

Active Faith is Going Faith - Matthew 28:18–20, Acts 4:20, John 20:21

Introduction

Last week we learned that living faith is not powered by our effort but by our union with the risen Christ. It is, Christ in us, living through us, shaping our obedience in everyday moments. When we learn to abide in Him, His presence builds trust, produces visible fruit, and moves us into action. But resurrection life doesn't stop with inward transformation. The life of Christ in us always moves, or it always flows, outward. The authentic presence and power of Jesus in the life of a believer is something that cannot be contained. Today we are going to look at the next and most natural step: if living faith is active, then *Active Faith is Going Faith*. The same Christ who lives in us now sends us out. Resurrection faith not only changes us; it also commissions us.

And when Christ in us produces action, His final words aren't just something we hear, they're something we embrace as disciples who are still growing. Knowing this, we turn now to Matthew 28:18–20, where the risen Christ reveals exactly where living faith is meant to go.

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

The Kings Authority

When we hear the Great Commission, we often rush to the "GO." But Jesus begins with something far more foundational: He says to the disciples, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.*" Before He sends them, He establishes His right to send them. These are not suggestions from a spiritual advisor; they are the words of the risen King. The resurrection is the reason Jesus can speak this way. Death has been defeated. Sin has been conquered. The King is alive. And because He lives, He sends His people with His authority. And we must understand that it has nothing to do with our own. It is solely His.

This moment echoes a familiar pattern from the ancient world. When a victorious king returned from battle, he would send heralds throughout the land to announce the victory. They didn't craft the message. They simply carried it. They didn't negotiate any terms because the victory was already won. They simply declared what had already been accomplished. In the same way, the church does not invent the gospel. We simply announce what Jesus has already done. The risen King has won the decisive victory, and now He authorizes and sends His people to proclaim it with confidence, clarity, and courage.

The King Sends

When Jesus says, "*Go therefore and make disciples...*," He is not giving a task disconnected from His authority. He is giving the natural next step. Notice the order: authority first, sending second. We are not sent because we are impressive, persuasive, or spiritually elite. We are sent because He is alive, and the risen King has the right to direct His people in whatever manner He chooses. The command to "GO" is not a burden placed on the strong; it is a calling entrusted to all those who belong to the resurrected Lord.

Mission, then, is not an add-on to the Christian life. It is the overflow of resurrection life within us. I brought a few items with me today. If you will direct your attention to these items, I'll demonstrate how the Great Commission is more than a simple statement, a polite command. It should be part of who we are, a part of our lifestyle.

(Hold up the empty ice bucket.) “This bucket represents us. These ping pong balls represent what was in our hearts before Christ. This larger container is the world all around us. Last week we talked about living faith – Christ living in us, shaping our obedience. But here's the truth: an empty heart (bucket) can't overflow. It can't spill out anything because there's nothing inside.”

(Begin pouring water slowly into the bucket.) “This water represents the life of Christ in us, the Living Water. It is His grace, His presence, His resurrection power. And when we learn to abide in Him, He begins filling us. He strengthens us. He changes us from the inside out.”

(Keep pouring until the water reaches the brim.) “Now watch what happens when the bucket is full.”

(Continue pouring so the water spills over into the larger container.) “It doesn't strain. It doesn't force anything. It simply *overflows* and the overflow is natural because the bucket is full.”

(Pause and let the visual sink in.) “This is what Jesus meant when He said, ‘*Go and make disciples.*’ Mission is not something we add to faith. It's what faith does when it's alive. It's what faith adds to us. We don't go because we're strong. We go because Christ fills us and He is strong. We don't make disciples out of guilt. We make disciples because the resurrection life that is in us is naturally moving outward.”

(Lift the cup slightly.) “A heart filled to the brim doesn't try harder to spill. It just naturally overflows. And when Christ fills a believer, His life overflows into every aspect of life – into conversations, relationships, churches, workplaces, neighborhoods.”

(Set the cup down.) “The Great Commission is not obligation – it is overflow. It is the outward movement of the resurrection life inside us.”

The same overflow we learn from in the Great Commission is exactly what we witnessed from early church. In **Acts 4:20** they declare, “*We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.*” They didn't witness because they were trained – they witnessed because they were convinced. They had seen the risen Christ, and resurrection faith simply could not remain silent. And that witness didn't always look like preaching; sometimes it looked like speaking hope into a fearful world, living with integrity when compromise was easier, or loving sacrificially when it cost. Faith that lives will show up in our ordinary daily activities.

The King Goes with Us

The Great Commission ends with a promise that matches its weight: *“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (**Matthew 28:20**) Jesus never sends His people out alone. The same risen Christ who says, “Go,” also says, “I am with you.” Mission is not something we carry for Him – it is something we carry with Him. And **John 20:21** reinforces this: *“As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.”* The Son was never alone in His mission; the Father was with Him at every step. Now Jesus extends that same pattern to us. The One who sends is the One who accompanies. The One who commands is the One who empowers. The One who calls us outward is the One who walks beside us every step of the way.

So, when you step into conversations that feel intimidating, when obedience feels costly, when faithfulness feels lonely, remember this: you are never stepping into mission by yourself. The risen Christ goes with you, goes before you, and goes in you. Mission is not a solo assignment – it is a shared life with Jesus. His presence is the power behind our going, the courage behind our witness, and the comfort behind our obedience. Wherever He sends, He goes along and He stays.

Conclusion

Resurrection life is active life. It is not a private comfort but a public commission: the risen Christ breathes into us, we live by that breath each day, and then He sends us into the world. Last week we learned that living faith is faith in action; today we learned that action has a direction. Isaiah heard God ask, *“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”* and answered, *“Here am I; send me”* (Isaiah 6:8). His answer is the posture of resurrection people — filled, empowered, and sent. So, I encourage you to stand with Isaiah’s courage and say with your life, here am I; send me — and then go where Jesus sends.

Invitation

If today you need more than direction – if you need new life, renewal, or just enough courage to go – the risen Lord is calling you now.

If you have never surrendered to Jesus, come and receive His life.

If you once trusted Him but have drifted, turn back and be renewed.

If He is calling you to go, say yes and step into the mission He gives.

The risen Christ meets the seeking, forgives the repentant, and empowers the willing. Come now and receive the life only He can give.

Series Closing: From Love to Hope to Faith

For the past twelve weeks we've walked backward through Paul's great triad – *love, hope, and faith* and discovered how each one builds on the next. We began with **love**, the greatest, seeing how God's love works to shape our life together. Then we moved to **hope**, learning that love endures because our future in Christ is secure. And finally, we arrived at **faith**, the foundation beneath them all; A faith that lives, acts, and goes because Christ is alive. When taken together, these messages have shown us that the Christian life is rooted in faith, strengthened by hope, and expressed through love.

Benediction

May the God of peace, who raised our Lord Jesus from the dead, fill you with His life and send you in His strength. May His presence go before you; His Spirit empower you, and His love guide you in every step. And as you go, may the grace of Christ, the hope of the Spirit, and the steadfast love of the Father be with you now and always. Amen.