

# The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



The ancient prophet proclaimed, “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,” (Isaiah 61:1–2, NIV).

As people of God, we gather regularly for corporate worship, for study of the Word of God, and for fellowship. These times are necessary for us to refuel and reconnect with God, and so that we may encourage one another to continue seeking God. When we depart from these times of assembly, however, our task begins. As Christ-followers, we are called to be salt and light—to bring hope and good news to those who have not yet experienced the grace and forgiveness of God.

In the name of Jesus, we connect with those we encounter, looking for ways to help and offer peace. Like the prophet Isaiah, we seek to comfort those who are hurting and give hope to those who are in despair. Many people are in desperate need of good news today, especially in times of uncertainty and fear—and we have good news to give! Like seed sown into fertile ground, we scatter joy among the dispirited. This joy does not remain static; rather, it spreads easily from person to person.

These are not arduous responsibilities or heavy burdens that the Spirit has placed upon us, for we go in the power of God. The sense of joy and contentment we find in knowing God will naturally overflow to those with whom we come into contact. By seeking to follow Christ wholeheartedly, and by lovingly engaging with others, we will fulfill this calling.

As worship leaders, let us encourage our congregations and fellowships to be the hands of Christ wherever we go. When we depart from this community and return to our routines and weekly schedules, let us encourage one another to cherish life, to spread hope, and to bring joy. For we carry the name of Jesus wherever we go.