

Missions Untangled

Released by God's Calling



“Missions Unraveled”

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GOD’S CALLING

INTRODUCTION: The beginning of your missionary journey begins with prayer... knowing that God has called you to missions and is sending you on the mission field.

I. God’s call on your life

1. Never too _____ to have the call of God
 - a. Ask Jesus to take over your life
 - b. Commit your life to Him and He will guide you
2. Marriage should be in _____ for missions calling
Go on short trips to foreign fields to see if you are called
_____ through Prophecy -
3. Power of _____
4. Beware of misnomers that can lead you the wrong way
“I’m the adventurous type so I’ll be perfect for missions”
“My parents were missionaries so I am called to be one”
5. Effective missions is through “plodding”, not superstars.

II. Following Jesus

- A. Mark 8:34-36 And He summoned the multitudes with His disciples, and said to them, “ If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s shall save it For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?
 - a. Avoid immorality: (sex outside of marriage), impurity (thinking sexual thoughts or pornography), sensuality (dressing with sexual temptation), idolatry (making Gods of ungodly things or people), sorcery (fortune tellers or witch doctors), enmities (enemies) , strife (causing someone to get angry), jealousy (wishing you had something or someone you don’t), outbursts actions of anger, disputes (arguments), dissensions (complaints), factions (or splits in unity), envying (wanting something you do not have) , drunkenness, carousing (partying with alcohol), and things like these, of which I forewarn you that

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those who practice these things shall not inherit the kingdom of God

- b. James 4:7 Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee
- c. When you fall to sin remember what the Bible says for if you confess your sin He is righteous and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9
 - 1. Knowing this will give you spiritual strength to avoid this sin in the future
- 2. B. What does it mean to take up your cross – does it mean we will die like Christ did by crucifixion? No it means:
 - a. Know that you will be persecuted in following Jesus like the disciples were
 - 1. Spiritual forces from Satan that do not want you to be successful
 - 2. If Satan can hold you down and keep you from witnessing to others, he has won
 - b. Your cross may be a physical health issue you are struggling with
 - c. Your cross may be a relationship that has gone bad or one that needs to go bad if you are dating a non-christian. (Unequal yoke)
 - d. Your cross may be an unsuccessful job or company
 - e. It may be your children who are hard to handle
- 2. To take up our cross means to move on, or sometimes to just accept it, or else do what you can to change it – but don't just sit there doing nothing and feeling sorry for yourself
- 3. Remember though what the Bible says: “We struggle not against flesh and blood but against principalities (or Satan” – so expect Satan to confront us with problems. Satan hates when Christianity advances

III. How to follow Him?

- 1. Obey the _____ He gives you
 - a. Obey His commandments – They are part of His guidance to protect us
 - b. Follow His guidance when you know He is leading you
 - c. Doing these two things _____ in God speaking

V. After committing your life to Christ expect deterrents to side-track God's call

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1. “This doesn’t make sense”
2. “You are too old”
3. Immigration issues
4. Family advice
5. Financial Support

IV. Test your Call

1. Go on a few short term missions trips to different countries with different organizations
 - a. Is missions a match with your personality and interest?
 - b. Do you have a heart for the people?
 - c. Have you acquired a servant’s heart?
 - d. What did God say to you in His still, silent voice?

V. Scriptures regarding God’s Call

1. If you seek him, he will be found by you (1 Chron 28:9)
2. Seek the Lord while He may be found; follow Him while He is still there. Isa 55:6
3. Ask and it will be given to you, Seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you Matthew 7:7

VIII. In closing, missionary life is very _____.

RAISING FUNDS AND SETTING THE APPOINTMENT

INTRODUCTION: Going on the mission field, you will need to secure funding for a period of time. Asking people for their donations might not be something you want to do, but it is essential; an act of faith and your walking with God to accomplish the funding need for your stay overseas.

- A. Why all the emphasis on setting the appointment in support raising? It is key! Many mission organizations do not give their approval for your trip until you have your funding established and in place.
- B. The first step before making calls is to do what? _____. Be open and honest with God about your fears, your insecurities, your inexperience in phone calling, etc. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to give you peace and the right words to say and to soften the heart of your prospect.

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- C. As I mentioned before, the most important ingredient contributing to your success or failure in raising support is getting a what? An _____ . Can you expect people to call you to offer support? Sample phone call offering support No one has ever done that to me in 5 years.
- D. Your Goals for setting appointments – formula and example (your numbers will differ)

In closing I believe if Jesus was here now conducting this training in person, he would ask each of you what John the Baptist asked his followers to ask Jesus, “Are you the one to come (to the mission field) or should we expect someone else?” That is my question to each of you today. If you truly are the one Jesus has selected to go to the mission field, you will make these painful calls and appointments to raise your support in a timely manner.

