

# A Call To Discipleship

Text: Act 5:42

## Report

1. ~~Appar~~ Joy to share in this most important movement.

2. Very significant because it represents our commitment to a special calling of God.

3. ~~By~~ at the heart of every person who accepts the title of minister <sup>in some form</sup> as a very clear and voluntary of being called by God.

4. By definition the work of God is a sense of intense inner compulsion prompted by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. When we use the term "preach" → use it in its broadest sense → commit a life time

of public ~~of~~ service in ministering the Word through <sup>various</sup> special gifts + discerning gifts by the Holy Spirit.

5. Use the term "public" → refers to our central vocation → as a minister → we have to be involved in work that → answers to the world as a minister of the gospel.

see  
Newman  
Council  
Children  
discuss

6. "You have needs that committed & I counsel you for it in any way.
7. Joy to share particularly with DTC.  
 Les → man devoted to the task →  
 man who labors diligently to be  
 a servant to those who are weak.
8. Quality of work → 52<sup>nd</sup> year of  
 ministry → look over ~~to~~ grey → feel  
 very old. → Ill: serious moments
9. Really average it → watched the  
 word change → good news / bad news →  
 one context → call to discipleship →
10. Have a 2 fold responsibility → be disciples /  
 ⊕ make disciples.
11. Hebraic devotion to the task.
12. Turn to Act 5: 42 →
13. Call to Commitment.
14. Formula → statement → simply is  
 a subordinated commitment is a community  
 of faith for the purpose of communal  
 Christ ~~to the world. to be as God.~~

### Introduction

1. Today as we live in the wake of  
 a 9<sup>th</sup> ~~we can~~ we are faced to  
 ask the question, "~~What will be~~  
 "of Jesus' love," "What will be

would be in the year 2025?

2. Recall questions because it will be the best view most of eyes will be at the ~~best~~ most preferred light of eyes repeated varieties.

3. As we view the parameters of such a world the statistics tell us that there will be some 8 billion people ~~in the population~~ ~~at level~~ ~~at that~~ ~~time~~ in 2025 + 11 billion by 2050.

1) The world's population increases by 27 people every 10 seconds

2) That's 162 people a minute & 9,720 people an hour.

3) ~~It's~~ It's like adding a city the size of Raleigh, N. Carolina to the world every day.

4. This poses to each of us the choice of just keeping up with the population growth for the good sake

5. In this regard → good news & bad news →

1) Good news → we don't see the current figures of new current

(1) 1995 → 94,000 people were being  
chast by day.

2) If trend continues → probability →  
6 bill of shield would be better

2) Bad news → America is in  
spiritual decline → such a spirit  
after 9/11 → say Ted-ben America →  
had my paper meeting.

(1) Last 3 years → 9,000 employees  
closed

(2) 65% of America is not Christian

(3) ~~For~~ For main papers →  
Islam + Marxism.

(4) Like II Ter 3 → big error.

~~ST~~

7. Found work 5 weeks in U.S.

1) Media → expose a biased phony  
theory a doctrine of political correctness,  
bipol, <sup>social</sup> spiritual + low level deers.

2) Walters → government should  
publicly that love touch with the  
citizens of the U.S. is the quest for  
justice + greater ~~and~~ integrity +  
control.

85% of our  
church → shattered  
or declined.

of seminars  
concern

3) Hollowed → inputs over ~~to~~   
 vowels with the vowel, the suffix, &   
 the and the vowel.

4) Seulun → diphthong, does   
 his proliferated case + brave regress   
 as a new level for new new pepl.

5) Avants level → spurred level →   
 Avants level → resounding level →   
 level level → made up of two   
 beliefs. → used for level level   
 level level.

- 1) Co with the vowel   
 2) Book of John.

8. Call is to diphthong →   
 background of Act is → diphthong

9. Statue →

I. Alphabetical essential

- 1. Level is of diphthong.   
 2. ~~Level~~   
 3. ~~Level~~

1. Avants   
 Seulun   
 #

1. Hefenier
2. Scepter
3. Difficult - leaves / not - leaves →
4. Col. 3.
5. Ever Hills.

II. Community of faith.

1. Acts 2: 45 ff - → Teach + evangelize
2. Meeting of church. [Eph. / Gal.]
3. Ill': Florida + God.

III. Purpose of communities.

1. Teach + preach
2. ~~Comm~~ Meet 28 / Acts 1: 8
3. Community into world → Rom 12.
4. Ill': ~~Community~~. World

IV. Church as a Body

1. Church
2. Needs structure / rule ⇒ Christ of  
Loyals / Rev. 19.
3. Christ who uses my need
4. Ill': Church Body -

no skeletons to hide, no closets to come out of. With the innocence and power of this lifestyle, we can have fellowship with one another, which means that we connect, we interlock, we bond for the purpose of strength and power.

