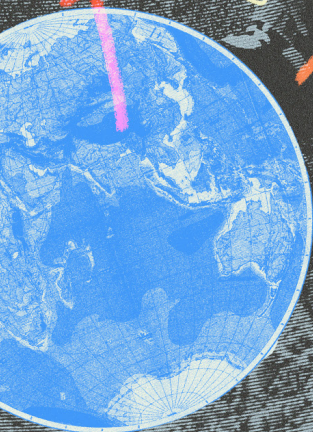


REV YTH

MISSIONS

DEVOTIONAL



INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE DAILY MISSIONS

FOR, "EVERYONE WHO
CALLS ON THE NAME OF
THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."
HOW, THEN, CAN THEY CALL
ON THE ONE THEY HAVE
NOT BELIEVED IN? AND
HOW CAN THEY BELIEVE IN
THE ONE OF WHOM THEY
HAVE NOT HEARD? AND
HOW CAN THEY HEAR
WITHOUT SOMEONE
PREACHING TO THEM? AND
HOW CAN ANYONE PREACH
UNLESS THEY ARE SENT?
AS IT IS WRITTEN: "HOW
BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET
OF THOSE WHO BRING
GOOD NEWS!"

ROMANS 10:13-15

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ROMANS 10:13-15



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DEVOTIONAL ONE: GOD FIRST, EVERYTHING ELSE SECOND MIKAELA GENO

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33

You, as a young person, are at a stage where big life decisions begin to appear. Questions about study, work, marriage and more can feel overwhelming. The future often seems uncertain, but the good news is we are never alone in navigating it.

As Christians, we want to please God with our choices. Yet sometimes it's hard to know His will. What do we do when we don't hear clearly, or when we're unsure of where he is leading?

Our verse today gives the answer: seek God first. We may not see the full picture, but God does. Life is like a puzzle, God sees the complete image, while we only see a few pieces. Our part is to take one step at a time, trusting him with what comes next.

From a young age, I sensed a call to missions. I didn't always fully understand what that meant, but I looked for ways to be involved, such as joining short-term trips, welcoming people from other nations into our home, and choosing university degrees that might prepare me for future ministry. Looking back, I see how those small steps led me into the mission work I do today, from serving in Papua New Guinea as a missionary to partnering with churches and ministries across the world.

If you're uncertain about your future, don't be afraid. Start by seeking God first. If missions is on your heart, look for simple ways to get involved now (i.e. pray, give, or serve). As you take each small step, God will guide you, open doors, and use you in His great mission.

Reflection Questions:

1. What's one step you can take this week to seek God first?
2. How can you support or get involved in missions right where you are

DEVOTIONAL TWO: THE GIFT OF PEACE PASTOR BROCK SMITH

"Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21 NIV

Peace. Sometimes it can feel elusive in our lives, and often when we realise we need it, it feels the furthest away. We live in a busy world, full of distractions, expectations and interactions. I know for me, between school or work, ministry, keeping up with relationships and trying to have some kind of social life, I can easily end up feeling stretched thin... maybe you've felt that too? Often, we recognise a lack of peace in our life as stress, overwhelm, irritability, procrastination or fatigue. Climbing out or trying to escape these symptoms then becomes a task that adds further burden to our lives. However, the truth that Jesus wants us to know is that we don't have to work for our peace – that is, we don't earn it. Jesus extends His peace to us, and we have the promise that we will find it in His presence.

In this passage, the word peace is translated from the original Greek word Eirene (i-ray'-nay). Eirene goes beyond the English definition for peace, "tranquility", and instead describes peace as a gift that brings about wholeness in our lives. The truth is that Jesus, the true source of peace, provides structure, wholeness and completeness to our lives. He is the missing piece the world is still trying to find. And He doesn't keep Himself, or His peace, hidden from us. Instead, He says "peace be with you!". We can approach Jesus and know that in His presence, we will receive His ever-accessible gift of peace. As Christians, peace is essential in our walk with Him. It gives us the confidence to trust who we are in Christ and to share our faith. Naturally, people are drawn to peace. Just as Jesus has come with peace, we are to bring His peace with us as we move into the world. We can be grateful in knowing that experiencing peace is a whole lot less about us, and what we do; instead it's all about Him.

