

**I AM WITH YOU**

**Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko**

Combing through Scripture, the phrase “I am with you” appears more often in the Hebrew Bible than in the New Testament, with the NIV using it about 23 times and other versions even more.

### **In the Old Testament**

- ❖ Gen. 26:24: The Lord calms Isaac’s fear and reassures him of His unbreakable covenant with Abraham—I am with you.
- ❖ Ex. 3:12: The Lord promises to be with His servant, Moses in Egypt.
- ❖ Jos. 1:9: The Lord encourages Joshua of His unwavering support.
- ❖ Isa. 41:10: God promises help and strength to His people. – I am with you.
- ❖ Jer. 1:8: God encourages Jeremiah to stand firm against every opposition.
- ❖ Hag. 1:13: God promises Haggai support for rebuilding the Temple.

## In the New Testament

❖ Matt. 28:20:

Jesus Christ assures ongoing support to the church: *“I am with you always, even to the end of the age”* (Matt 28:20 NLT). *“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you”* (Heb. 13:5 BSB).

❖ John 14:20: Jesus Christ informs His disciples regarding their future incredible experience of His presence and support. *“On that day [when that time comes] you will know for yourselves that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you.”* AMP.

❖ Acts 18:10: Jesus promises Paul protection in a dangerous area. — *“I am with you...”*

The phrase, “*I am with you*” provides:

1. Guaranteed divine support for individuals across different generations.
2. The unfailing dedication of God toward His children.
3. Divine success:  
    *“The LORD [Yahweh] was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did”*  
    (Gen. 39:2 NLT).
4. Divine guidance:  
    *“For that is what God is like. He is our God forever and ever, and he will guide us until we die”* (Ps. 48:14 NLT).

When the Lord is with you, He will guide every step you take, every move you make, ensuring success in His plan for your life. “I know the plan that I have for you...” Jer. 29:11

Who is the one making the comforting and authoritative statement, “*I am with you*”?

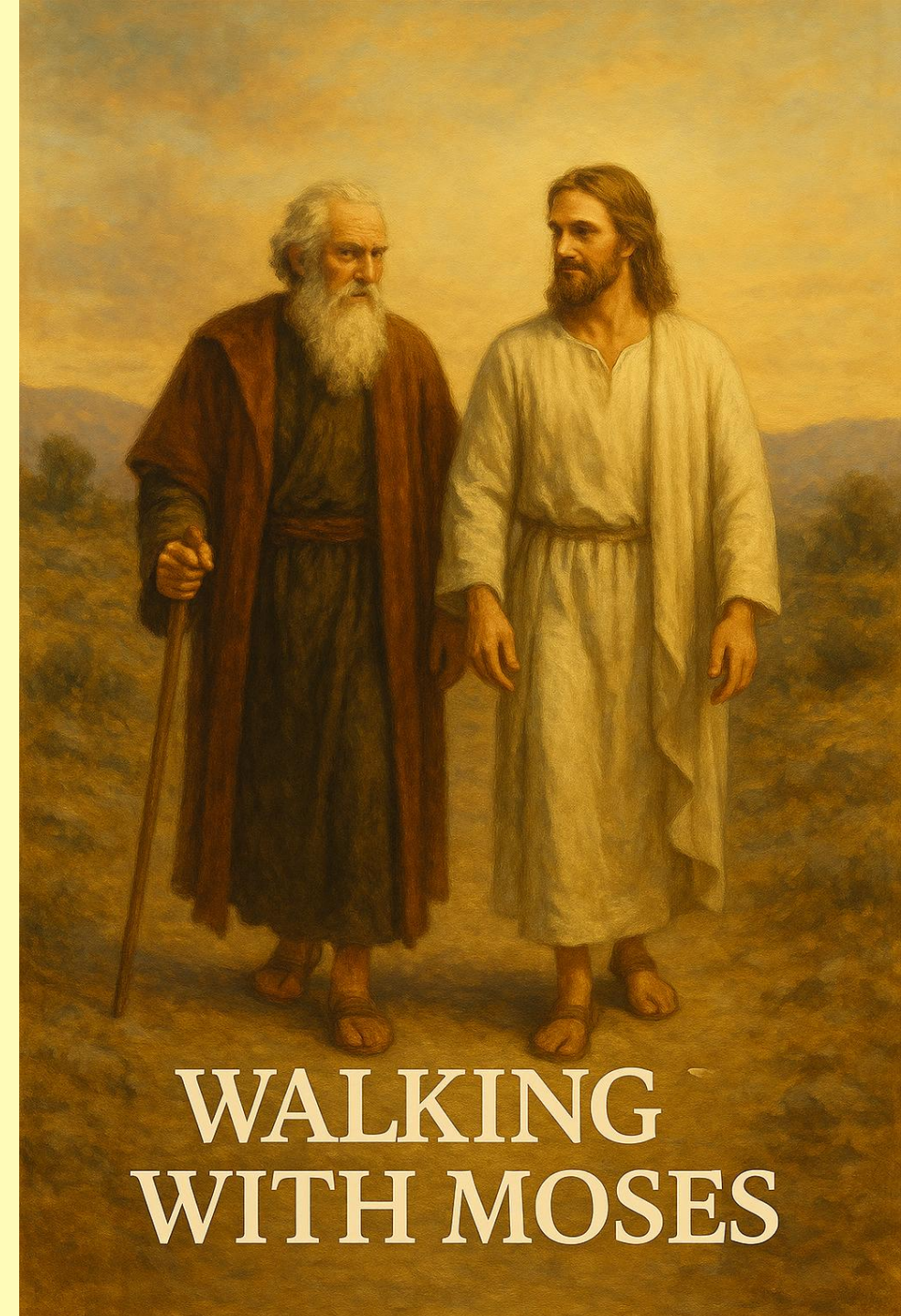
He is no other than:

