

GOD SENDS

Written by Curt Watke, PhD



Before the beginning of time and space, God stood at the edge of vast nothingness

and imagined a universe teeming with living possibility

and envisioned a companionship walking in a garden of perfection

and God said: "Let us make human beings in our image" ¹

and so, God begins his mission in the world today.

God sends the Spirit to hover over the formless void ²

and in the darkness of the deep, the Spirit brought forth life ³

and out of the breath of his mouth, the Spirit brought the world ⁴

and with the creativity of the artist, the Spirit adorns the heavens ⁵

and out of the depths of the ground, the Spirit brings streams of living water ⁶

and by the breath of his Spirit, he sustains the world ⁷

and through the breath of his Spirit, he renews the earth ⁸

and by the power of his Spirit, he convicts people of sin ⁹

and by the power of his Spirit, he convicts people of righteousness ¹⁰

and by the power of his Spirit, he convicts people of judgment ¹¹

and by the power of his Spirit, he guides people to truth ¹²

and by the regeneration of his Spirit ¹³, he removes our heart of stone ¹⁴

and by the renewal of his Spirit ¹⁵, he makes us a new creation ¹⁶

and so, the Spirit continues in the mission of God in the world today.

God sends his Son, Jesus, as the image of the invisible God ¹⁷

and in the obscurity of a manger, the incarnate Son of God brings great joy ¹⁸

and out of the backwaters of Nazareth, the Son came to save sinners ¹⁹

and out of the darkness of the world, the Son brings light ²⁰

and in the social networks of the despised, the Son came to seek and save the lost ²¹

and in the pain of the brokenhearted, the Son brings good news to the poor ²²

and in the captivity of the prison, the Son brings a message of deliverance ²³

and in the midst of corruption and sinful desires, the Son enables his people to partake of the divine nature ²⁴

and in the midst of everyday circumstances, the Son reveals the glory of God ²⁵

and in the midst of his trial before Pilate, the Son bears witness to the truth of who he is ²⁶

and throughout his mission, the Son does the will of God the father who has sent him ²⁷

and towards the end of his earthly mission, the Son sends his followers, just, as God sent him ²⁸

and at the end of his earthly mission, the Son gives his life as a ransom for many ²⁹

and so, the Son continues in the mission of God in the world today.

God sends the followers of Jesus to join his mission wherever they are ³⁰

and when facing people who rebel against God ³¹, they announce God's reign over the world ³²

and when seeing people worshipping the creature ³³, they announce God as the creator of all things ³⁴

and when hearing people defiantly turning away from God ³⁵, they announce the need for repentance ³⁶

and when watching people who are enslaved to sin ³⁷, they announce freedom from the power of sin ³⁸

and in the brokenness of human life ³⁹, they share God's love and grace to those who are in need ⁴⁰

and so, the followers of Jesus continue in the mission of God in the world today.

God sends the followers of Jesus to be his ambassadors ⁴¹, the visible replica of God ⁴²

and in the hopelessness of estranged relationships ⁴³, they announce the message of reconciliation ⁴⁴

and in the hopelessness of fractured families ⁴⁵, they announce the hope of restoration ⁴⁶

and in the hopelessness of destroyed lives ⁴⁷, they announce the hope of renewal ⁴⁸

and so, the followers of Jesus continue in the mission of God in the world today.

God sends the the followers of Jesus to share the good news of salvation ⁴⁹

and in the midst of human rebellion ⁵⁰, God's kindness leads to repentance ⁵¹

and in the midst of human sinfulness ⁵², God's mercy endures forever ⁵³

and in the midst of repentance ⁵⁴ and faith ⁵⁵, we are saved by God's grace ⁵⁶

and when we are saved ⁵⁷, we become a follower of Jesus ⁵⁸

and we turn from darkness to light ⁵⁹, and we are called to mission as a light to the nations ⁶⁰

and we turn from blindness to sight ⁶¹, and we are called to mission as a witness for God ⁶²

and we turn from deafness to hearing ⁶³, and we are called to mission as a proclaimer of the good news ⁶⁴

and so, the NEW followers of Jesus continue in the mission of God in the world today.

God designed you for mission. God sends you on assignment. God gifted you for a reason.

and so, how will YOU join God at work today?

