

Mission: Possible

Mark 6:7-13 (NIV)

Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

4 tools Christ equips us with for our role in His Gospel mission

A Calling

"Calling the Twelve to Him..."

He does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called

1 Corinthians 1:26-27 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many of you were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

Hebrews 3:1 (NIV)

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly *calling*, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.

2 Timothy 1:9a (NIV)

He has saved us and *called* us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV)

But you are a chosen people; a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who *called* you out of

darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A Community

“He began to send them out two by two...”

Romans 12:4-8 (NIV)

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV)

...speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

A Confidence

“Take nothing for the journey except a staff- no bread, no bag, no money in your belts.”

Exodus 4:2 (NIV)

Then the LORD said to Moses, “What is that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied.

Exodus 4:20 (NIV)

So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand.

We no longer carry the staff of God in our hands, instead we have God Himself dwelling on our hearts through the Holy Spirit

“It’s one thing to say that the Lord is my shepherd; it’s quite something else to be unable to walk one more step by yourself, to lean on that staff, and to be held up.”
– Sheila Walsh

A Conviction

“They went out and preached that people should repent...”

The conviction of Stephen

Acts 7:54-56 (NIV)

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, *full of the Holy Spirit*, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Acts 6:5a (NIV)

They chose Stephen, a man *full of faith* and of the *Holy Spirit*.

Acts 6:8a (NIV)

Now Stephen, a man *full of God’s grace and power*...

The conviction of Paul

2 Corinthians 11:23b-28 (NIV)

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

But he said to me, “*My grace* is sufficient for you, for *my power* is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that *Christ’s power* may rest on me.

The grace and power of Christ on display in our lives through the Holy Spirit is what fuels our conviction