

Matthew's gospel opens with a similar affirmation in chapter one, in which Jesus is named Emmanuel, God with us. This is the person of Jesus in His earthly life ~ God with skin on who came to show us how to live and show us what God is like.

Then, this passage moves us from the disciples' insecurity and lack of understanding to focus on the exalted Lord who has all we need for life ~ this enabling ~ this strength, courage, boldness ~ this 'gumption' is called Grace and it's ours in Jesus.

The commission is for all who are part of the people of God ~ we may not all be called to far off lands, we may not all be called to be Billy Grahams or great orators, but we are all called to share His word by living out our faith. The world needs to see Jesus' hands and feet through us ~ through random acts of kindness, mixed with genuine care. We can do that ~ we are doing that ~ how can we do it more?

So let's march forth ~ we have a gospel to proclaim. We have all we need to live it out through the grace our Lord provides and let us do it with spirit filled resourcefulness: gumption ~ our focus not on the uncertainty of the times and our lack of understanding, but on Jesus and His authority ~ on the exalted Lord and His promise to be with us all until the end of time.

Amen

Today's Reading: Mathew 28: 16 - 20 (NIV)

The Great Commission

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."