1. The Great I AM of the past, present and future—John 8:58; Heb. 13:8
2. The One with all authority:  
    *“I have received all authority in heaven and on earth”* (Matt. 28:18 NLT).
3. He is Jesus Christ—the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.
4. He is God’s Son.
5. He is Emmanuel — The Eternal God.
6. He is the Omniscient, All-knowing, All-wise God.
7. His is the Omnipresent God:  
    *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble”* (Ps. 46:1 BSB).
8. He is Omnipotent One.
9. He is The Sovereign God.
10. He is The Righteous One.
11. He is The Ever-loving God—“God is love” (1 John 4:8).
12. He is The Truthful One, embodying veracity.
13. He is the God of equity and justice.
14. He is The Immutable, The Unchangeable God:  
    *“I am the LORD [Yahweh—Jesus Christ], and I do not change”* (Mal. 3:6).

Let us reflect deeply on the authority of the One who says, “*I am with you.*” Let the truth sink. The phrase, “*I am with you*” has a different connotation in each dispensation, Old and New.

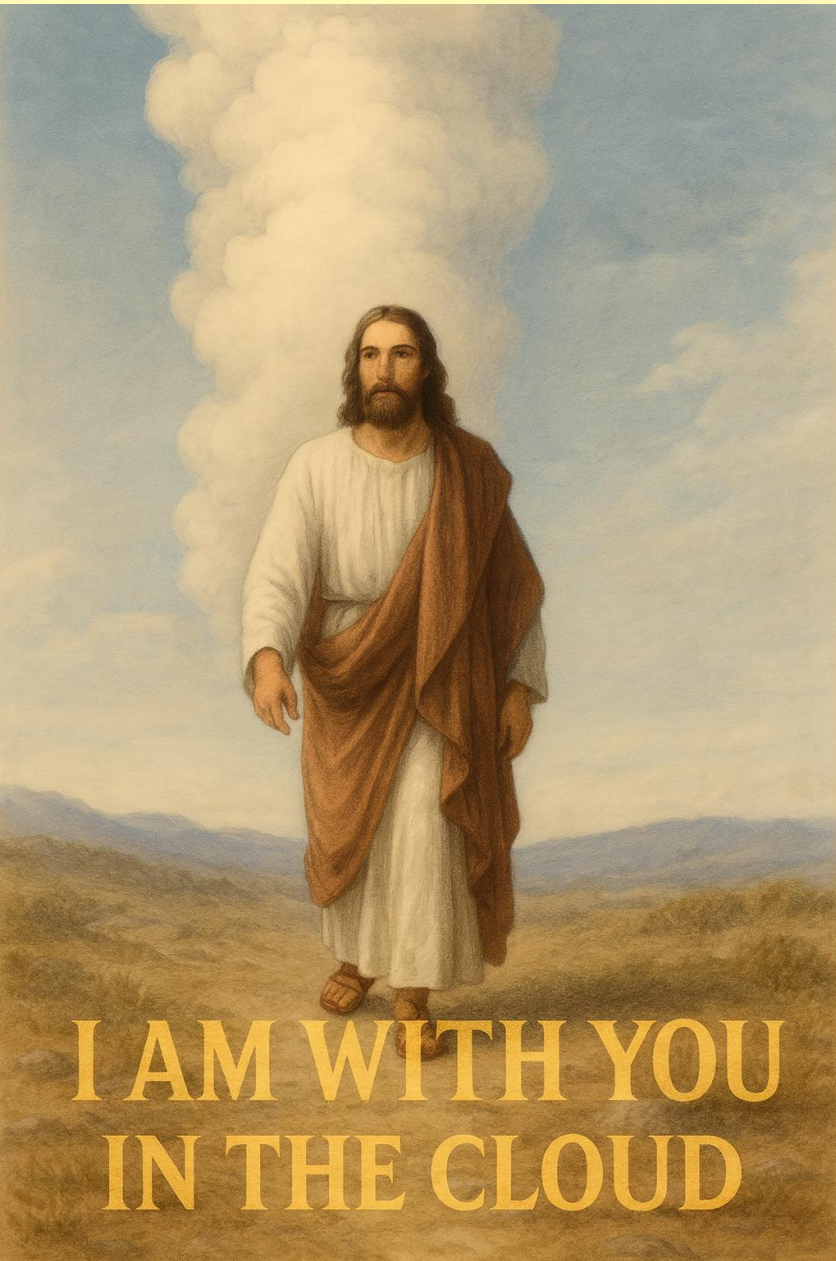
### **In the OLD Dispensation: The Jews**