1. God needs to know if He can trust us before releasing us to the mission field
2. This is a test from God to gage your motivation to become a missionary. There is a positive or negative correlation depending on how you respond and how hard you try.

ASSESSING AN AREA

INTRODUCTION: In the Book of Numbers Chapter 13 - Story of Joshua and Caleb and the ten other spies sent to scope out or assess Canaan, the land God said to conquer, the promise land flowing with milk and honey.

A. It is essential that you investigate and assess the area you will go to before you move.

B. Some valuable lessons in assessing an area. – 1st Visit the area

1. Joshua and Caleb knew God directed them into Canaan. Visit was valuable to determine how they could conquer these enemies in Canaan with God’s help –

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- a. Should they obey God or let their own worldly **senses rule?**
 - b. God will also help you conquer issues in the field when you follow Him wholeheartedly
2. The other ten spies – led by fear
 - a. grasshoppers
 - b. Cities were large and well protected.
 - c. **This far outweighed the description of the land flowing with milk and honey in their minds**
 - d. **Incited a rebellion** - motivated by _____
 - 1). Stoning Caleb, Joshua, and Moses and anyone else who followed them.
 - 2). The dissenters even talked about returning back to Egypt instead
3. Joshua and Caleb _____ the same cities, the same people, the same soil, - different reports, a good report to Moses
 - a. Difference was Joshua and Caleb were following God Wholeheartedly and the 10 spies were led by fear
 2. This is our challenge as missionaries: Follow God wholeheartedly. He will make a way where there is no way.
4. God led the Israelites back into the wilderness where all the dissenters died. So the dissenters never were permitted enter the promise land but Joshua and Caleb were.
 - a. Consequences for not following God’s direction
5. Moses also prohibited from entering Canaan – why?
 - a. God’s Direction: speak to the rock to get water and instead he struck the rock twice causing the waters at Meribah to flow yet dishonoring God in the process through his ego getting in the way. It was a show of Moses’ power instead of God’s
6. Results: God rewarded Joshua and Caleb for their faithfulness:
 - a. Joshua became the exalted leader of the Israelites after Moses

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b. Caleb received some of the choicest land, the pastureland and villages around Hebron, and at age 85 years old he was as strong as when he was 40 and entering to spy out Canaan.

7. Israelites still had to fight their enemies to conquer Canaan.

a. Missionaries will have battles also. Satan does not give up without a fight.

b. God rewarded Joshua and Caleb for following God wholeheartedly and He will do the same for Christians who follow Him

c. So, after assessing an area, if God says go forward... go

1. Review the surrounding circumstances:

2. Know the challenges and the blessings

3. Just like when the Israelites explored Canaan, explore the land, people, and food.

In summary, see if the climate, the expenses, the living conditions, the spiritual needs, etc. in the area match with your capabilities. Meet with as many resource people as you can during the trip for answers to your questions. A pastor in the area is a great resource since he will give you the straight story on conditions in the area and can introduce you to other people who can help.

8. THREE RULES FOR MISSIONARIES:

1). _____ the anointing (walk in righteousness- you are a witness to the people even during your first trip there in the assessment)

2). Never _____ (there is security in numbers – especially in assessing an area you are not familiar with – so not venture out alone especially since you do not know the area)

3). Whatever it takes (_____ for success in ministry – in this case be as complete in the assessment as possible).

9. Essential: First thing, find an interpreter

a. Your lodge is a great resource for information like this.

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10. Purchase a phone right away and/or a **Sim Card**. Your phone is your life line abroad.

11. Visit the area hospital soon after arriving and the local doctor.

12. Above all, pray and read your Bible before proceeding on an investigative trip

a. Proverbs 16:3 says Commit to the Lord whatever you do and He will establish your plans

a. Pledge and dedicate yourself and your ministry to God before the trip for the assessment

b. Commit your investigation to God to direct you in what to see, what Note what are the pertinent analyses

3. Have faith that God will establish your plans to be in His will

b. Matthew 28:20 "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." These were some of the last words Jesus spoke to his disciples before sending them out, on their own, to carry the gospel to unbelievers. These words are also for us as foreign missionaries to help us to know that we can trust God in any direction He gives us.

c. "If you seek him (God), he will be found by you; if you forsake him, he will forsake you." (2 Chronicles 15:2)

d. Our job is seek God's direction, and follow it. God will then bless you and His work through you like He did for Joshua and Caleb.

