

MOTIVES FOR MISSIONS

WRONG MOTIVES AND FALSE CALLS

Because of human depravity, even the best of us can do some of the finest ministry with mixed Motives.

You must not wait for your motives to be 100% pure before launching out into missions - or you will never get there. But once in the mission field you can expect God to thoroughly purify your motives.

Those who go to the mission field for predominantly wrong motives can cause a lot of grief - to themselves and those around them. These are some examples of wrong reasons for involvement in missions:

1. **The desire to escape problems at home or work** - boredom, job dissatisfaction, in-law problems, etc. (*"Escaping"* to the mission field does not work because you tend to take your problems with you.)
2. **The desire to impress other people.** Missionary children who feel obligated to follow in their parent's footsteps. Fear of disappointing college teachers, pastor, or church friends. A desire to be more holy and dedicated than one's peers. (God's Will is more important than what people think of you.)
3. **The desire to prove something to yourself.** (The mission field is **not** the place to go for an ego trip).
4. **The desire to earn favour with God.** A *"salvation by works"* mentality.
5. **Feelings of guilt and pity** for being better off than the *"downtrodden masses"* who have been *"exploited and oppressed."*
6. **Emotionalism.** Human emotions are God-given, and essential, but emotion is not a good enough basis for a call.

WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK?

1. Are you in debt? You must pay it off!
2. Are you getting too much education?
3. Are you falling in love with someone who is not committed to missions?
4. Are your parents opposed to your going?
5. Are you worried about your safety?
6. Are you afraid of failing?
7. Are you afraid of dirt, disease and discomfort?
8. Are you worried about your children?

The greatest hindrance to missionary work is self. Self that refuses to sacrifice. Self that refuses to give. Self that refuses to go. ***"Go ye therefore..."***

WHY MANY RESIST THE CALL TO MISSIONS

1. THE MYTH OF THE SUPER-SPIRITUAL MISSIONARY

Unrealistic estimation of the spiritual qualifications required. (Missionaries are ordinary Christians who face the same struggles and infirmities as other Christians, yet are responding to the Great Commission).

2. THE BURDEN OF DEPUTATION

The hard work of promoting missions, recruiting prayer supporters, inspiring others into missions and getting one's home church involved is essential but daunting.

3. THE RELUCTANCE TO MAKE A LIFE TIME COMMITMENT

The most efficient expenditure of resources is career commitment. Yet the existentialism of the "*now generation*" militates against long term commitment. We need to be committed for life to do God's Will and be flexible as to where and how God may direct us to accomplish it.

4. THE RETICENCE TO LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE

The negative experiences of many in foreign language classes at school discourage them from attempting to learn how to communicate the Gospel in the field through a foreign language. (Yet there are many mission fields where English, French, or Portuguese is needed.) Actually, language learning in the field while communicating the Gospel is a far more enjoyable and workable experience.

5. THE FEAR OF FAILURE

Many fear that they might fail to raise enough support, or fail to adjust to a new culture, or fail to learn a new language. The fear of a tough, demanding, dangerous, or difficult job in unfamiliar surroundings. The fear of the unknown deters many from launching out in obedience and faith. "*Nothing ventured - nothing gained.*" (Example of John Mark – failed and deserted Paul but later returned, repented and recovered to become an assistant to Paul and Peter and author of the Gospel of Mark.) There is a general lack of direction and commitment. A paralyzing passivity and inertia. "***Look at the Fields***" John 4:35. Commitment and obedience will open up God's blessings.

WHY MANY WHO RESPOND TO THE CALL ARE SIDETRACKED

1. LOVE AND MARRIAGE

Many prospective missionaries get sidetracked by marrying someone who is not willing to be a missionary.

2. PARENTAL OPPOSITION

The tension between honouring our parents and obeying the Lord (Matthew 10:37).

3. FINANCIAL DEBTS

Good intentions crippled by unwise choices and enslaving debt.

But Christ must come first.

WHY SHOULD THE HEATHEN BE EVANGELISED?

