

Minister Samuel Wray
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Message Preached at 9:00 am Service
Fort Washington Baptist Church

Sermon Title: Sharing Our Faith As Disciples of Christ

Sermon Test: Matthew 28:16-20

Introduction:

Good morning people of God! I greet each of you today in the blessed name of our Lord & Savior Christ Jesus. It's an honor and a privilege to stand in your presence this morning to share with you from the Word of God.

Invitation:

If you're able, would you please stand and join with me in giving praise to our Lord and God, who sent Jesus to die for your sins and mine in order to save us from sin! Isn't God worthy to be praised? Thank You Jesus!

Recognition:

- **JESUS CHRIST, my Lord and Savior!**
- My Pastor, Darin Vincent Poullard, who, for 20 years at this branch of Zion, continues to deliver to us fresh-Bread of God week-after-week, uncompromisingly! Thank you, for this opportunity to share God's word with the people of God.
- Our Ministerial Staff, men and women of God who LOVE the Lord and are committed to His Service and this ministry! Thank you!
- My Wonderful Wife and Virtuous Woman of God, thank you

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- Fort Washington Baptist Church Family present in the sanctuary and those virtually, I greet you
- And greetings to our first-time visitors

Text for today's message:

The text for today's message is **Matthew 28:16-20**. If you're able, please stand with me for the reading of God's Word:

v.16) "Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed to them. v. 17) When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. v.18) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. v.19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v. 20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Purpose of today's message:

These verses on our Great Commission prompted me to consider, "What is a commission?" The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "**commission**" as an authorization or command to act in a prescribed manner in behalf of, or in place of another. Jesus did not say, "go and save souls" **(for salvation of the soul is the**

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supernatural work of God only), but He said, “GO...make disciples....” Yet you
cannot make a disciple unless you are a disciple yourself!

My brothers and sisters, after the profession of our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are to pursue discipleship, and walk in His commission spreading His good news to all peoples – in our homes, communities, jobs, wherever we **GO!** We have been called to proclaim the victory over the death of our risen Savior. This Great Commission is our **rallying cry**, and **our marching orders, to draw others to Christ.** In doing so, our “**allegiance**” must be totally submitted to **Jesus Christ.** So, I have simply entitled this message, “**Share Your Faith.**”

Prayer: Psalms 119:18

The substance of today’s message includes 3 points which must be acknowledged:

Point #1: Share your faith IN The Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Question: Why must you Share Your Faith?

Answer: Is in the text

Read Matthew 28: 1-10

In verses 16 and 17 it states, “**Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed to them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.**” Some doubted because they couldn’t believe

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that Jesus was alive; they (Matthew, Mark, John, Mary the mother of Jesus, and
Mary Magdalene) saw Him die on that cross. Here, Matthew is recognizing the
doubters in the Jewish community. But, prior to this mountain experience, even one
of Christ Disciples doubted.

Let's **read** the text: **John 20:18-31**

My brothers and sisters, Thomas finally realized that there is "more to reality than
meets the eye." Reality was as real as Thomas' faith. Reality was always limited by
what he thought he could see. When he bowed before Jesus and said, "My Lord and
My God!, Thomas understood God is not experienced by sight or touch, but rather
"Jesus is experienced in the "heart", (repeat) where **His/God's LOVE is
boundless.** Thomas had new life! So, People of God NEVER doubt God:

- **Share your Faith** because Jesus was resurrected, and He is alive, we too
worship and bow down to the living Christ Who conquered death and proved
there will be a great resurrection on the Day of His return.
- **Share your Faith**, because there is life eternal beyond the grave for us.
- **Share your Faith** because you and I are included in what Jesus said, "**Blessed
are they who have not seen, and yet have believed!"**

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Point #2: Share your Faith IN Obedience to Jesus Christ!

The Disciples went out teaching, preaching, and proclaiming Christ throughout the Book of Acts, in **obedience** to the commands of Christ.