Spend the next 10 minutes with Jesus, and consider:

1. Where do you need peace the most right now?
2. How are you trying to earn peace through your actions rather than through surrender to Jesus?
3. How can you draw near to Jesus today?

DEVOTIONAL THREE: HERE I AM PASTOR RACHEL LANE

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

You don't have to read very far through the Bible to find that God doesn't ask for people to have it all together before He uses them. Isaiah was a prophet of the Old Testament, used powerfully by God to challenge the leaders of Jerusalem. Earlier in this chapter, Isaiah had been radically transformed by God's forgiveness, and here we see his response: a willing heart, ready to be sent out and used by God.

You might have big dreams for how God could use you one day. If you do, that's great! But often God will use the small moments of everyday obedience to grow and prepare us for what He has in store. Just like Isaiah, he desires for us to develop worshipful, willing hearts in response to all He's done. We see in today's verse that Isaiah didn't need to be convinced to obey; it was his natural response to the incredible love and grace God had poured out to him. Isaiah was so thankful that he was willing to go anywhere and do anything God required of him. Challenging, right?! But when we've truly met Jesus and experienced all the spiritual blessings that are ours in Christ, it's our natural response to want to live for Him every day!

Reflection

Do you ever discredit yourself from being used by God? How might thinking through the kinds of people God uses in the Bible change your perspective?

What is your usual response when you see little opportunities to be used by God in your day-to-day life?

Where could God use you today if you genuinely prayed, "Here I am, send me"?

REFLECTIONS

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DEVOTIONAL FOUR: THE HEART TO OBEY PASTOR JEREMY STEEL

Genesis 12:1 – “The Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.’”

When God spoke to Abram, He didn’t give him the full plan. He didn’t hand him a GPS pin or promise that everything would be easy. He just said: “Go.” And Abram went. That’s the heart of missions—choosing to follow Jesus even when you don’t know what’s around the corner.

Obedying Jesus isn’t always safe or comfortable. Sometimes it means leaving behind what feels familiar and stepping into something that feels risky. But following Jesus is also the greatest adventure you’ll ever live. Every “yes” to Him leads to something bigger than you could ever imagine.

When my wife and I first stepped into missions, we were young parents with three little kids. God spoke to us clearly and confirmed through our leaders that we should go to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. It wasn’t the safest or easiest choice. But our heart was set to obey. And that’s what mission is all about—a heart that says, “Jesus, wherever You lead, I’ll follow.”

Challenge

Will you choose to live with a heart that says “yes” to Jesus—even when it’s risky, even when it feels unknown? Saying yes is the start of the greatest adventure you’ll ever walk.

Reflection Questions

1. What comforts or fears might stop me from saying “yes” to Jesus?
2. How do I usually react when God asks me to step out of what feels safe?
3. Am I willing to trust Jesus with the unknown parts of my life?

DEVOTIONAL FIVE: NOTHING WASTED PASTOR MARK WALKER

When Jesus rises to greet you!

What would make the King of Kings stand up from His throne? Since Christ rose from the dead and returned to heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father (Luke 22:69, Ephesians 1:20), yet the Bible records a time when Jesus stood to watch a man called Stephen die and to welcome him into heaven (Acts 7:54-60).

So, who was Stephen? Read Acts 6:3-8 to discover several reasons why he was chosen to serve in the church.

He was full of the Holy Spirit and _____(v3), plus _____(v5), as well as _____ and _____(v8).

And he was even good-looking (Act 6:15, unless “his face was like the face of an angel” is just a way of saying it was shining). Yet, we only have a record of one sermon he preached, and he was killed for that!

What a waste! I’d use every resource at my disposal to keep people like him alive as long as possible. We know Jesus doesn’t lack resources! But instead of stopping the mob execution, he stands to welcome Stephen as the first Christian martyr. Here’s a lesson for us; nothing that happens to people who love and serve God is wasted (Romans 8:28). Standing in that murderous crowd, and approving what they did, was a young man called Saul (Acts 7:57-8:1). Later this may have troubled Saul’s conscience (Acts 9:5 NKJV) and become part of the process the Lord used to transform Saul into the great apostle and missionary to the Gentiles we know as Paul – making Stephen’s shortened life much more fruitful than if he had lived a normal lifespan.

Questions:

1. Could God fill you with those same qualities that made Stephen useful?
2. Have you asked him to? If no, why not ask him right now.