- ❖ Their worshiping was external, in the temple.
- ❖ They had external contact with Jehovah-God.
- ❖ He never indwelt anyone.
- ❖ He was outside providing support.

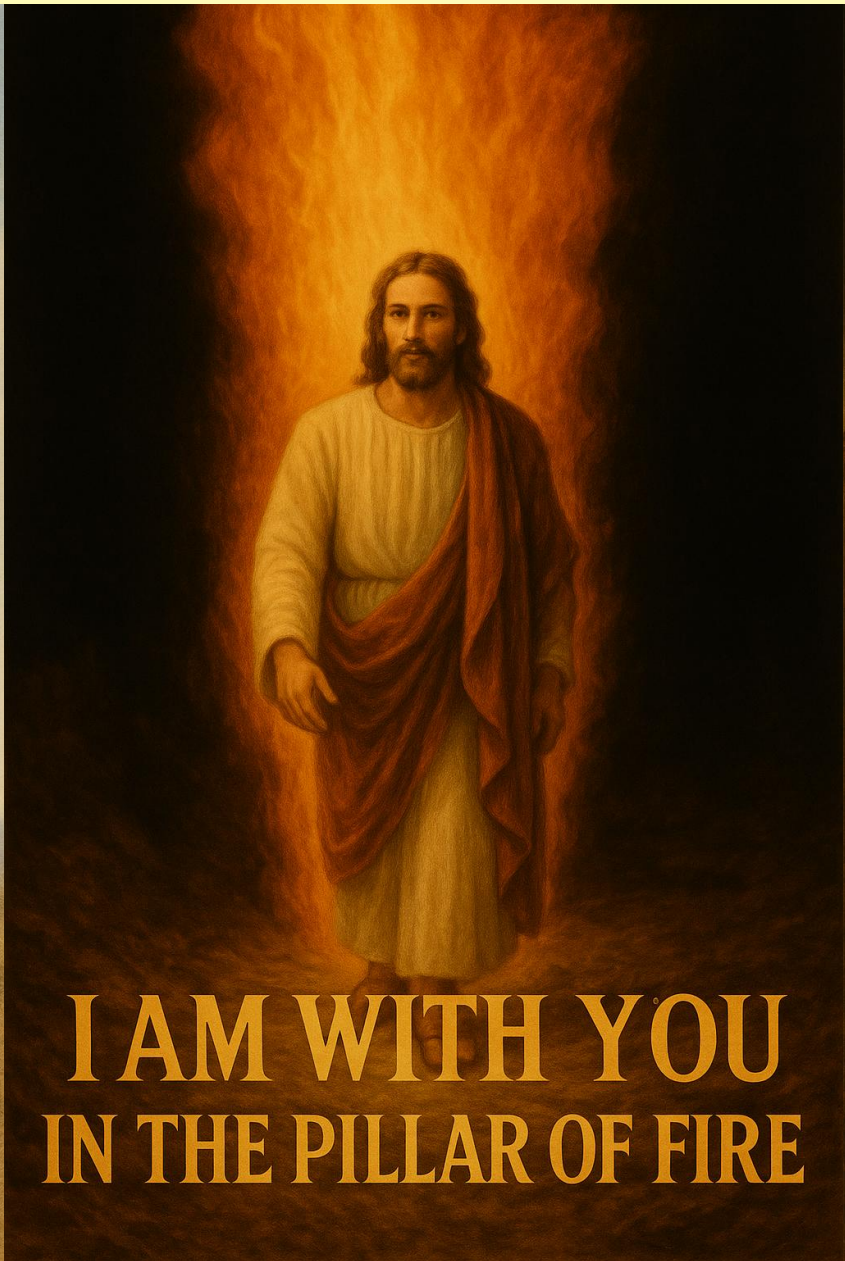


**WALKING  
WITH MOSES**

