

Mission Impossible Made Possible

Good morning, Mr. Cumby. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, involves the strategic work of your team in letting the world know that you are a Christian. You may select any of the team members in your life for your journey, but you must be the one to lead out in this most important life event. The persons you and your team are seeking to find are the ones who do not claim to know Christ. They are miserable in their sin and don't know where to find the answer to their dilemma. You and your team have forty-eight hours to tell others about Christ and help lead those who accept your offer of Jesus in their life to understand repentance and lead them to total commitment of life to the Lord. As always, should any member of your team be caught or killed, the Secretary will disavow all knowledge of your actions. Good luck, Gerald. This tape will self-destruct in five seconds.

Do you remember Mission Impossible?

The misnomer: If it was an impossible mission, why even expect to be successful in making this impossible problem solvable and possible?

BACK TO YOUR MISSION: Some statistics that will help you see the real problem of your mission...and why the task seems impossible to man:

- About Life...Today Every Person Averages per day:
 - Heart Beats—103,369 times
 - *Blood travels—168,000,000 miles*
 - Breathes—23,400 times
 - Perspires 1.43 pints of liquid
 - Brain Cells Exercised—7,000,000
 - Is that not amazing? Didn't God do a good job?
- The Seemingly Impossible Task...

Read these numbers and weep...and hopefully, get concerned about our loved ones, the lost:

✓ 3,600,000,000 (at least) Lost Human Beings in the World...Right Now!

How many is that? Let us count.

- ✓ Counting....1 per second, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year...
- ✓ It would take 114 years to count...of those that are Lost in the world... right now!

And our politicians state that the main concern for America,

"IT IS THE ECONOMY STUPID!"









What about

We are a sick society!

The Mission: To Tell Others About the Gospel (Good News) about Jesus!

Miracles and Marvelous Encounters -

A true miracle is an event in the external world brought about by the immediate agency or the simple volition of God, operating without the use of means capable of being discerned by the senses, and designed to authenticate the divine commission of a religious teacher and the truth of his message (John 2:18; Matt. 12:38). It is an occurrence at once above nature and above man. It shows the intervention of a power that is not limited by the laws either of matter or of mind, a power interrupting the fixed laws which govern their movements, a supernatural power. Also known as "Signs and Wonders."

Miracles are seals of a divine mission. The sacred writers appealed to them as proofs that they were messengers of God. Our Lord also appealed to miracles as a conclusive proof of his divine mission (John 5:20, 36; 10:25, 38).

Miracles, it is said, are contrary to experience. Of course they are contrary to our experience, but that does not prove that they were contrary to the experience of those who witnessed them.

- ✓ We believe a thousand facts, both of history and of science, that are contrary to our experience, but we believe them on the ground of competent testimony.
- ✓ An atheist or a pantheist must, as a matter of course, deny the possibility of miracles:
- ✓ But to one who believes in a personal God, who in his wisdom may see fit to interfere with the ordinary processes of nature, miracles are not impossible, nor are they incredible.

Have you witnessed a miracle? Name some of those miracles.....

124 Miracles Recorded in the Bible (Many more if you count each day of the creation as a miracle...the blood covering our sin, etc.)

How do we know that there were many miracles performed by Jesus in which we have never heard?

John 20:30b-31, "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

John states in the last verse of his gospel, "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written." (John 21:25).

WHAT MIRACLE ARE YOU WAITING ON?

LOOK AROUND...YOU WILL SEE MIRACLES ALL AROUND YOU!

Have your eyes to your heart open...God wants you to see the obvious before you see the impossible request you are making...made possible!

Marvelous Encounters Have Occurred in This Life-Time... Your Life-Time!

PSALM 77:14....New International Version

"You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples."

New Living Translation

"You are the God of great wonders! You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations."

King James Bible

"Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people." International Standard Version

"God, you are the one performing awesome deeds. You reveal your might among the nations."

Different Bible Versions and Translations Cannot Deny God's Marvelous Miracles!

Priscilla Shirer, in her book "And We Are Changed" states exactly what we are talking about:

"We are just like the children of Israel; we too have had marvelous encounters with God, but fail to recognize them."

How do we recognize marvelous encounters with God?

- ✓ First, it is not by luck or chance that you encounter God.
- ✓ It's not an accident. However, do not feel bad if you have not yet had a propelling encounter.
- ✓ Encountering God is not exclusive to an elect group of "spiritual people", but rather it's an all-inclusive invitation to a life with God.

Jesus said: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." – John 10:10

This verse proves the purpose of Jesus' heart.

His desire is for all men to be saved and have an abundant life with God here, and in the age to come.

This does not mean that those who are saved and have an abundant life are promised a life of ease. It means... "With God you can make it through any circumstance."

The Christian life is not a dry and dusty life, but rather an extraordinary life filled with wonder.

Somewhere within each of us there is a deep desire to experience an encounter with God.

A real encounter with God should produce more than just emotion it should result in change.

You cannot encounter God and remain the same.

Now...Let's recognize God's desire to see you respond to an encounter with Him!

- ✓ Are you saved, born-again, washed in the blood of Jesus?
- \checkmark Are you repentant of your sin(s)?
- ✓ Have you seen a change in your life?
- ✓ Have you listened to God as He presents Himself to you each day?
- ✓ Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit...Baptized in His Spirit?
- √ Have you experienced being a parent...or observed a new baby as he/she grows and matures?

√ Have you been exhausted and completely "to the end of your rope" (so to speak) and see the hand of God come to your rescue?

What are you doing about the encounter with God?

Why Does an Encounter with God Matter?

We need an encounter with God to start or enhance our relationship with God.

Note: Encounters with God are not just a bonus to our spiritual life but they are necessary for our spirit man to mature in the faith.

* Encounters With God Build Faith

- ✓ As God plants seeds into our spirit man, they are not to stay seeds. They are to grow. Faith doesn't lie dormant in our heart; faith is destined to grow.
- ✓ God plants good seeds; it is up to us to make sure that the seeds stay in good soil (reading the Word of God) and watered by "Doing the Word."
- ✓ Encounters are like the water for your heart, they increase your faith.

* Encounters also motivate us to press on.

- ✓ They make our relationship with God sustainable because they give us hope that times of refreshing will come.
- ✓ When we can't see God in our lives, He will let us witness God working in the lives of others...which encourages us to press on.

Encounters with God is closer than you think...

"You will seek me and you will find me when you search for me with all your heart. "- Jeremiah 29:13

✓ Encounters with God should not be a once in a lifetime phenomena for a Christian.

"The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth." – Psalm 145:18

"The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." – Psalm 34:18

One to Grow On-

Take your experiences and encounters with God and guard them. Protect them with your life!

Ask Him, "What next, Lord!"

Scriptures for Mission Impossible Made Possible

- John 2:18, "The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"
- Matthew 12:38, "Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."
- John 5:20, For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed."
- John 5:36, I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me."
- John 10:25, "Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me,.."
- John 10:38, But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

The following Scriptures are quoted in text of lesson:

- John 20:30b-31
- John 21:25
- Psalm 77:14
- John 10:10
- Jeremíah 29:13
- Psalm 145:18
- Psalm 34:18

The following Scriptures go along with today's lesson title:

- <u>Matthew 19:26, "</u>Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
- Mark 10:27, "Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."
- <u>Luke 18:27, "</u>Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."