REFLECTIONS

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DEVOTIONAL SIN: YOU ARE A LABOURER! PASTOR MALCOLM TAYLOR

Read Matt 9:37-38.

In the context of this verse, Jesus sees the multitudes as sheep without a shepherd. He sees them as a harvest that is ready for bringing in. He sees them with compassion. He did not judge them for their lifestyle. He wants them to be brought in. First, they are brought into the kingdom, then their lifestyle changes.

Where is the harvest today?

The harvest is around us. It is where we live. It is in our towns and cities. It is in our nation. It is in every nation. Jesus has told us to pray for labourers in the harvest.

Who are the labourers?

We are. We are the ones sent into the harvest. We are labourers and we are missionaries.

How does the Lord send?

He changes our thinking. He changes it from natural thinking to kingdom thinking so that we see the harvest in a different way.

Natural thinking is that I am not able to contribute. The problems relating to the harvest coming in are greater than my little strength and my small gifting.

Many Christians want to labour in the harvest but, through natural thinking, feel that they do not have the ability to be effective.

Labourers think differently to those who do not labour for the harvest. Labourers are willing to work in the harvest but there is more than this. Labourers see the harvest and themselves in a different way to those who do not labour. For us to be effective labourers who Jesus sends into His harvest, we have to change our thinking regarding the harvest.

How do we change our thinking regarding the harvest so that Jesus can send us? He wants to send labourers!

I want to mention two ways of thinking that can prevent us from labouring in the harvest.

The first is that THE HARVEST is not ready yet.

The second is that WE are not ready or equipped yet.

To answer the first, consider John 4:35. The harvest is ready. With our natural eyes, we see strongholds of sin around us. They empower sinful lifestyles that are resistant to the things of God. BUT With my spiritual eyes, I see that where sin abounds, grace abounds much more powerfully. Romans 5:20. Jesus saves and changes lives to the uttermost through the preaching of the gospel. The message of the cross that is on our lips and in our heart is able to bring in every harvest. The harvest is ready!

The second thing relates to ourselves. We need to see ourselves labouring, not as an individual but as a team. The local church is a team. So also is a missions team that is properly sent to a nation. The team brings in the harvest. Every member of the team is needed and is a contributor.

Jesus, who calls us to labour in the harvest, has equipped us with ministry abilities that are needed for the team. We may not be a leader or even in the leadership in the team but we have spiritual gifts that are needed for the team to bring in the harvest. We may be good at hospitality. We may be a helper or an encourager. We may be good at organising or at obtaining finances and resources that are needed. These gifts are needed in the team as much as every other gift that is in the team. Our gift, used in the team, helps bring in the harvest.

Let us keep changing our thinking to see that we, in whatever circumstance we are in today, are needed and powerful labourers in the harvest.

Let us do the following:

1. Meditate on this. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is much greater than the greatest stronghold of sin in the community.
2. Ask this question. What is the part that I am equipped to provide to my local church or to the missions team that is in the harvest field?

REFLECTIONS

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REFLECTIONS

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YOUR KINGDOM

Matthew 6:10
Come

YOUR WILL

Be Done *Matthew 6:10*

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Matthew 6:10



DEVOTIONAL SEVEN: THE EQUIPPER ANJA ROSSELEE

(May God) equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:21

Through this passage, we are reminded that God is the great equipper- continually at work in us to outwork His will. We are invited to participate in what God is doing through what Christ has already done. At rest in the work that is complete, and pressing forward into the things ahead as we offer ourselves as vessels- with surrendered hearts and willing attitudes as we submit to His leadership. We get to know Jesus as our shepherd, with faith that He directs, sustains and protects, that we may boldly profess His name and freely offer our praise- holding to the fact that we are fully redeemed, and this is a pleasing offering in the sight of the Father.

Thus, we are enabled to live a life of contentment, confident in God our helper who will never forsake!!

Having taken on His nature, it becomes our desire to live in a way that is honourable and brings glory to God as we live in the reality of the freedom we have received as His heirs. By the atoning, eternal sacrifice of Jesus that makes us holy and righteous, and by the power of His Spirit that is at work in us - to His own glory and in alignment with His will, God will work in us what is pleasing to Him. We are given the opportunity to respond with faith that the love and grace of Christ can and will flow through us; transforming us in heart, mind, soul and deed. Grace given that we may extend it to others, loved that we may love extravagantly; as love Himself dwells within us, blessed with every abundance that we may be a blessing to others; to the benefit of the world and for the glory of God!