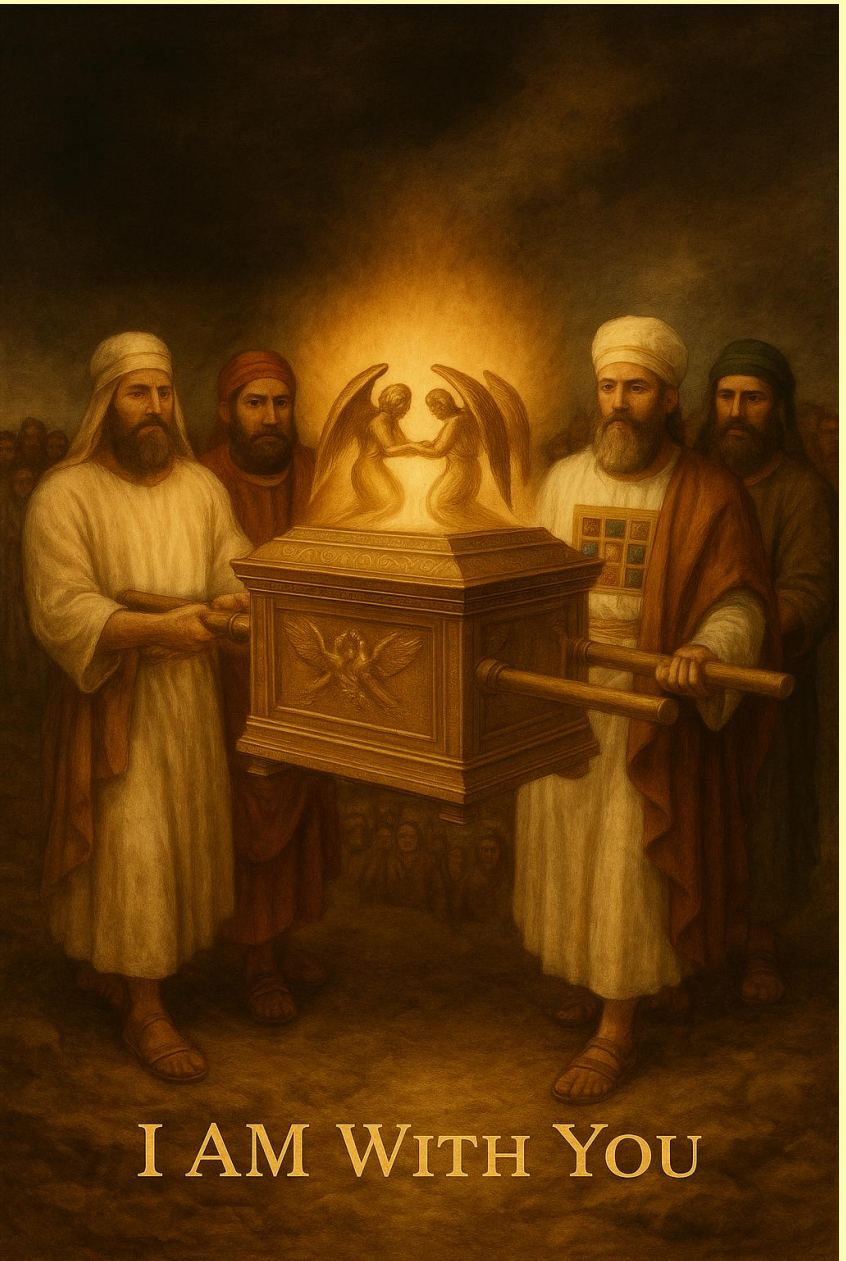




I AM WITH YOU  
IN THE CLOUD

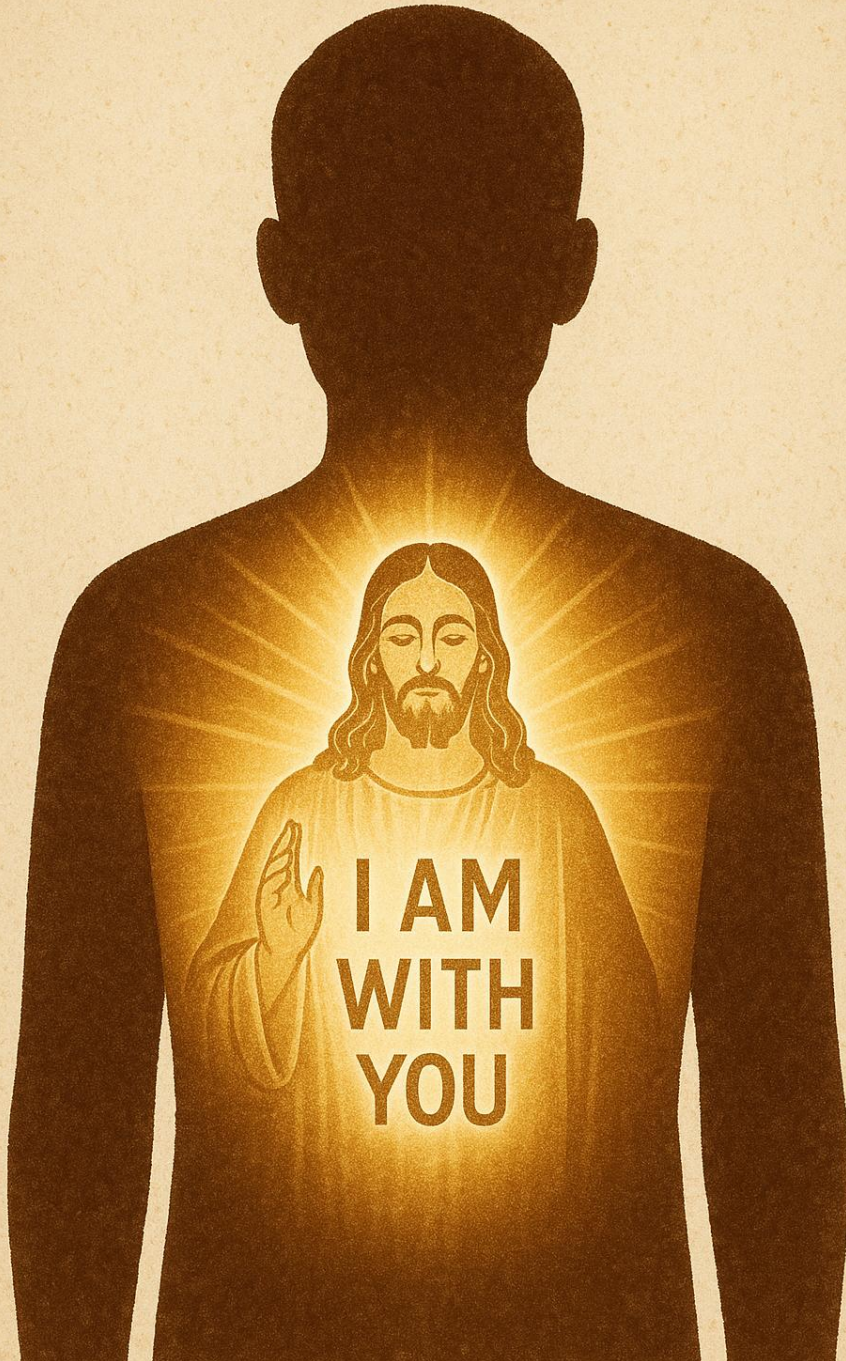


I AM WITH YOU  
IN THE PILLAR OF FIRE



I AM WITH YOU





## In the New Dispensation: The Church

Notice the big difference. Or as they say in French *Vive la difference*—Jesus lives in you! You have a homecourt advantage than Abraham, Moses, David and all the Old Testament saints combined. There contact with Jehovah-God was external. Ours is internal, “*Jesus in you the hope of glory*” (Col. 1 :29).

