

Mission Impossible

“Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples.”

Who can forget the image of Tom Cruise, precariously suspended by a rope just inches above the floor of the high-tech security vault, desperately aware of the bead of sweat about to drip from his face and trigger the alarm. The Mission Impossible movies are based on the 1960's television series about a fictitious government agency known as the Impossible Mission Force (IMF) that takes on assignments that seem impossible for ordinary humans to accomplish and too perilous to attempt in the first place.

2000 years ago a Jewish Rabbi stood on a hill outside of Jerusalem and declared to his students (most of whom were fishermen),

“You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.” (Acts 1:8 NCV)

“Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you.” (Matthew 28:18 – 20 CEV)

So how was this small band of Jesus' disciples meant to accomplish this impossible mission? How would they overcome the powerful anti-Christian forces that had confronted Jesus? To answer these questions go back and read these two Bible passages in their entirety. Write down the three missing sentences. These contain the clues you need to answer the following questions:

- 1. What ongoing role does the risen Christ have in spreading the gospel and growing his kingdom?**
- 2. Give some specific examples of how the Holy Spirit helps us, as Jesus' disciples, to accomplish his mission?**
- 3. What role does Christ's teaching (the word of God) play in: a) helping us become more effective disciples; and b) helping us make disciples of others (including those who don't yet know Jesus)?**
- 4. List any areas in your life or in your church where you see the need for the Holy Spirit's empowering. Pray for these areas.**