May you be encouraged to rest in the freedom you have in Christ, content and confident in He who sustains you. That you can profess His name with boldness and share His goodness with others - as you intentionally position yourself to receive from the source of all love, peace and grace, that it may be the overflow of your life- bringing hope to others and glory to God.

DEVOTIONAL EIGHT: MISSION POSSIBLE PASTOR PETER HAUJE

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

The key word in this verse for me personally is the word “WITNESSES”

The Holy Spirit comes upon us to empower us so that we may become WITNESSES for Christ. (The Purpose)

1: Inner Transformation

We must experience real evidence of tangible transformation in our lives first if we want to become effective witnesses for Christ. And that’s what the Holy Spirit will do so it gives us assurance to witness with confidence.

2: The Revelation of the Cross and the Scars of Jesus.

As they say “ Knowledge is Power” so the Holy Spirit comes upon us to make Christ suffering on the Cross, death and resurrection alive and real to us so that we can become effective WITNESSES (see John 14:26 & John 20:20-21)

3: Willingness to Go

I have always believed that all mankind are sinful, blind, lost, stubborn and very selfish. One of the main things I believe the Holy Spirit does in our hearts is to remove the old hearts and put a new and willing heart..

We will never be willing to leave our comfort zone, cross boundaries into different cultures and go a long distance to be WITNESSES for Christ unless the Holy Spirit changes us, and gives us a willing heart to go. (see Ezekiel 36:26–27)

Mission is Possible

**DEVOTIONAL NINE:
READY IN EVERY SEASON
PASTOR LOIS CRONIN**

"...preach the word [as an official messenger]; be ready when the time is right and even when it is not [keep your sense of urgency, whether the opportunity seems favourable or unfavourable, whether convenient or inconvenient, whether welcome or unwelcome]; correct [those who err in doctrine or behaviour], warn [those who sin], exhort and encourage [those who are growing toward spiritual maturity], with inexhaustible patience and [faithful] teaching." 2 Timothy 4:2 AMP

In 2024, I was on a 5-week missions trip in Africa. We had a strenuous schedule where preaching required a download from the Holy Spirit, as there was no time to prepare. We were in Harare, Zimbabwe & I was due to preach that night. I was wondering who in the team I could handball the preaching to; I was tired & just wanted a night off (a day for that matter). A story had come to mind for preaching & as I looked at the passage in Judges 6, this scripture stood out:

Judges 6:14 NLT "Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, I am sending you!"

So, I went in the strength I had (relying on the Holy Spirit).

You may not feel competent, equipped or things may not be convenient for you; yet Paul encourages you to be ready at any time – to share His Word with others; to be used by the Lord to not only encourage but to confront where necessary.

In discipling others, it requires much patience & repetition to see people come into spiritual maturity.

For further reflection:

1. Which instruction in this passage do you find the most challenging?
2. Do you allow others to confront you?
3. What aspect from 2 Timothy 4:2 do you think the Holy Spirit is asking you to prayerfully focus on?

For deeper reflection:

Note the context of 2Timothy 4: 2 [2 Timothy 3:10-2 Timothy 4:8; Paul's instruction to his disciple Timothy, not long before he died]

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DEVOTIONAL TEN: MISSIONS IS AN EMERGENCY JOEL KEN

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." Matthew 10:5-8

In Matthew 10, Jesus sent out His twelve disciples.

First, he chose their mission field, "the lost sheep of Israel." Christ chooses your audience, which can be determined in various ways, whether by prophecy, providence or plain wisdom. Usually, a mixture of all three.

Second, he clarified their message, "The kingdom of heaven is near!" Our message is always the Gospel. But, however, the Gospel is preached, it must make sense to the people being preached to. A lost Israel, under Roman occupation, longed for the kingdom. This message targeted their hopes and swayed their fears.

Third, he taught that appropriate signs accompanied the message, "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons." People get sick, everyone dies, and demons influence society for the worse. But you won't find sick people, dead people, lepers and demons in the kingdom of heaven. And that's the point. The "kingdom of heaven" message was to be accompanied by a sign of heaven.

Fourth, he determined the attitude behind ministry: "Freely you received, freely give." The Gospel was free for you. And so, may the church be a "giving" community, rather than a "taking." Christians who cheerfully give their time, talent and treasure are supporting the free distribution of the Gospel in their area, as well as the spiritual activity that occurs throughout the week.