- They submitted totally to the Authority of Christ, they obeyed, and testified of the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- They went out proclaiming that Christ died for our sins, but now lives forevermore.
- Share your Faith, in “**obedience**” to Jesus Christ in what we have learned, know and believe about Christ.
- Tell others that He lived a selfless life, yet died a sinner’s death, the rose on the 3rd day. Obedience brings rewards, and look opportunities to open your mouth and tell someone how good God has been to You! Share you Faith because of His goodness!

Point #3: Share your Faith IN the Triune Godhead!

Jesus declared in v.18, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**”

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- Share that the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit is God, One God, 3-persons, the Triune Godhead.
- Share your Faith that because of the sin of Adam, God sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for our sin.
- Share that the Father and the Son, sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in Disciples, (and you & I) of Jesus Christ.
- Share your Faith because that same power that raised Jesus from the dead resides in us.

Brothers and Sisters, this is also our Commission, which has been given to us by Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. All around us we see this world imploding from within. God is revealing the hearts of all men and women, worldwide. During these perilous times, we are to carry out our mission, **Share Your Faith** and the good news of Jesus Christ. God has “not” called us to isolate ourselves, but rather, to infiltrate our communities, workplace, wherever reflecting Jesus Christ. Here at Fort Washington Baptist Church, the shepherd/Pastor of this body of Zion has declared that this church “will not” be like the church of the Laodiceans, lukewarm, neither hot or cold; but instead, be a church on fire for Jesus! Church family, as the Apostle Paul said, “**God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of Jesus Christ... (Gal. 6:14)**” I have a brief testimony, from 1987 –

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1995, I worked for UPS, driving a package car for 1 year and worked another 7 years as a delivery supervisor. During those management years, I experienced extremely pressured situations, dealing with racism which forced me to stand my ground in God's Word. Oftentimes, unbeknownst to me at the time, but later revealed to me by colleagues, my manager would purposely put me in extremely tense situations with drivers he knew would test my faith, in an attempt to make me swear and curse. Eventually, God spoke to me one morning after my devotion and told me to "**take your Bible to work and place it clearly on your desk.**" Sometime afterwards, my manager came into my office, which I shared with another supervisor, and asked who the Bible belonged to. I kindly replied that it was mine, and asked if he would like for me to share a Word with him, he looked at me confounded and immediately walked out. I never had a problem with him again. Sometimes you must be willing to stand alone, and Share Your Faith boldly.

In another situation, I was required to complete annual check-rides with 30-40 drivers. During these times alone with the drivers, I always tried to look for opportunities to witness Jesus, pray with some, and share God's Word. They learned that I was not ashamed of who I was in Christ. One driver, I'll call him Charlie, was one of my most dependable drivers, a team player always available to bail out other drivers and get the package delivered timely. One day, on Charlie's day off, he entered my office, and privately shared with me that he had just left the banks of the

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Potomac River where he had thrown a gun into the river. Having nowhere else to go, he drove to our UPS Hub where I worked and tearfully shared with me that he was considering killing someone over his girlfriend. At that very moment, God spoke to me and we went to the locker room where God allowed me to lead Charlie to Christ, as he confessed Romans 10:9 & 10. **Sometimes you'll need to Share Your Faith with compassion.** These are only 2-examples of how God has allowed me to Share My Faith, since God saved me.

Can I candidly ask a question? Does anyone enjoy going to the beach with family and friends? Don't you play volleyball, build sandcastles, bring food like crabs, fry up some fish, grill some burgers, and just have a good time? But you know the only way you can fully enjoy the beach, is if you get All-In, and jump-in that water "head first"; and when you jump in the water is soothing, refreshing and cleansing! Isn't it?

So, my brothers and sisters, if you got saved just to avoid the abyss, you're missing your commission. Are you All-In Christ commission? If you're All-In, "heart 1st", don't be afraid to **Share your Faith in the Resurrection, Share your Faith in Obedience, and Share your Faith IN the Triune Godhead**— so that we can make disciples of others! Amen and Amen!

- **Prayer of Salvation-please every head bowed, and eye closed...**