

# Army of God Website

Please share your insights with us at  
Email: 'DFASHENPOUR@GMAIL.COM'  
Subject: AOG

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I have been reading an outstanding book by Steven K. Scott, entitled The Jesus Mission. The most meaningful parts of the book are the descriptions of the 4 missions that Jesus wanted us to accomplish. Please read the book if you can, because it is truly a blessing – but in the meantime, I have outlined and summarized the **FOUR MISSIONS** that we need to accomplish. Here is Mission #1.

**Mission 1:** Become More Intimate with God – John 14:21 tells us to demonstrate our love for God by *keeping his commandments*. In John 15:5-6, He said, “I am the vine, you are the branches...” which is our road-map to bear much fruit.

**Activity 1:** Fear God – Matthew 10:28-31 tells us to not be afraid, because God watches out for each sparrow and certainly you are more value than a sparrow. David and Solomon told us that fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; in Psalm 111:10 & Proverbs 1:7; 9:10. As we fear God above all else, we can have the confidence that nothing will come upon us, without first passing through His loving will for our lives. Jesus commanded His followers not to be afraid of worldly issues (like cancer and earthquakes) because they can kill only your worldly body – but we are to fear God.

**Activity 2:** Seek First His Kingdom and Righteousness -- Christ sees this life as merely a brief precursor to eternity... we view our life as the entire book. We are to put our relationship with God and our role as one of His subjects at the **top** of our priority list. His values will become our values, and His priorities will become our priorities.

Action Item 1: Worship and Serve the Lord Only – The Lord has to be the **only** absolute authority in our lives. In Matthew 4:10, He said “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve”. He also said “No one can serve two masters... you cannot serve both God and money”, in Matthew 6:24.

Action Item 2: Store up Treasures in Heaven Instead of on Earth – Jesus said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” in Matthew 6:19-21. When we abide in Him and let His words abide in us (John 15:7-8); we bear spiritual fruit like forgiveness, mercy, and generosity.

**Activity 3:** Follow Jesus –“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” in Matthew 16:24. The path that leads to eternal life is straight and narrow. A born-again person realizes the temporary cost of following Christ is not high, when compared to the riches of eternal life.

Action Item 1: Hear His Words and Put Them into Practice – Jesus said, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock.” In John 10:27, Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me”.

Action Item 2: Do the Things That Jesus Commands – “If you love me, you will obey what I command” in John 14:15. So loving Jesus is following His teachings and He loves to be loved.

Action Item 3: Love Jesus More than Mother or Father, Son or Daughter – Do you following the teachings of your parents, your children? Jesus want you to only follow His teachings, He wants you all to himself.

Action Item 4: Take Up Your Cross and Lose Your Life for His Sake – Jesus said, “Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” in Matthew 10:38-39. The person who is carrying the cross also has lost all his rights, including the right to live as he chooses.

**Activity 4:** Accept His Yoke – “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Jesus said in Matthew 11:29-30. When two oxen are yoked together, one carries the brunt of the load – while the only is there to balance the load. Jesus invites us to come **along-side** Him and to bind ourselves to Him, rather than following along behind Him. He becomes our partner, empowering us to do that which would otherwise be impossible for us to do alone.

Action Item 1: Learn from Me – When we are yoked to Jesus, He becomes the **first** person we seek to learn from and not the **last**. We ask guidance from parents, the internet, and peers – while the creator of the Universe stands ready and waiting for us to learn from Him. It is never too late.

**Activity 5:** Pray That the Lord Will Send Out Laborers – “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38. Sixty-eight years after Christ was crucified, over one million people were following Jesus, because He asked His disciples to pray for laborers to reap the harvest. He now asks us too, to pray for laborers.

**Activity 6:** Be on High Alert for Opportunities to Serve – “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning.” In Luke 12:35. Just as jet fighter pilots lay sleeping in their flight-suits, ready for battle at a moment’s notice—we warriors too, need to be ready for service, when He sounds the alert.

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**Mission 2:** Accelerate Your Personal Growth – When we accelerate our personal growth, we win races as athletes and we begin bearing more spiritual fruit as born-again Christians. We need to begin to concentrate on our own spiritual growth and maturity, so that we may produce lasting spiritual fruit.