Lastly, he set the pace and posture of ministry: "If anyone will not listen to your message, shake the dust off your feet." By referencing Sodom, which, in Genesis, was an emergency situation, Christ is setting the pace of ministry: you share the message, people believe it or they don't - and the church keeps moving. Ministry is an emergency. And like Abraham, who stood before the Lord for both the sake of God's reputation and the state of the people in Sodom, the church can also posture themselves before the Lord for the sake of God's name and the people who live in their area.

DEVOTIONAL ELEVEN: A HEART FULL OF COMPASSION BEK BEER

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick." Matthew 14:14 NIV

I am so moved and challenged by this verse and the compassion of Jesus, as at this time, Jesus had just heard the news that His relative and close friend John the Baptist had been beheaded. Verse 13 shares that upon hearing this, Jesus left privately by boat to spend some time alone. Yet, when he saw the crowd, a large crowd, in excess of five thousand people, he was moved with compassion. Rather than ignoring them and choosing to be alone, to grieve and process the news, he went and poured out and began healing them.

As we live, every day on mission, would our hearts be so in tune with the Father's that we are moved with compassion for people. Setting aside our own desires and needs, to love, serve and help others. Would we also be "interruptable", always having time for people, no matter what's going on in our own lives, and never passing up the opportunity to share the love of Jesus.

Pray today that God would create in us a heart like Jesus. That we would increase our compassion and love for others, be His hands and feet. A light bearer to those around us. As we draw closer to God, would we know His heart. Pray that he would transform us and increase our compassion for the needs of people.

REFLECTIONS

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**DEVOTIONAL TWELVE:
SO ALL MY PRAISE TO HIM
PASTOR NORMA GAYZER**

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us – so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise you, God; may all the people praise you." Psalm 67:1-3

The opening verses of Psalm 67 remind us that God's blessing is never meant to stop with us; it is always meant to overflow to others. The psalmist prays for God's grace, favour, and shining presence, not simply for personal comfort, but so that the whole world might come to know His ways and His salvation. This short but powerful prayer shows the missionary heart of God.

In verse 1, the request for God's blessing echoes the priestly blessing of Numbers 6:24–26:

“The Lord bless you and keep you... the Lord make His face shine upon you.” Yet verse 2 immediately shifts the focus outward: so that God’s ways may be known among the nations. The psalmist sees blessing not as a private possession but as a divine resource to draw all peoples into worship. Finally, verse 3 captures the desired outcome: universal praise. God blesses His people so that His name will be glorified among every nation, tribe, and tongue.

This challenges us today. Do we view God's blessings—our resources, time, talents, and gifts—as tools for mission? Are we praying not only for ourselves but for the nations to come to know Him?

Reflection/Action Point:

1. Ask yourself: How can I allow God's blessings in my life to point others to Him?
2. Pray and commit to letting your life reflect God's shining face to the world.
3. Commit to supporting or engaging in mission so that "all the peoples" might praise Him.

DEVOTIONAL THIRTEEN: DOMINION OVER ALL PASTOR SHIAN D'COSTA

**For dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations.
Psalm 22:28 NIV**

God is the God of the universe. He hasn't just created everything, He rules over and reigns over everything as King Almighty. To have 'dominion' means to have sovereign reign and control.

I would like to remind you of something. Our God is not a mean taskmaster, bossing us around and trying to force us to live a life without freedom. He is actually the complete opposite! God loves us so much that in absolutely everything He created in the Heavens and on this Earth, He wants to share with you and I.

We have the gift of freedom paid for by Jesus on the cross, and from resurrecting from the grave, Jesus became the conqueror over death itself. He truly has authority and dominion; it belongs to the Lord. What an amazing, kind and loving God. A king who is not only All- Powerful, but He cares deeply about His people. God rules over all the nations, not just a certain people group. Every single person on earth, every nation, tribe, and ethnicity is loved by God and needs to hear His saving message of Good News.

He has called everyone who believes in Jesus to share this message and mission.

Reflection

1. Have you ever felt like you couldn't get control of your own life?
2. Have you tried and tried and could never see the change you are looking for?

I encourage you to put your trust in God once again and allow Him to have dominion in your life, in every area of your mind. He loves you.