**You are carrying the God of the universe wherever you are.**

- ❖ Jesus indwells you.
- ❖ His strength is your strength.
- ❖ His power is your power.

*“My power is perfected in weakness”* (2 Cor. 12:9).

- ❖ Everywhere you go, He goes with you.
- ❖ Every move you make, He makes with you.
- ❖ When you lie down, He lies down with you (except He doesn’t sleep when we sleep). He is quite awake watching over us.

We are now at the heart of our study. We must link the New Testament phrase, “*I am with you*” to its context—the Great Commission.



## The Great Commission

MATTHEW 28:19, 20 (NLT):

*“Therefore, go and **make** disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Remarkably, the word **make** is the only one in the imperative in the passage. The words **Go, baptize, teach** are particles; they illustrate how the command, GO is to be obeyed. Jesus Christ assumes that you will go. It is a given. It is the responsibility of every child of God. Jesus Christ has given the church, a supreme command, **make disciples**.

**We exist to make disciples**. We will examine the **six cornerstones** of the Great Commission and the **two types** of missionaries and consider how they affect us.

## The Six Cornerstones of the Great Commission

- 1) **The Sender:** Jesus Christ, regarded as the Commander-in-Chief of missions and acknowledged as holding all authority in both heaven and earth.
- 2) **The Audience:** The lost and destitute in urgent need:  
*“Seeing the crowds, **He felt compassion** for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matt. 9:36). The audience is the unsaved world.*
- 3) **Messenger:** Connects the sender with the audience. You are the 5th gospel (2 Cor. 3:2); the aroma (fragrance/perfume/cologne) of Christ (2 Cor. 2:15), the salt and the light of the world (Matt. 5:13, 14). You are Christ’s mouth, hands, and feet.
  - a. Our lives must be attractive to the lost: **“We are all missionaries. Wherever we go we either bring people nearer to Christ or we repel them from Christ.” Eric Liddell**
  - b. We must avoid action that could harm our credibility.  
*“We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry” (2 Cor. 6:3 NLT).*

4. **The Message:** The message must be accurate, focusing on the work of Christ—faith alone in Christ alone—faith minus works plus nothing.
5. **His Guaranteed Presence:** “*I am with you*” (Matt. 28:20); “*I WILL NEVER* [under any circumstances] *DESERT YOU* [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], *NOR WILL I FORSAKE* or *LET YOU DOWN* or *RELAX MY HOLD ON YOU* [assuredly not]!” (Heb. 13:5 AMP).
6. **Prayer:** Prayer is an integral part of the gospel. Jesus Christ, our Role Model taught us the importance of prayer in evangelism. (Charles Spurgeon was asked his secret).
  - a. Jesus begins His daily ministry with prayer: “*Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and went out to a solitary place to pray*” (Mk. 1:35 BSB).
  - b. He concludes His daily ministry with prayer: “*After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone*” (Matt. 14:23 NLT).
  - c. We must pray before we engage in evangelism and pray afterwards: “*Pray without ceasing*” (1 Thess. 5:17).



## Two Types of Missionaries

### A. Inland/Homecourt Missionaries

1. These individuals carry out missionary activities within their own country.
2. They evangelize their family members, community, and country.
3. They serve as a **support base** for oversea missionaries.
4. They oversee **sending and supporting** foreign missionaries.
5. Support base is essential for foreign missionaries. (The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) previously recalled some of their missionaries for lack of funding—a very painful action).

Consider Scripture:

*“Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved. But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?”*  
(Rom. 10:13-15a).

## **B. Foreign/Overseas Missionaries**

1. They evangelize foreign lands.
2. They are supported by homecourt missionaries.

### The Great Commission Reward

- ❖ Rom. 10:15: “How beautiful [blessed] are the feet of those who preach the good news!”
- ❖ Dan. 12:3: “Those who lead many to righteousness, [through evangelism will shine] like the stars for ever and ever.” Amen!

## **Summary & Reflection**

1. Question: Why are you/we here?
2. Answer: You/we are here “*for the praise of His glory*” (Eph. 1:12).
3. We are here to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission: “*As you go, make disciples of all nations*” (Matt. 28:19).
4. To live in disobedience to the Great Commission and claim His promises is to mock the authority of the Commander-In-Chief of missions.
5. When we live in obedience to the Great Commission, we enjoy the blessings of His promises—“I am with you, always to the end of the age.”

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