E. WHEN YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS ENDING, SEEK NEW ASSIGNMENT:

SPREAD THE NEW WIDE

INTRODUCTION: As God sends you, go with an expectation to reach many people using many areas of ministry. Do not focus on yourself and your abilities, limiting yourself by what you consider you can do, but keep focused on what God can do. He is unlimited!

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- A. God’s _____ – Spread the Net Wide - Why and how. Consider ministry _____.
 - 1. Highlight some the types of ministries available – describe each
 - a. God’s direction to me – impact as many people as possible with the gospel in remote areas
- B. Risk – spreading yourself too thin
 - Ministering in uncomfortable areas
 - Key is to start your day in prayer daily
- C. Influence as many people for Christ as possible
 - d. Training of prospective missionaries
 - e. Build a list of prospective ministry areas

MIRACLES

INTRODUCTION: Why miracles are for today - scripture supports our expectation for miracles today.

A. Types of Miracles:

- 1. God can and does work through doctors
- 2. Circumstances that are too coincidental
- 3. Healing of the sick through faith in God’s Word

A. What the Bible says about Miracles

- 1. James 5:14-15 says, “Is anyone among you sick? Let them call for the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up.”
- 2. Mark 16:17-18 says, “And these signs will accompany those who believe, in my name they will drive out demons...they will place their hands on sick people [in prayer] and they will get well.”
- 3. Luke 10:18 also confirms that we have authority over these demons: “He [Jesus] replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven. I have given you authority ... to overcome all the power of the enemy [Satan].”

B. Why is God still using miracles?

- 1. To _____ Himself
- 2. To impact people’s _____ –

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C. Where do we see the most miracles? – Mostly _____ of Africa – Why?

1. No doctors, clinics, medications close by
2. Faith – God is the first and last resort not just a “well if nothing else works I will pray to God”

D. How do we pray for people?

1. _____ if a small group – laying hands on them & praying in faith
2. _____ if very few ministers to pray – Raise their hands and pray for that ailment all at once. Move on to next ailment

E. Skepticism –

1. Testimony of boy with closed eye – prayed twice
2. Elijah prayed for boy 3 times to raised from dead 1 Kings 17:18-24

FLEXIBILITY IN BEING SPIRIT LED

INTRODUCTION: Being led by the Spirit is the key to your success on the mission field. Accomplishing eternal purposes and God’s purposes necessitates that we listen to what the Spirit of God is saying today and be led by the Spirit of God.

A. Not being led by Spirit, when we are lead by

1. _____ decisions
2. _____ decisions – Idol – pride – No changes like cancellations
3. Our on rules and priorities – In by dark
4. Medical preservation –
5. Results - ineffectiveness

B. We may accomplish a lot but possibly not what God wanted. We are limited by:

1. Closed doors
2. Ceiling on commitments to Christ and His work through us
3. Failures
4. Ineffectiveness

C. No blueprint for ministering on the foreign field other than letting the Holy Spirit lead you in who, what, where, when why, and how to minister

D. Scriptures related to the Spirit

1. “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God ... the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” Romans 8:14-15
2. “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?”
3. Ask God for direction and guidance and He will give it to you. (see Matthew 7:9)

E. On the mission field it is important to seek after as many spiritual gifts as possible

1. We struggle not against flesh and blood (humans) but against the spiritual forces of evil. (See Ephesians 6:12)
2. In My name (Jesus’ name) you will cast out demons Mark 16:17
3. (“He (Jesus) is the head over every power and authority” Jesus has given us this same authority. Colossians 2:10
4. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit (of God) is given for the common good” 1 Corinthians Chapter 12: 7-11
5. Apostle Paul said that he spoke in tongues more than any of the people around him (See 1 Corinthians 14:18)
6. Romans 8:14-15 “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God ... the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”
7. Matthew 7:9 “which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?” Ask God for direction and guidance and He will give it to you.
We struggle not against flesh and blood (humans) but against the spiritual forces of evil. (See Ephesians 6:12)
8. 1 Corinthians chapter 12: 7-11 “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit (of God) is given for the common good”

You don’t fight a fire with a squirt gun and you don’t fight a spiritual battle with human strategy. You fight the fire of evil forces with the fire of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the spirit and intercessory prayer.

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H. The other reason we walk in the Spirit is to not gratify the desires of the flesh or sin (See Galatians 5:16) 1).

I. KEEP IN YOUR HEART:

“If you seek Him (Jesus) He will be found by you But if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.” (2 Chronicles 15:2)

Read _____ – most of God’s direction to us comes from scripture

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11