DEVOTIONAL FOURTEEN: CHRIST AT THE CENTER PASTOR ALLEN STEEL

It's so easy for Christian enthusiasm to blind us, mislead us and trap us with devastating consequences.

"I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. 1 Corinthians 3:6

Why did Paul write this to the Corinthian believers?

Unfortunately, the Corinthians hadn't been operating like spiritual people but like people of the flesh. They were saved, but were living with a pre-salvation worldview. They were like babies in Christ. They couldn't eat the solid food — that is, acquire spiritual discernment based on scripture. Instead, they could only handle spiritual milk, that is, the basic Gospel message (see Heb 5:11-14). Without spiritual growth, believers will continue to live as they did before coming to Christ. They will operate from a worldly perspective and behave like unbelievers. Paul saw that the Corinthians were dividing themselves into factions behind various leaders, causing nothing but envy and strife among themselves. This is worldliness at its worst! A spiritual person is biblically informed, prayerful and willing to apply that perspective to all of life's decisions. Without such an orientation, life will lead to chaos at the personal, family, and church levels.

The Corinthians were aligning themselves with personalities in the church, so Paul explains the futility of such an outlook. Apollos and Paul and all the other teachers were mere servants, each exercising the role that the Lord had given him. Paul's task had been to plant a spiritual seed, while Apollos's job was to water. But God was the one who gave the growth. If believers were to align themselves with anyone, then it should have been with the Lord, not with his servants. Paul and Apollos were co-workers with legitimate labour from God, but they were not the Corinthian church's source. Their source of spiritual life and growth was God.

Questions to think about.

1. How does a new Christian grow spiritually?
2. Why are factions in the church the worst form of worldliness?
3. What effect will factions have on unbelievers or new believers?
4. What did Jesus say about unity?

REFLECTIONS

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REFLECTIONS

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DEVOTIONAL FIFTEEN: CALLED TO THE NATIONS PASTOR PHIL CAYZER

Read Acts 8:26–40.

Philip had just been preaching in Samaria with great success when God's Spirit redirected him to a desert road. There he met an Ethiopian official, reading from Isaiah but not understanding it. Philip ran alongside the chariot to explain the good news of Jesus, and the man believed, was baptised on the spot, and went on his way rejoicing.

This was more than a personal conversion—it became the seed of a great revival. The Ethiopian was a high-ranking official in the court of Queen Candace. Irenaeus and Eusebius (Early Christian writers) recorded that this man carried the Gospel back to his homeland. Ethiopia became one of the first nations in the world with a strong Christian presence. By the 4th century, Christianity was the official faith of the Ethiopian kingdom—centuries before Europe fully embraced the Gospel.

This story shows us that God calls ordinary believers like Philip to share Jesus with people who will, in turn, influence entire nations. The Gospel spreads when we listen to the Spirit and obey, even if it feels inconvenient.

Whether in our schools, workplaces, sports clubs, or even online, God places people in our path who are hungry for truth. Like Philip, we may not know the full impact of a single conversation, but God can multiply it beyond what we imagine.

C.T. Studd once said: "The light that shines farthest shines brightest nearest home." We are called to shine here and be ready to go wherever God sends us.

Reflection:

God used Philip's obedience to change a nation. He can use you, too. Will you listen to His Spirit today and be ready to share Jesus with whoever He brings across your path?

Action Point:

Pray this morning: "Lord, open my eyes to the person You want me to share Jesus with today." Look for that opportunity—and take the step of faith.

DEVOTIONAL SIXTEEN: INTO THE UNKNOWN... PASTOR JOEL JUSTIN

(Cue haunting ethereal echoes that draw a Russian princess into a mysterious forest along with a carrot-nosed - freaky head-spinning - pile of compressed ice which has more purpose on the back of a Christmas card than it does waltzing and singing in an icy forest..but I digress)

In Romans 15:20, Paul declares that it is not his ambition to build on somebody else's foundation but to preach the Gospel where Christ isn't known.

This is the glorious beauty and challenge of doing missions!

Because even though Paul in this context is essentially explaining why he doesn't double-dip where somebody else has already done the work in laying a Gospel foundation, we ALL have a foundation of some kind - right across the earth, in every culture and tribe.

The only difference is whether it's a foundation of deceitful, shifting sand or solid, immovable rock.

