

“Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! “Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town. When you enter the home, give it your blessing.”

Matthew 10:1, 8, 11-12 NLT

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There is a moment in every leader's life when they should know. - "it's time." It's time to release. It's time to let go, give some basic blessing and instructions and send out the folks who have been training to go and do what they have been commissioned to do. This was that moment for the disciples, even though Jesus was still with them. And, it's a good thing, because after attempting a few exorcisms and healings, they still needed a few pointers. First off, Jesus gave them the authority to do so. If they believe Jesus was who he said he was, that's good, but they still weren't convinced. Second, they didn't need as much as they thought they needed. Jesus told them to take NOTHING. Then he also told them, in a way, that God would provide a person of peace (worthy person) in the town they visited. I have a friend who does mission's trips (E3) through this exact method and they have amazing stories of God showing up every time. Can you see yourself being a follower of Jesus in any way like the first disciples? What if we just lived a life even a tiny bit similar? So we family responsibilities, own or rent housing, have stuff and enjoy more holidays and vacations than we deserve. But still, what if we just took that little bit of authority, and just a little bit of faith and became little disciples in our neighborhood, just a few houses around us, or a few blocks if possible. I live in a neighborhood that's basically a mile square. And, most mornings I walk and have met dozens of people. I've given friendly waves, stopped and chatted with some and even prayed for a few. I have about fifteen neighbors on my list to pray for them. One of them, Hope, lives just a few doors down, came to Christ, was baptized and is living like a believer and I had nothing to do with it. I just listened to her story celebrated with her because she's free from some awful addictions. I think every believer can live this way. I think every follower of Jesus has the authority and the promise to make him known in their neighborhoods.

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Dad,

When am going to live out what I believe to be true? You have given me so much! Help me to continue to grow in this and be effective for the Kingdom of God, bringing light to someone's darkness in my own neighborhood.

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rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root