

# CHRIST'S CHURCH MULTIPLIED THROUGH THE GREAT COMMISSION CYCLE

Jon Crocker • GFA MAT Retreat 2024

## INTRODUCTION

- How has Christ built His church over the last 2,000 years? How has the Gospel spread from Jerusalem to the remotest part of the earth? How will it continue to spread?
- There are two answers to those questions, and they are both found in Acts 1:8. *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth* (NASB 1995).
- How will Christ continue to multiply churches? Two answers: Power and witness. The followers of Christ will carry out the Commission. We will be witnesses, and the Spirit of God will bless our efforts with His power.

## I. THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## II. THE CYCLE OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

- “Cycle” here is not a Bible term. But it is a summary of the \_\_\_\_\_ we see both in the New Testament and in church history.
- This cycle leads to multiplication.
- Five \_\_\_\_\_. Not steps. Processes that \_\_\_\_\_ and build upon and feed one another.
- What are those processes that result in the multiplication of Christ’s church?

### A. Passionate evangelism

- At the very heart of what Paul did in Acts 13–28 was the proclamation of Jesus Christ. This is the heart of the Great Commission.
- It’s the first process in this cycle, and it’s a process that doesn’t end. Everything else builds on this. Personal, \_\_\_\_\_ evangelism is the heart of missions.

### B. Intentional discipleship

- Some believe and are baptized. Now what? Keep evangelizing.
- But now take those believers and teach them to observe everything that Christ commanded (Matthew 28:20).

**C. Leadership development / mentoring**

- Now, among that group of growing believers, God will raise up some as leaders.
- At the end of his first missionary journey, Paul ordained elders in every church (Acts 14:23). He later commanded Timothy to commit what he had learned to faithful men “who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).
- A group of growing believers needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the men among them whom God might call to ministry. The missionary and the whole congregation need to pray that God would raise them up and identify them. And then the leader needs to pour himself into those men.
- Those men will provide leadership within that congregation.

**D. Independent churches**

*The fourth phase of the cycle is the indigenization of the ministry. Paul left “elders in every church” (Acts 14:23, cf. Titus 1:5) and indicates in his epistles the responsibility and ability of the congregations to care for and govern themselves under the headship of Christ (Matthew 18:15–17, Romans 15:14, Galatians 1:6–9, 1 Thessalonians 5:14). Indigenous churches support and govern themselves independently without the oversight of missionaries (from <https://gfamissions.org/great-commission-cycle/>).*

**E. Reproducing churches**

- We’re back in Acts 13:1–4.
  
- See it? Christ’s church multiplied through GC cycle.