

TRUE IDENTITY *I have called you by your name. You are mine.*

March 21 – Through Personal Witness

ACTS 1:8 DLNT

⁸ But you will receive power, the Holy Spirit having come upon you. And you will be My witnesses— both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and as far as the last place of the earth”.

We are all familiar with the process of starting something new.

One of the first things that happens to anyone new on a job is training.

There are varied approaches to preparing newcomers to their position, but it usually involves sharing goals of the organization accompanied with steps to accomplish those goals.

Then there are specifics related to the job the newcomer is going to assume, that relate directly to the overall mission of the business plan.

Whoever leads the orientation will be someone who has been given the authority by the “higher ups” to properly and accurately pass along the details for the tasks that will be expected.

When the training is complete, there is a moment of commissioning. It may be as simple as saying, “Are there any questions? Good, you’ll start tomorrow morning. Welcome to the firm.”

You are now officially part of the organization.

And, at the point of being commissioned, you officially represent the overall business objective and that mission.

After the resurrection, Jesus commissioned His followers for their mission.

Acts 1:8 DLNT

TRUE IDENTITY *I have called you by your name. You are mine.*

⁸ *But you will receive power, the Holy Spirit having come upon you. And you will be My witnesses— both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and as far as the last place of the earth".*

As followers of Jesus there are some similarities to being oriented to our new spiritual responsibilities as we are to our earthly jobs.

We are Witnesses to Jesus' Life and Mission While on this Earth.

The big difference from being commissioned to a secular job is this – As Christ's followers we have the very Spirit of God in us.

Being a personal witness to everyone in our life is truly part of our identity.

The goal of the kingdom of God is to expand to "the last place of the earth" (Acts 1:8) beginning in our own neighborhood.

Jesus has commissioned His followers to engage in that effort over 2,000 years ago.

Christ's followers are collectively commissioned.

When Jesus commissioned His followers to His mission in Matthew 28:18-20, He said specifically, to go into all the world, baptizing, and teaching.

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

1. By God's Authority through Jesus, His Son.

TRUE IDENTITY *I have called you by your name. You are mine.*

“All authority in heaven and on earth was given to me” (Matt. 28:18).

God’s exhaustive authority dispensed through Jesus:

- To ALL Christ followers
- For ALL of heaven, and
- ALL of earth,
- To ALL nations (v.19),
- For ALL time (v.20).

You are commissioned:

2. To Move Immediately after Receiving the Holy Spirit

“Go, therefore (because of My authority)” (v. 19).

3. To Witness to Every Ethnic Group on Earth

“...make disciples (followers) of all the nations.”

The Greek word for “nations” is the root word we have for ethnicities – or ethnic people groups.

Current data suggests there are about 17,400 distinct ethnic people groups when country boundaries are considered.

The JoshuaProject.net estimates that 7,400 people groups have no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize the rest of their people group. That is equivalent to over 42% of the world’s population.

Some of those people groups are right here in our country.

We are responsible for those unengaged pockets of the world to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

TRUE IDENTITY *I have called you by your name. You are mine.*

Whether we are called individually to learn and go to those areas, or to engage others who are called, we have the distinct calling as believers to be actively seeking the lost.

You are Commissioned:

4. To Confirm Followers through a Public Demonstration of Faith.

*“Baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”
(v.19).*

Confirmation recognizes a personal decision to surrender to the complete authority of God – as authorized:

- by the Father,
- through the Son, and
- by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity incorporates an official acceptance of an active relationship with God in all His presence.

5. To Instruct Followers Toward a Healthy, Strong spiritual presence to the World.

“Teach these new disciples to obey all commands I have given you” (v.19).

6. To be Confident in Your Responsibilities – I will be with each of You through it All!

*“And, be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age”
(v.20).*

Do you have any questions?

TRUE IDENTITY *I have called you by your name. You are mine.*

Pray.

Seek godly, wise counsel.

Connect with a growth group.

Engage in Scripture.

Now, you're good to go!

See you tomorrow in the fields of heavenly harvest.

The job is yours, by commission of the God of the universe, through Jesus Christ, His Son, and in the power of His indwelling Holy Spirit!

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teaching these new disciples to obey all commands I have given you. And, be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18 NLT