Endnotes

1. Genesis 1:26: Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”
2. Genesis 1:2: The earth was without form and void, darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
3. Genesis 1:2: The earth was without form and void, darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
4. Psalm 33:6: By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the stars by the breath of His mouth.
5. Job 26:13: By His Spirit He adorned the heavens
6. Psalm 104:10: You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills
7. Job 34:14,15: If He were to set His heart to it and withdraw His Spirit and breath, all flesh would perish together and mankind would return to dust.
8. Psalm 104:30: When You send Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth.
9. John 16:8: And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:
10. John 16:8: And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:
11. John 16:8: And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:
12. John 16:13: But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
13. Titus 3:5: he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit
14. Ezekiel 36:26-27: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and to carefully observe My ordinances.
15. Titus 3:5: he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit
16. 2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation
17. Colossians 1:15: The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
18. Luke 2:10-11: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!”
19. 1 Timothy 1:15: This is a trustworthy saying, worthy of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst.
20. John 12:46: I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should remain in darkness.

21. Luke 19:5-7: When Jesus came to that place, He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down, for I must stay at your house today." So Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Him joyfully. And all who saw this began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinful man!" But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, half of my possessions I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will repay it fourfold." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
22. Isaiah 61:1: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners
23. Luke 4:18-19: The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
24. 2 Peter 1:4: Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, now that you have escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
25. John 1:14: The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
26. John 18:37: Then You are a king!" Pilate said. "You say that I am a king," Jesus answered. "For this reason I was born and have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice."
27. John 6:38: For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but to do the will of Him who sent Me.
28. John 20:21: Again Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so also I am sending you."
29. Mark 10:45: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.
30. Acts 1:8: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
31. Isaiah 59:12-13: For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us. Our transgressions are indeed with us, and we know our iniquities: rebelling and denying the LORD, turning away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering lies from the heart.
32. Matt 4:17: From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
33. Romans 1:25: They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is forever worthy of praise! Amen.
34. Revelation 4:11: Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things; by Your will they exist and came to be.
35. Isaiah 59:13: turning away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt,
36. Acts 3:19: Repent, then, and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped away,
37. John 8:34: Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."
38. Rom 6:6: We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

39. Isaiah 64:6: Each of us has become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind.
40. Psalm 36:7: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
41. 2 Corinthians 5:20: Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.
42. Genesis 1:26: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."
43. Colossians 1:21: Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.
44. 2 Corinthians 5:19: that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation
45. 2 Chronicles 30:7: Don't be like your fathers, and like your brothers, who trespassed against the LORD, the God of their fathers, so that he gave them up to desolation, as you see
46. Joel 2:25-26: I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. "You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.
47. Philippians 3:19: Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things
48. Colossians 3:10 - and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him
49. Mark 16:15: He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Romans 1:15: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Isaiah 52:7: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
50. Psalm 107:11: Because they had rebelled against the words of God, And spurned the counsel of the Most High. Isaiah 59:13: Transgressing and denying the Lord, And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving in and uttering from the heart lying words. Isaiah 65:2: "I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices.
51. Romans 2:4: Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?
52. Romans 3:23: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
53. Lamentations 3:21-23 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness
54. 1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

55. Romans 10:10: For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.
56. Ephesians 2:8-9: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.
57. John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
58. Titus 2:11-14: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
59. 2 Corinthians 4:4: The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. Acts 26:18: I am sending you to them to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in Me. Isaiah 42:16: I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.
60. Acts 13:47: For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” Isaiah 9:2: The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. Isaiah 49:6: “I will also make You a light for the nations, to bring My salvation to the ends of the earth.”
61. Acts 9:17: “Brother Saul,” he said, “the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” At that instant, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and his sight was restored. Isaiah 42:16: And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them.
62. Acts 26:16: But get up and stand on your feet. For I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen from Me and what I will show you. Isaiah 43:10: “You are My witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may consider and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me no god was formed, and after Me none will come.
63. Acts 22:14-15: Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear His voice. You will be His witness to everyone of what you have seen and heard. Acts 28:26-27: Go to this people and say, “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.” For this people’s heart has grown callous; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would heal them. Isaiah 6:9-10: And He replied: “Go and tell this people, ‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ Make the hearts of this people calloused; deafen their ears and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with

their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.” Isaiah 55:3: Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live

64. Acts 9:20: Saul promptly began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, declaring, “He is the Son of God.” Acts 26:20: First to those in Damascus and Jerusalem, then to everyone in the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I declared that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds worthy of their repentance. Isaiah 52:7: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”