1) Evaluate: Take some time and read the verse in its setting of Romans 15:14-21. Just like a building inspector, evaluate the foundations of your own life. Is your foundation solid? Does it look like the world or does it look like Christ?

Paul was no Russian princess but he was religious royalty. A pharisee of pharisees, trained under the tutelage of Gamaliel. That's like a literature student being tutored by C.S Lewis or J.R.R Tolkien! You could sit easy and let the speaking or teaching engagements roll in.

But Paul was drawn to the places where both him and Christ weren't known or had any influence for the sake of presenting the Gospel of Christ through the work and power of the Holy Spirit in his life.

2) What's your ambition?: Even in ministry, there are many seemingly more cushy, comfortable or desirable roles that could serve in making you known or feel needed. Step back and think about what is drawing you into missions. A great story? A religious experience that elevates you in Christian circles? Or Christ? Pray. Ask Holy Spirit to align your ambitions with His and step into the unknown, for the glory of Christ!

DEVOTIONAL SEVENTEEN: OBEDIENCE OVER COMFORT JERRY VANMIDDE

"The word of the Lord came to Jonah... Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it." Jonah 1:1-2

Jonah 1:3 "But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish."

Matthew 28:19 — "Go into all the world and make disciples."

Let's pause and look at the story of Jonah from a different lens. God gave Jonah a clear word, go to Nineveh. Yet Jonah chose to flee in the opposite direction, toward Tarshish.

Scripture tells us plainly that he was running from the Lord. But imagine Jonah's reasoning. He knew the Lord; he knew the need for repentance was everywhere. Tarshish had people, too. Maybe he thought, I'll still do something for God, just not there. Tarshish is safer, easier and more comfortable.

That can be the trap, mistaking “good enough” for obedience. Mission is not just about need. The whole world needs God. Mission is about where God sends us. The most fruit will come in obedience to God, not in our own plans.

Sometimes, like Jonah, we can try to justify our detours. We call them mission, but deep down they're an escape.

Questions to reflect on:

1. Are there places where you've chosen comfort instead of calling?
2. Have you ever settled for "good enough" instead of God's exact word?
3. What step of obedience is God asking of you today?

REFLECTIONS

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1 Thessalonians 5:24

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DEVOTIONAL EIGHTEEN: NOTHING IS TOO BIG FOR HIM SCOTT ELLIOTT

Isaiah 49:6 says:

**"It's too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob...
I'll also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the
ends of the earth."**

Basically, God's saying, "Restoring Israel? That's not big enough. I've got bigger plans. I want to reach everyone."

That blows my mind. Saving His own people wasn't enough; God wanted the whole world to know Him. Every person, every place. His heart's for all people.

When Jesus showed up, He didn't just come for the religious or the sorted-out types. He came for the broken, the forgotten, the people no one else sees. From every job site, every pub, every school, every back street. Jesus is the light of the world—and now He asks us to carry that light to the places that haven't seen it yet.

And here's the thing—you don't have to be a preacher or know the Bible back to front. I'm a chippy. I build with timber, not theology. But I know this: if God's heart is for the world, then I want mine to be too.

It's easy to just focus on our own little patch—our church, our mates, our day-to-day grind. But this verse is like God saying, "Lift your eyes. I've got more for you." The Gospel isn't just for here—it's for everywhere. And maybe God's tapping you on the shoulder to be part of that.

I used to think missions weren't for people like me. Too hard. Too big. But I've learned this—what's too big for us is just right for God. He's not looking for perfect people. Just people willing to say "Yeah, I'm in."

Challenge:

Here you go...Don't pray small. Ask God where He wants to send you. If you've got hands, a heart, and a bit of courage, He can use you—right where you are, or maybe somewhere you've never even thought of.

Prayer:

Lord, use me. Even if it feels way too big, I trust You know what You're doing. Help me carry Your light—wherever You send me. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL NINETEEN: GO AND BEAR FRUIT MALACHI HAMMOND

**"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might
go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name
the Father will give you." John 15:16**

In this one verse, there is so much to unpack. It speaks of God's role in choosing us, the distinction of fruit that will last, and the promise of answered prayers made in Jesus' name. But today, I want to focus on the phrase, "go and bear fruit."

This is not the first time we have encountered this command. This idea is connected all through the Bible, right from the beginning of Genesis to the Great Commission and beyond.

