

VERY IMPORTANT!

THE GREAT COMMISSION

We have often failed to apply all of these ministries but the Lord Jesus told His disciples to **preserve, keep, strictly, guard EVERYTHING** that He had commanded them earlier. Here is the text of the Great Commission in full, as recorded in Matthew's gospel:

"All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Me. Go therefore, disciple all the nations, baptising them into the (single) Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep strictly all things, whatever I commanded you. And see! I am with you every day, until the completion of the Age" (Matt. 28:18-20 - literal).

There is so much to learn from this but we will confine ourselves to two points.

- (i) There is **ONE SINGLE** name, which covers the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. That is why the Name of Jesus is so powerful when used in His service by a true disciple and not by an ignorant blasphemer. It is the Name above **EVERY** name. *The Apostles understood this when they baptised new converts (Acts 2:38, 8:16, 19:5, cf. Acts 22:16, Rom. 6:3, Gal. 3:27, Col. 3:17).*
- (ii) The above translation says we are to teach new disciples to **KEEP STRICTLY** all that the Lord has commanded the originals, i.e. **preaching the gospel, healing the sick and casting out demons.**

Unfortunately some translations lost the strong emphasis of the original text and wimped out with the word "observe". This word is too weak and may even suggest disciples can observe from a distance, no need to get involved personally. **Preserve** is better and **obey** (N.I.V.) better still, but the N.T. Greek dictionary (Lexicon) uses **guard**, and the Analytical Greek Lexicon uses **keep strictly**.

Is there any true disciple who would dare to teach that this commission does **NOT** include Jesus' commands to the seventy (Luke 10:1-20), which is an extension of His authority given to the twelve (Matt. 10:1-8)? Clearly missionaries are **COMMANDED** to heal the sick, raise the dead, clean lepers and cast out demons because they have been given **AUTHORITY** over **ALL** the power of the enemy (Luke 10:17)