**Activity 1:** Be Set Apart as God's Possession – The Greek word for sanctify is *hagios* – which means 'to set apart for an uncommon higher use'. In John 17:17-19, Jesus was praying to God and said, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth." While Jesus sanctified Himself, we need an outside source for our sanctification – the Holy Spirit, using the Word of God and the example of Christ.

Action Item 1: Become Mature and Complete in Your Faith – The Greek for the word the word 'perfect' (in Matthew 5:48) is *teleios*, which means "fully mature" or "complete". Peter described what that means in 1 Peter 2:1-2, "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby". Jesus reminded us to "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." (Matthew 5:43) and "Be perfect (mature & complete), therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect..." (Matthew 5:48).

**Activity 2:** Pursue Righteousness and Godly Behavior – "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). Hunger in Greek means to be "famished and passionately craving", while the word for thirst in Greek means to be "thirsty to the point of pain". So how can we gain that kind of hunger & thirst for righteousness?

Action Item 1: Wake up to Reality about Your Standing before God – Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). The Greek word for 'poor' is *ptochos* means to be "destitute" – so Jesus said that those who are spiritually destitute will be the ones who are truly blessed. When we admit we have no righteousness on our own, then we realize we cannot gain righteousness on our own, and then we seek Christ.

**Activity 3:** Come to Me – For those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, there is no other place to run; “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” in Matthew 11:28. At Calvary, Christ became our sin that we might become His righteousness before God.

**Activity 4:** Learn from Me – He is our perfect example of righteous behavior, the pattern we are to mold our lives after. By learning from His example and abiding in His words, we discover the truth that sets us free from our enslavement to sin, please see John 8:31-36.

Action Item 1: Pursue Inner Righteousness without Hypocrisy – In Matthew 5:20, Jesus said, “For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven”. He told the Pharisees they were like “whitewashed tombs”, which look beautiful on the outside – but on the inside are full of “dead men’s bones”. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us about the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, etc.

Action Item 2: Remove from Your Life Anything That Causes You to Fall – Jesus said, “If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away” and the same with your right-hand, for “It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell”, in Matthew 5:29-30. He was speaking of temptations like addictions, lust, etc. and the “gouge it out” or “cut it off” was telling us to eliminate that evil from your life by turning away from it forever.

Action Item 3: Develop and Maintain a Grateful Spirit – Christians should be the happiest people on the planet, but sometime *circumstances* determine our good feelings and peace of mind. Christ announced His most important revelation on happiness, “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20). Rejoicing should be based on three (3) truths:

- 1) He transferred all of our sins to His own dear Son and transferred all of Christ’s righteousness to us,
- 2) While we were dead in our sins, we were born-again by God’s act of grace,
- 3) While everything else we possess can be lost or taken away, eternal life cannot be taken away.

Action Item 4: Don’t Give In to Fear – “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” (Mark 4:40). When our heart becomes fearful, Jesus tells us, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Jesus asked his followers to take these six (6) steps to be delivered from fears and anxieties.

Step 1: Take charge of your heart – Our heart is the core of our being and Jesus told His disciples “... let your hearts be troubled” in John 14:1, 27. Wrestle your heart away from circumstances and fear that controls it.

Step 2: Trust in the Father and the Son – once you have taken charge of your heart, you need to prevent it from falling backwards; you need the secret to guarding your heart. Jesus said, “Trust in God; trust also in me” (John 14:1) and “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and

they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:27-29).

Step 3: Be courageous – When the disciples were crossing the troubled lake in a boat, they thought they had seen a ghost – but it was Jesus, walking on the water, saying, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (Matthew 14:27). Upon hearing those words, their fears were instantly relieved. He gave two commands: "Take courage" and "Don't be afraid." Those two phrases were the slices of bread, surrounding the meat in the sandwich – "It is I." The source of courage and faith are in the words of Christ that will assure our heart that He is present.

Step 4: Stop doubting and start believing – Thomas missed the first appearance of Jesus, after His resurrection, and expressed his doubts about the return of Jesus. But a week later, John recorded that when Jesus appeared the second time – Thomas was present and that Jesus had Thomas place his finger through the hole in His hand and said "Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:26-29) Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!"

Step 5: Don't worry about your life, food, shelter, or other physical needs – In Matthew 6:25, Jesus tells us, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear." He was telling us again about serving two masters – we have to choose between physical items and God. Jesus does not deny the legitimacy of these needs; he simply was saying they are not to be a significant focus of your devotion, energy, or pursuit.

