularity and even disguising it before they distribute it. What a Shame! These are the individuals who went to preach the Gospel without being sent by God. The Bible refers to them as scoffers who are following their own ungodly passions. (Jude 1:18)

Jesus told his disciples, “**Peace to you, as the Father has sent Me, I also send you [as my representatives]. And when He said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’**” (John 20:21-22.)

When Jesus started His earthly Ministry not everyone who came in contact with Him went out and started preaching the gospel. NO! He selected twelve men-disciples. He trained them, spent time with them, counseled them, equipped them, nurtured them, empowered them, prayed with them, ate with them, and walked with them, etc. Then, when He felt

that they were ready He sent them out to preach the Gospel, which is the Good News.

Today, many “self-made preachers” are using the Gospel as a product to get rich quick. Some people may get rich at the cost of losing their souls. The Bible says, “**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul.**” (Matthew 8:36.)

The Apostle Paul said he was called to be an apostle and set apart for the Gospel of God. (Romans 1:1.) In James 3:1 it states that those who are called to preach the Good News will be held at a higher standard than those who are just receiving the message. The Bible also tells us that anyone who misinforms, offends, or causes one of God’s children to perish or stumble—that it would be better if a millstone were hung around that deceiver’s neck. (Luke 17:2.) WOW!

Preaching the Gospel is serious and sacred! It is God’s Word that is coming out of your mouth-to be received as seeds that get planted in the hearts of people in order to bring forth a great harvest. We know that God’s Word cannot return void—it must accomplish what He sends it to do. (Isaiah 55:11.)

Some people who are preaching the Gospel have taken it for granted. They want power without paying the price. I want you to know, it will cost you something to preach the Gospel—it cost Jesus--His life. Anyone who wants to preach the Gospel must be willing to lay down his or her life or die in order for others to receive the Good News at NO Cost! Why? Every moment people are being ushered into the kingdom of darkness because someone who **was not sent** misinformed these individuals by giving them a diluted version of the Gospel and they believed.

Then there were those who were sent but refused to go and preach the Gospel. Their disobedience caused many people to die in their sin and without Salvation.

Some preachers are misleading their congregation by telling them that sin is acceptable, and God will overlook it because He loves them. The Bible clearly tells us that people should not continue to sin because of God's grace. (Romans 6:1.)

Sin separates us from God. **“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus”** (Romans 6:23.) If you die without repenting your sin, you will spend eternity in hell separated from God. Yes, God loves us all, but He also gave us the opportunity to confess/repent when we sin. In 1 John 1:9 it states, **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

Another lie that is being told is **“We are all God's children.”** No! We were all **created** in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:27) However, that does not make you a child of God. When you acknowledge what Jesus Christ has done and receive His Salvation, you will become a child of God.

The Bible says, **“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”** (John 1:12.) There is No shortcuts to heaven, you must go through Jesus—the Son of God. Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** (John 14:6.) No one will get to God the Father unless he or she goes through His Son—Jesus.

Jesus had a lot of followers but not all of them were called and set aside to become preachers. Today, many people are choosing to become preachers because they believe that everyone who is preaching was sent by God. What these people fail to realize is that many of these self-made preachers just went to preach the Gospel and they are misleading people with their false doctrine. On the other hand, some preachers are living a lavish lifestyle at the cost of their congregation. Individuals who want to get rich quick believe that

they too can get rich if they use preaching the Gospel as a career opportunity.

Jesus says, **“For many are called, but few are chosen.”** (Matthew 22:14.) People who are called and set aside to preach the Gospel must also be spiritual equipped and filled with the Holy Spirit. The problem today is, too many pastors are busy counting church attendance instead of equipping and empowering those who were called. Then, there are some pastors who feel by equipping and empowering those who are set aside and sending them out to be witnesses, it will downsize the church attendance.

The fear of losing church members has caused many churches to remain stagnated and become corrupted. The devil knows this, and he uses this as an opportunity to send unequipped members to go out on their own to preach the Gospel. When the blind leads the blind, both will fall into the ditch.

The church of God needs to get back to basics and operate according to the Word of God. In order for anyone to become an effective servant in the House of God he or she must set aside his or her title, doctrine, status, and all their worldly credentials and be willing to pick up the Cross and take instruction from the Holy Spirit.

Some are called to plant seeds (preach the Gospel). Some are called to water the seeds (encourage and pray for unbelievers). However, it is the Holy Spirit who does the increasing (saving of souls). Yes! Our duty as the church Body, is to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and be diligent, faithful, willing, and obedient. **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”** (Ephesians 2:10.)

When God decides to send a laborer to gather the harvest, He can choose to send anyone, but that person must be willing to go and should respond like the Prophet Isaiah who said, **“Here I am God! Send me. And [God] said, Go, and tell the people:”** (Read Isaiah 6: 1-13). It is time you get to know God for yourself. Study His Word, meditate on it, and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the understanding when you need clarity. Amen!