

R.I.S.E. U.P.

Bishop T.D. Jakes preached a Sermon titled Unity Through the Holy Spirit, and in his introduction he says, “God blesses other peoples, other countries, and other cultures. Christianity is not an American invention”. This biblical truth is the foundational message of the entire bible.

The biblical message is to bring mankind back into fellowship with God so that His image will permeate throughout the earth. God’s heart is discernable very early in the book of Genesis. God put His image (*character, essence, personality*) inside of man for the sole purpose to “be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth” (*Gen 1:26-28*). God is concerned that all people experience His life. When man disobeyed and did not fulfill His commission, He had to come down from Heaven and confuse the language of the people so they would spread out all over the earth (*Gen 9:1; Gen 11:8*). God’s heartbeat is for the whole world to experience His image. God made a covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 where He says, “*I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curses you; and in you ALL the families of the earth shall be blessed.*” An angle further explains this truth in Gen 22:18 when it is stated to Abraham that, “*In your Seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed*”. We have further revelation from the Apostle Paul that this prophecy was revealed in Jesus Christ (*Gal 3:16, 29*). So if one has the Spirit of the living God inside of them they are Christian (*Rom 8:9*). They are connected to the covenant promise.

To be a Christian is a God invention. God the Father has sent His only son, Jesus Christ to pay the penalty of sin for all people from every country or culture (*John 3:16*). The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross completely satisfied the requirement of God’s holy law. This satisfaction applies to the whole world (*1 John 2:2*)! The blessing of salvation is for all the people groups on earth. Jesus has provided a way that people from all cultures may have a relationship with God the Father (*John 14:6*). God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth (*1 Tim 2:4*). People are God’s heartbeat! This is a current reality. We have the end unveiled to us and we also know that it will be a future reality. There will be someone from every nation and language in heaven worshipping God (*Rev 7:9-12*). God will fulfill His promises, for He cannot lie (*Titus 1:2*).

Wow, what good news we have to share with the world! If we believe the bible as God’s holy inspired word, then Christians have a very purposeful mission. Jesus reiterated this to His disciples after he resurrected and said, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age*” (*Matt 28:19-20 nasb*). As a disciple of Jesus we believe that this mission was not just for the early disciples. Modern day disciples are to take personal responsibility for this Great Commission. They are to wrap their lives around this clear mission. The Great Commission should consume the areas of our lives. This is the Christian job description.

This involves every Christian, even the African American Christian. Currently, there are about 450 African Americans serving God in global missions out of about 46,000 missionaries. African Americans make up less than 1% of the US missionary force.

It is possible to awake from sleep and R.I.S.E. U.P. and align our heartbeat with God's heartbeat!

Every Christian has a role in the Great Commission! You can assume your role as a **Researcher**, **Intercessor**, **Sender**, **Energizer**, **Usher**, or **Proceeder**.

Researchers- (*1 Chronicles 12:32; 2 Tim 2:15*)

- Love God and serve Him by diligent study of the word of God.
- Have a heart for missiological issues and concepts.
- May possess the gift of administration.
- Have the ability to analyze data, people, and things.
- Have the ability to understand the times.
- Are given to the church to keep the church aware of the facts concerning people groups around the world.

Intercessors- (*Rom 1:9, 15:15-16; Luke 10:2; Eph 1:18, 6:18-19*)

- Love God and serve Him by diligent prayer.
- Possess a heart of compassion for the lost.
- Stands in the gap as a kingdom of priest.
- Feels what God feels, and hurts where God hurts.
- Understands the depth of spiritual warfare.
- Worships God in spirit and truth.
- May possess the gift of faith.
- Have the ability to believe the promises of God.

Senders- (*Phil 4:15-20; 2 Cor 9:6-8; Acts 4:32; 1 John 3:17; Rom 10:15*)

- Love God and serve Him by diligent giving.
- Is not entrapped by the love of money.
- Sees themselves and their possessions as a sacrifice unto the Lord.
- Possess the ability to understand their gifts as an investment into God's work here on earth.
- Views their contributions as a spiritual partnership to advance God's kingdom.

Energizers- (*1 Cor 4:16-17; 1 Tim 4:10-11; 2 Tim 4:2; Matt 28:19-20*)

- Love God and serve Him by diligent teaching and discipleship.
- Are given to the church to ignite the church to be on mission with God.
- Possess a heart for global missions

- Shares the available opportunities around the world to the Church.
- Has the ability to lead groups of people.
- Displays sensitivity to the move of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

Ushers- (*Heb 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:7-10; Luke 14:12-14; Matt 25:34-35*)

- Love God and serve Him by diligent hospitality.
- Extend invitations to international students from college universities.
- Opens their home to people from other cultures.
- Receive strangers to extend God's love.
- Possess a spiritual ability to meet the needs of the lost.
- May operate with the gift of mercy
- As an innate ability to make others feel comfortable and welcomed.

Proceeders- (*Isaiah 6:8; 1 Cor 9:19-22; Matt 22:9-10; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; John 15:16; Rom 10:14*)

- Love God and serve Him by ministering cross-culturally.
- Understands cultures and worldviews.
- Have the ability to adjust in various situations.
- Possess an openness to go anywhere.
- Have a willingness to give up certain cultural values for accurate communication of the gospel.
- Have the heart of God.
- Submit their gifts and skills to God.
- Are sensitive to spiritual warfare.

God is on mission! He has been on mission from the beginning and he desires to use His people. *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (Eph 2:10).* God will accomplish His task! Are His people going to join Him? Christians need to exchange their agenda for His agenda. We need to awake from sleep and RISE UP to His Heartbeat! Let's RISE UP because the nations await! (*Isaiah 60:1-3; Matthew 5:14*)

Please take the time to study the scriptures cited!
Give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to do His work. (*John 16:13*)

Links for further information on the Heartbeat of God!

www.rmni.org

www.rightnow.org

www.calebproject.org

www.perspectives.org

www.urbana.org
www.ethnicarvest.org
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By James Wilson