

# Make Disciples of All Nations

*By En-Che Chang*

Before the resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus, He instructed His disciples to go and proclaim the truth of the gospel, which is the gospel of salvation to all nations, to baptize them in His name, to teach them to obey all His commands, to become His disciples, and then to unceasingly spread the gospel to the farthest ends of the earth. With that, the Lord promised to abide with His disciples to the end of the age (Mt 28:19,20).

Unfortunately, by the end of the apostolic era, the truth of the gospel, that is, the gospel of salvation had been changed and the entire church had deteriorated. As the church disobeyed all the Lord's teachings and commands, the Lord discontinued His abidance, and the Holy Spirit also departed from the church. As a result, the faith of the church entered winter, and darkness took over (Mt 13:33-35). It was not until the Lord's promised Holy Spirit of the spring rain came down that God's church of the end time has risen again by this Spirit of Truth, to lead people to return to the teachings of the Bible, which is the truth of the gospel, the gospel of salvation that was preached by the apostles (Mt 13:44-46). Since we are the church founded by the Holy Spirit in the end time, entrusted with continuing that which was first established during the apostolic era, we must actively cultivate believers to become fishers of men, to cast the net into the ocean, and to make disciples of all nations in welcome anticipation of the Lord's Second Coming (Mt 13:47-50).

Concerning how to make disciples of all nations, Matthew 28:19,20 teaches us:

1. We must first be the Lord's disciples – Equip ourselves (Eph 6:10-20)
  - (1) Equipped with deeds – live out the Lord's image (Eph 4:20-24; 1Tim 4:16)
  - (2) Equipped with determination – bear the cross while following the Lord (Lk 14:25-35; 1 Cor 9:16-23)
  - (3) Equipped with servitude – come to the presence of the Lord (Lk 9:1-6; 10:1,20)
  
2. We must spread the gospel (Mk 16:15, Eph 1:13,14)
  - (1) Receive the power and authority of the Holy Spirit (Lk 9:1-6)
  - (2) Properly utilize all manner of wisdom (Col 1:28)
  - (3) Be aware that we are being sent out like sheep among wolves (Mt 10:16)
  
3. How to go from being a follower to being baptized (Mk 16:16, Gal 3:26-29)
  - (1) Understand the way of salvation (Mt 7:13,14; Jn 10:7-10)
  - (2) Differentiate between true and false prophets (Mt 7:15-23; Jn 3:5-8)
  - (3) Receive baptism in accordance with the Bible (Rom 6:3-5; 1 Jn 5:6-12)

4. How to go from being a believer to being a disciple (Eph 4:11-16)

- (1) Build a firm foundation of faith (Mt 7:24-27)
- (2) Receive the training of servitude (Mk 3:14)
- (3) Become the Lord's disciple (2 Tim 2:2)

Spreading (going out) – Following (being baptized) – Cultivating (teaching) – Being a Disciple

We must continue to serve as the link between the past and the future, carrying on the work of our predecessors while pressing forward to quickly spread the gospel to the ends of the earth, in welcome anticipation of the Lord's Second Coming.