Authentic friendships heal and empower people. They strengthen us to perform to the maximum. They empower us to live lives free from sin. New mil-

lennium churches will be large, but they will link people together in powerful, life-giving relationships.

**Five** Church leaders must counter the rise of secular society by living holy lives. This will expose the hypocrisy that is currently allowed by modern church culture under the

banner of grace. Our current cultural moment is one of freedom from restraint. We buy what we want, we eat what we want, and we do what we want. This is true not only of the world, but also of the church.

We have had so much grace teaching in the last 20 years that the pendulum has swung away from a holy lifestyle to liberality. The resul-

# Where Will We Be in 2025?

Imagine a planet with 8 billion people, dizzying communications technology and a worldwide explosion of Christian faith.

BY J. LEE GRADY

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN THE EARLY DECADES OF THE 21ST century if a spiritual awakening shook every continent? The following scenario is not a prophecy, but let's dream for a moment about how a worldwide revival of faith could shape our future:

• **Imagine a densely populated world where Christianity grows faster every day.** According to the Population Reference Bureau, the world's population increases by 27 people every 10 seconds. That's 162 people a minute and 9,720 people an hour. It's like adding a city the size of Raleigh, North Carolina, to the world every day.

The population is growing so fast that demographers predict 11 billion people will inhabit Planet Earth by 2050. The encouraging news: Missiologists say conversions to Christianity are happening at *three times the current rate of population growth.*

In 1995, about 94,000 people accepted Christ every day. That number is rising as the population increases. If there are 8 billion people in the world by 2025, it's possible that 6 billion of them could become followers of Christ during the next quarter-century.

• **Imagine a world where the Christian church becomes a dominant force in formerly non-Christian cultures.** Already today in Nigeria, South Korea and Colombia, there are churches that attract 30,000, 50,000 and even 500,000 worshipers. In the coming decades the concept of a megachurch will be redefined as we see congregations that break the 1 million-member threshold.

• **Imagine a world that is wired for the spreading of the gospel.** The digital revolution that began in the 1990s will soon transform the way we work, play and communicate. In just a few years we will vote from home, talk on videophones and cool our houses with energy from orbiting solar power-plants.

Meanwhile, by 2005 the Internet will evolve into a completely new technology that melds television and video with telephone capabilities—creating a unique tool that will allow the gospel to spread more rapidly than ever across political and religious barriers. Christians will be able to connect with someone in Vietnam, for example, show them the *Jesus* film and answer their questions about faith with the help of a computer program that can instantly translate more than 200 languages.

Just as the caesars of Rome built impressive roads throughout their empire—without knowing that those same roads would carry the message of Christ to the known world in one generation—today those who are wiring the globe with fiber-optic cable and high-speed modems are paving the way for a similar “road” that will take the Christian message into places it has never penetrated before.

• **Imagine the overthrow of communism in China—triggered by the prayers of Chinese believers.** Before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 no one expected to see the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, much less the end of dictatorship in places such as Albania or Hungary. We will soon find it hard to believe that China was ever

an autocratic state. And when political and economic restrictions are lifted there, the evangelists and church planters who emerge from China will set a new standard for missionary zeal.

• **Imagine a day when millions of Hindus in India reject their idolatry.** A revival accompanied by miracles of healing and deliverance from demons will bring millions of Indians to faith in Christ—and the story will be captured on Indian television. Hindu nationalists will strike out to stop the spread of the gospel, and thousands will be martyred. But the common people, weary of violence and the empty political promises

*“Is this scenario too optimistic? Let's allow God's desire for a worldwide revival to fill us with hope.”*

tant hypocrisy is devastating to the gospel.

In the next century, church leaders will seek to distinguish themselves from secular culture by living Christ-like, holy lifestyles that respects God's free gift of mercy and values integrity. We will follow the example of people such as evangelist Billy Graham, who has lived the majority of his life in the

public realm without one scandal or public accusation.

He has lived a life worthy of the gospel, and as America becomes increasingly secular, church leaders will seek to make their lives worthy as well, both as a means of distinguishing the church from the world, and as a testament to the power of Jesus in our lives.

**Six** We must work together strategically rather than competing. In John 17, Jesus prayed that the church would be "made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me" (v. 23). I think we will make great strides toward this end in the next

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from a regime they couldn't trust, will demand a government that guarantees religious freedom.

