

Your Mission: POSSIBLE



"¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed."
Isaiah 61:1 NLT

Do you ever feel like your life lacks purpose? You feel like you are made for something more but you don't know what it is? Isaiah 61 can help us find life's purpose, God's purpose for our lives.

Central Lesson:

The mission of Jesus is our mission—should you choose to accept it, go change the world for Christ!

1. Jesus Was the **FULFILLMENT** of Isaiah 61:1-2 According to Luke 4:18-21. (61:1-2).

"¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. ² He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come, [and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies]." (61:1-2 NLT).

The Life Application Study Bible explains: "Jesus quoted these words in Luke 4:18, 19. As he read to the people in the synagogue, he stopped in the middle of 61:2 after the words, 'the time of the Lord's favor has come.' Rolling up the scroll, he said, 'This scripture has come true today before your very eyes!' (Luke 4:21). The next phrase in 61:2, 'and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies,' will come true when Jesus returns to earth again. We are now under God's favor; his wrath is yet to come."

Jesus, fulfilling this passage, identified him as the Messiah and Savior of the World.

2. The Holy Spirit's Power Is **ESSENTIAL** for His Followers to Continue His Mission (61:1).

"¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor..." (61:1 NLT).

Jesus promised his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come upon them and give them power to be his witnesses and tell the world the gospel's message. Jesus said, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8 NLT). Also, the Holy Spirit controlling the hearts and lives of Christ-followers enables them to overcome the desires of the old sinful nature. *"So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves."* (Gal. 5:16 NLT). Every Christian

must surrender moment-by-moment to the filling (or control) of the Holy Spirit. *"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit"* (Eph. 5:18 NLT). The Holy Spirit is essential to living the Christian life victoriously and continuing the mission of Jesus.

3. The Mission of Jesus Is **OUR** Mission (61:1-8).

Jesus gives every Christian a purpose and mission for their lives—share the gospel and make disciples. The Great commission is our mission! *"¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ 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."* (Matt. 28:19-20 NLT)

The Mission of Jesus Is Our Mission:

- (1) Bring good news to the (spiritually) poor (61:1).
- (2) Comfort the brokenhearted (61:1).
- (3) Proclaim release and freedom to those living in bondage [captives & prisoners] (61:1).
- (4) Tell people living in sadness about God's favor and coming blessing—a crown, joy, festive praise, and strength like a great oak (61:2-3).
- (5) Tell broken people they can rebuild their lives with God's help (61:4).
- (6) Tell people they can become God's representatives, ministering for Him (61:6).
- (7) Tell people that God will give them honor, success, and joy if they turn to Him (61:7).
- (8) Tell people that God will reward them if they suffer for righteousness (61:8).

4. The Mission of Jesus Will **CONTINUE** Up to the Time He Returns and Establishes His Millennial (1,000 years) Reign Over the Earth (61:9-11).

"⁹ Their descendants will be recognized and honored among the nations. Everyone will realize that they are a people the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰ I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding or a bride with her jewels. ¹¹ The Sovereign Lord will show his justice to the nations of the world. Everyone will praise him!..."

Bible teachers see the references to "the nations" (61:9, 11) referring to the future return of Christ and his millennial reign over the earth. Also, the clothing of salvation and the robe of righteousness seem to point to the marriage supper of the Lamb just before his second coming to the earth—see Revelation 19:6-9.

The mission of Jesus will continue up to his return and millennial reign. As a follower of Christ, his mission is your mission. Your mission is possible! Your mission, should you choose to accept it...is to change the world for Christ. Are you all in? Do you accept it?

Central Lesson: The mission of Jesus is our mission—should you choose to accept it, go, change the world for Christ!

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.