1. THE BIBLE IS TRUE

"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." Romans 1:16

2. ALL MANKIND IS LOST

"As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one'. 'Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit'; 'The poison of asps is under their lips'; 'Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness'. Their 'feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known'. 'There is no fear of God before their eyes.' Now we know that whatever the Law says, it says to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the Law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the Law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Romans 3:10-23

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:18

3. DEATH IS INEVITABLE

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the Judgment" Hebrews 9:27

4. JUDGEMENT IS CERTAIN

"because He has appointed a Day on which He will Judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." Acts 17:31

"For as many as have sinned without Law will also perish without Law, and as many as have sinned in the Law will be Judged by the Law (for not the hearers of the Law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the Law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the Law, by nature do the things in the Law, these, although not having the Law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the Day when God will Judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my Gospel." Romans 2:12-16

5. HELL IS REAL

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it." Matthew 7:13

"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:46

"Then I saw a great white Throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the Heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were Judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were Judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11-15

6. THERE IS ONLY ONE **GOD**

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Ephesians 4:5-6

"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22

7. **GOD LOVES** THE WHOLE WORLD

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:3- 4

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

8. THE WHOLE **WORLD** BELONGS TO GOD

"The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein." Psalm 24:1

"If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness." Psalm 50:12

9. THE NATIONS ARE THE **INHERITANCE** OF THE MESSIAH

"I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'you are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession." Psalm 2:7- 8

"A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." Luke 2:32

"For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You'? And again: 'I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son'?" Hebrews 1:5

10. **JESUS DIED** FOR ALL MANKIND

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

"All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the Kingdom is the Lord's, and He rules over the nations. All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship; all those who go down to the dust shall bow before Him, even he who cannot keep himself alive. A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of

the Lord to the next generation, they will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has done this." Psalm 22:27-31

*"And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."
1 John 2:2*

11. JESUS SAVES

"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:15

"Then they said to the woman, 'Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world'." John 4:42

12. JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

"Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives." 1 Timothy 2:5-6

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:15

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'." John 14:6

13. THERE IS NO SALVATION OUTSIDE OF JESUS

"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." 1 John 5:9-12

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

14. JESUS LEFT US AN EXAMPLE

"But He said to them, 'Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.'" Mark 1:38

"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." Matthew 9:35-36

"but He said to them, 'I must preach the Kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.'" Luke 4:43

"So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'" John 20:21

15. JESUS **COMMANDS** US

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen." Matthew 28:18-20

"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.'" Mark 16:15

"and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24:47

"So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'" John 20:21

16. THE **LOVE** OF CHRIST COMPELS US

"So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the Gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us." 1 Thessalonians 2:8

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. 'This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30, 31

"For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

17. THE LORD IS **WORTHY** OF ALL PRAISE, WORSHIP AND HONOUR

"saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!' And every creature which is in Heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: 'Blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits on the Throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!'" Rev. 5:12-13

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His Name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. 1 Chronicles 16:8, 24-25

18. THE **HOLY SPIRIT** IMPELS US

"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of Judgment." John 16:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

19. THE **PROPHECIES** MUST BE FULFILLED

"And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the Throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands," Rev 7:9

20. TO SPEED HIS RETURN

"And the Gospel must first be preached to all the nations." Mark 13:10

"looking for and hastening the coming of the Day of God, because of which the Heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?" 2 Peter 3:12

21. GOD'S WILL MUST BE DONE

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 5:10

"Be still, and know that I am God; will be exalted among the nations, will be exalted in the earth!" Psalm 46:10

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

22. THE NEED IS GREAT

"Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few.'" Matthew 9:37

23. THE OPPORTUNITY IS UNPRECEDENTED

"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" John 4:35

24. OUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

"When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand." Ezekiel 3:18

"For if I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel!" 1 Corinthians 9:16

"For 'whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.' How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'" Romans 10:13-15

"May Your ways be known on earth, Your Salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise You, O God; may all the peoples praise You." Psalm 67:2-3

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