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# Going Beyond The Zone

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Witnessing To The Culture

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Subject: Witnessing To The Culture: Going Beyond The Zone***

Previous Message:

- **Overcoming the Sin of Silence** (Shame/Power of Transformed Mind, Ignorance/ Power of the Word, Weakness & Fear / Power of our Anointing)

**Lesson Text**

Matthew 28:16–20 (AV) <sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.** <sup>19</sup>**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** <sup>20</sup>**Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.** Amen.

Genesis 12:1–3 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: <sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup> And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

**Introduction**

This new series we are teaching deals with our Great Commission, and the power we've been given to perform it. It is the commission of Witnessing to our Culture.

Our Lord and Savior gives us our Great Commission to Witness In Matthew 28:19

Matthew 28:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

The Great Commission teaches us three things: 1) To Go, 2) To Teach, and 3) To Baptize

1. **“To Go”** reveals the fact that we can't fulfill the commission by sitting in the comforts and confines of the four walls of our church, our neighborhood, or our even our community.
2. **“To Teach”** lets us know that we have a requirement to learn so we can teach.
3. **“To Baptize”** tells us that we are called to persuade, influence, encourage, and change.

As Christians, the Great Commission is our Imperative, Directive, Charge, and Command!

**But Witnessing, Sharing our Faith, Winning Souls don't just happen; it must be intentional!**

Today we want to focus on the first element of our commission, and that is **To Go!**

Life is divided into a series of zones; houses and homes, neighborhoods, precincts, districts, and regions defined and divided by boundaries and borders.

And what life has taught us about these boundaries is that they are limitations, confines, and restrictions that are not to be breached.

1. For some these zones represent comfort (Home, where I live)
2. For others these zones represent familiarity (Kin, what I know)

3. For others these zones represent safety (Country, where I'm secure)

The first zone In some cases we create zones because of ease, in other cases zones are develop based on phobias and fears of leaving or traveling, and finally zones are created based on threats of others.

The greatness and blessings that God has for us, and for those called to us can only be achieved when we witness by going beyond the these zones.

Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem (Beyond Home), and in all Judaea (Beyond Kin), and in Samaria (Beyond Country), and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

**Series and Subject: Witnessing To The Culture: Going Beyond The Zone**

To witness to our culture requires us to go beyond our Comfort Zone, go beyond our Familiar Zone, and go beyond our Safety Zone.

***I. Going beyond the Zone of Comfort (Home)***

Genesis 12:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, **and from thy father's house**, unto a land that I will shew thee:

The first zone we must go beyond is the zone of comfort; our home.

Our home represents our refuge; our place of comfort, ease, luxury, and relaxation.

When life is beating you up, home can be appealing, attractive, and alluring. It's our sanctuary.

However, our desire for home comforts is antithetical to our great commission to witness.

**The Greatness of your call requires you to go beyond your Comfort Zone!**

Genesis 12:<sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless thee, **and make thy name great**

Mark 6:4 (AV)<sup>4</sup> But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem (Beyond Home),**

The greatness from our call to witness, can't be achieved from the comfort of home

***II. Going beyond the Zone of Familiarity (Kin)***

Genesis 12:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, **and from thy kindred**, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

The next zone we must go beyond is the zone of the familiar; our kin.

These zones represent the people, places and things we've become familiar with; the things that we know. And so boundaries are develop based on the fears unknown and unfamiliar.

There are people who live in our city of Durham, that do not venture even out to the city of Raleigh next door. For some people, this fear or venturing or going beyond becomes a phobia.

Agoraphobia is the fear or anxiety of wide-open spaces, crowds, and traveling out of one's define zone, area, or confines. It is often compounded by a fear of social embarrassment and panic.

These self-imposed boundaries and limitations are produced by fear and anxiety because we're no longer around the familiar, the one's ones we know, our kinfolks, the ones that look like us.

And so we don't witness because of the boundaries of race, foreigners, and strange lands.

### **The Blessing of your call requires you to go beyond your Familiar Zone!**

Genesis 12:<sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; *and thou shalt be a blessing:*

We've been given power to go beyond Judea; the familiar zone of our kin.

Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem (Beyond Home), and in all Judaea (Beyond Kin),*

The blessings that are to come from our call or witness, can't be achieved in the familiar.

### **III. Going beyond the Zone of Safety (Country)**

Genesis 12:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said unto Abram, *Get thee out of thy country*, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Witnessing requires us to

- Go Beyond the Zone of Comfort to achieve Greatness
- Go Beyond the Zone of Familiarity to achieve Blessings
- Go Beyond the Zone of Security to achieve Deliverance

The final zone we must go beyond are the zones of safety and security created because of the threats and dangers of others.

Some of the places that God sends us is filled with adversaries, armies, and giants. And because of the threat of afflictions, troubles, tribulations, and all-out war they have told us to stay out!

Enemy imposed boundaries have talk us to stay out, keep out, no tress passing, leave out.

### **The Deliverance of your call requires you to go beyond your Safety Zone!**

We've been given power to go beyond Samaria; the safety zone of our country

Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem (Beyond Home), and in all Judaea (Beyond Kin), and in Samaria (Beyond Country), and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

The deliverance that is to come from our call or witness can't be achieved in the place of safety