● **Imagine a secretive evangelism movement that sweeps through the Middle East.** The infiltration of the gospel through the Internet will draw thousands of Muslims to faith in Christ in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt and Iran. Even Muslim clerics and students at Islamic seminaries will embrace Christianity and secretly rendezvous with other believers—either in homes or in cyberspace.

Christians will sponsor intense prayer and fasting campaigns for the Muslim world. By 2004, serious cracks will be evident in the formidable strongholds of Islam as missionaries gain access to once-closed countries such as Algeria, Morocco, Libya and Yemen.

Turkey will emerge as a base for Christian missions in the region as churches spring up among disenchanting Turkish professionals. Their newfound faith will spread to Muslims in every direction: east to those in Kosovo and Albania, north and west to the former Soviet republics, and south to Amman, Baghdad and even Mecca.

● **Imagine thousands of churches from around the world working in unity.**

The civil wars that will erupt in parts of Central Asia and Africa—triggered by religious tensions—will provide opportunities for followers of Christ to demonstrate compassion. Believers in prosperous regions will embrace a new biblical mandate to share with the world's poor.

● **Imagine the cathedrals of Europe filled again with worshipers.** The spiritual renewal movements of the 1990s in Spain, Norway, Italy and France will mature into powerful revivals accompanied by visible manifestations of God's presence. Christian youth movements in Germany and Sweden will mobilize thousands for missionary service. News of the conversions of prominent European atheists and agnostics will shake the intellectual establishments of Paris, Cologne and Vienna.

A fresh outbreak of charismatic renewal among Catholics in Italy and Portugal in 2003—and among Lutherans in Scan-

dinavia the following year—will quickly spread worldwide, prompting a dramatic repentance and healing service at the Vatican in 2008 involving key Protestant leaders. Meanwhile in England, a grassroots revival movement among Anglicans and charismatics will force pastors to move their overcrowded Sunday services to soccer stadiums.

● **Imagine that Latin America's Pentecostal revival—which began in Argentina and Brazil—spreads to every village and metropolis in South and Central America.** Society will be restructured in the region as Christian politicians assume positions of power and demand reforms. Pastors from

Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala and Chile will plant huge megachurches in Florida, Texas, California and other parts of the United States in order to reach the burgeoning Latino populations there. Cuba will become a strong missionary-sending base after the end of the Castro era.

● **Imagine stadiums in the United States and Canada filled with Christians who gather for all-night praise rallies.** In the first years of the new millennium, American believers will unite across denominational lines to claim their cities for Jesus. Pastors will publicly repent for the religious pride that characterized American Christianity in the 1900s, and revivalistic fervor similar to that witnessed by John Wesley in the late 1700s will again become typical in churches—some of which will grow 500 percent in one year because of conversions.

Many of the revival meetings—in places such as Atlanta, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Toronto, Philadelphia, Orlando and Dallas—will be simulcast on the Internet to gatherings of Christians in Siberia, Singapore and Ethiopia. Mainstream journalists in 2006 will begin to describe the movement as "the Third Great Awakening." And in his State of the Union address, the president of the United States—a born-again Christian—will publicly welcome the revival as a sign that God chose to extend to America His mercy rather than judgment.

Is this scenario too optimistic? Perhaps. But as we face this new millennium, let's allow God's desire for a worldwide revival to fill us with hope. □



*Manual of Christian Discipline*  
*Eric Liddel*

1. AM I TRUTHFUL? Are there any conditions under which I will tell a lie? Can I be depended upon to tell the truth regardless of the cost?
2. AM I HONEST? Can I be trusted in money matters? In my work, when no one is looking? With other people's reputations? With myself? Or do I rationalize and become defensive?
3. AM I PURE? In my habits? In my thought life? In my motives? In my relations with the opposite sex?
4. AM I SELFISH? In the demands I make on my family, spouse or associates? Am I badly balanced, full of moods -- cold today and warm tomorrow? Do I indulge in nerves that spoil my happiness and that of those around me? Am I unrestrained in my pleasures, the kind that I enjoy without considering the effect they have on my soul? Am I unrestrained in my work, refusing to take reasonable rest and exercise? Am I unrestrained in small self-indulgences, letting myself become the slave of habits, however harmless they may appear to me?

Let us put ourselves before ourselves and look at ourselves.

## Christian Martyr

In a dark hole I have found cheerfulness; in a place of bitterness and death I have found rest. While others weep I have found laughter, where others fear I have found strength. Who would believe that in a state of misery I have had great pleasure; that in a lonely corner I have glorious company, and in the hardest bonds perfect repose. All these things Jesus has granted me. He is with me, comforts me and fills me with joy. He drives bitterness from me and fills me with strength and consolation.