Step 6: Don't fear those who can kill only the body -- In Matthew 10:28, the disciples were told whom not to fear; namely those who can kill the body, but not the soul. Even deadly diseases can take a life – but that is not to be feared, because the soul is secure for eternity. We cannot control our emotions, but we can control our choices and our behavior. Our earthly lives are temporary, while our lives in Christ are eternal. Our behavior needs to reflect that truth.

**Activity 5:** Live in the Present Moment -- The future and the past are continuous obstacles to following the promptings of the Holy Spirit and living a life of faith. Even the happenings of the past 5 minutes may tend to cloud your next 5 minutes; like worrying about tomorrow morning might ruin today. In Matthew 6:34 Jesus commands, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." The reason we don't have to worry or fear tomorrow or a thousand tomorrows is because God will give us all our true needs when we pursue His kingdom and righteousness. Remember what Jesus said, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and **looks back** is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:26).

**Activity 6:** Overcome to the End – In John 16:33 Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world". Hardly the promise of a rose garden, Jesus said to His followers, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" in Matthew 16:24. He told them that they would be scattered, persecuted, and hated – but he also pointed out that they should not be worried, because He has overcome the world. In Revelation 2:26 He

said "To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations." So overcoming is being fully engaged in the mission of doing God's will right up to your final breath.

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**Mission 3:** Empower Other Believers to Better Follow Christ – In John 21:15-17, Jesus asked Peter three times, “Do you love me?” and each time Peter said yes Lord, Jesus responded with commands that defined Peter’s mission, to minister to His followers – His Sheep. Jesus was saying to Peter, that if you love me – you will feed, nurture, lead, and take care of My sheep and lambs. Surely, we must fulfill Peter’s commission as well, by empowering other believers (sheep and the lambs) to better follow Christ.

**Activity 1:** Feed and Shepherd His Sheep – The first mission of any believer in relation to other believers is to help them grow their faith *by proclaiming* the Word of God to them. That is how we feed Christ’s sheep. But there is more – as a shepherd to His sheep, we take care of them and since sheep follow shepherds, we can lead other Christians *by our example*. We must walk the path that we want them to follow. We also can tenderly take care of the sheep with love and encouragement – sheep are easily scared and scattered if they are not cared for. The Great Shepherd wants you to do for His sheep (your spouse, children, and others), what He has done and is doing for you.

Action Item 1: Love One Another As He Has Loved Us – In John 15:12-14 Jesus said, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command”. In John 13:34 He said, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another”.

Action Item 2: Become Unified in Christ – In the final prayer to The Father, in John 17:20-23, Jesus said, “My prayer is not for them (His disciples) alone. I pray also for those who believe in me... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us... to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” Are you willing to make Jesus’ great desire a high-priority in your life?

**Activity 2:** Strengthen Your Brothers and Sisters – in Luke 22:23 Jesus told Peter, “I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.” Then He gave Peter a mission activity “... strengthen your brothers.” He would want us to do the same. He strengthens us by guiding us through each day, by listening to our heart’s joys & sorrows, by giving us comfort, and by giving us the Holy Spirit. We can do

all these things with one another – with love, patience, and tenderness – and we can pray for one another.

**Activity 3:** Teach Others to Observe Everything Christ Commanded – the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19, tells us to go evangelize the world, but the end of the sentence is sometimes overlooked, in Matthew 28:20, where He asked us be “... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” He wants us to make disciples by teaching believers to obey His commands and teachings. That single act is how we express our love for Him (see John 14:15, 21, 23)



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**Mission 4:** Impact the Lives of Nonbelievers – COMING SOON

**Activity 1:** Reach Out Now

**Activity 2:** Open Your Eyes to the White Fields

**Activity 3:** Get Involved in Sowing and Reaping

**Activity 4:** Bear Fruit

**Activity 5:** Be His Witness

Action Item 1: Declare Jesus Openly

**Activity 6:** Go Out and Preach the Gospel to Everyone

**Activity 7:** Preach Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins

**Activity 8:** Speak in the Daylight What Christ Told You at Night

**Activity 9:** Be the Salt of the Earth

**Activity 10:** Be the Light of the World