This really reveals God's heart for us as His disciples: that by following Christ's example, we may go and bear fruit. This command has two elements to it.

First, it calls us to go. To step out. God is calling us into action—to go into our local communities, our schools, and our workplaces.

But also to go beyond—into other communities and cultures. Go to people not familiar to you, to those who haven't heard the Good News. The world is full of people waiting for someone to bring the Gospel with boldness and compassion.

Second, we're called to bear fruit.

What is this fruit? We read about the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians. But how do we bear this fruit? By remaining in Him. It is through the Holy Spirit working in our lives that we can produce good fruit, fruit that glorifies God.

So we ask ourselves:

1. Am I living out this command?
2. Am I going?
3. Am I bearing fruit?

DEVOTIONAL TWENTY: CALLED TO BE STRONG

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9 is one of my favourite verses in the entire bible. I always turn to it when I am spiritually down, discouraged, weak and afraid. This verse does not just encourage me; it sifts me from paying attention to my weakness/enemy to fixing my eyes on God Almighty who called me.

1. "Have I not commanded you?" This question highlights the fact that men (Christians) can sometimes doubt God's calling, instructions, commands, and guidance, but God will always step in and say, "Hey! Don't ever forget that it is I (mighty and faithful God) who called you." The key message here is, we must always know where or from whom the command/calling comes from.

2. "Be strong and courageous." Being strong and courageous doesn't mean we must be muscular, aggressive, fast and loud; it simply means we must have unwavering faith in the power and faithfulness of God who calls us and refuse to be intimidated by the enemy, and refuse to give up and give in.

3. “Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged.” In my 20-plus years in ministry, I came to realise that fear is the biggest enemy of faith, and discouragement is a clear sign of weakness. Being afraid of the challenges around us and the unknown future means having a lack of or no faith in God. Getting discouraged very quickly shows how weak and soft we are; it speaks more about us than our enemy or the problems we face. God wants His children to be strong and full of faith.

4. "For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." The reason we should be strong and courageous, the reason we should not be afraid, is that God is with us always. Again, the key message here is, "know and believe that it is Him who called us, and that He will be with us wherever we go". Example: when you know that your parents, or a stronger person is with you, it will build your courage and you will feel very safe as well.

Reflection Verses

God said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." Joshua 1:5

Jesus said, "Surely, I will be with you always to the very end of the age. Matt 28:20

When we are faithless, He remains faithful, for he cannot disown Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13.

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DEVOTIONAL TWENTY ONE: RISK IT ALL FOR HIM CHLOE TARASENKO

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

Read chapters 3 and 4 in the book of Esther.

If you are not familiar with the story of Esther, Esther was a young Jewish woman who had no parents and lived with her uncle. After extensive preparation, she was chosen by the king of Persia, King Xerxes, to become the new queen of the empire. From her story, we can learn three distinct lessons:

Let the suffering and difficulties of others grieve you

The Lord empathises with and grieves the suffering of humanity, and He has called us to grieve with him. Esther's willingness to sacrifice came from a deep and moving sense of compassion; our emotional investment is the forerunner to God stirring in our hearts a holy discontent for the things important to the Kingdom. Our capacity to grieve holds significance.

Pray and fast

How often do we despair about the state of the world instead of praying about it! Esther's example shows us that to worry about something is not the same as praying about it. The practice of prayer, particularly in the context of missions, is twofold: it is about drawing on the Lord for courage and strength, as well as interceding for the lost, the suffering, and for seemingly impossible situations. We must abide in the Lord and honestly confide in Him if we are going to last the distance, and act courageously in the face of danger or challenges. Prayer precedes greatness.

Risk greatly for the kingdom of God

Esther says to Mordecai, "...And if I perish, I perish," (Esther 4:16). As convicting as it may be, the Lord will call us to risk it all for Him. He calls us to have a wild, raw faith that is not suppressed nor intimidated by the vastness of the road ahead. He calls us to be radical and to risk greatly. For in our risk for Him, we attain unimaginable joy and experience miracles beyond our comprehension. We see the Kingdom of God ushered in powerful and unstoppable ways. To risk is to activate faith, gain deeper

levels of genuine trust, and encounter the presence of God in unlikely places. Risk makes room for miracles.

Reflection Questions

Prayerfully reflect on the passages or verses you have read in Esther.

1. What kinds of things grieve your heart? Have you brought these to the Lord?
2. What are some ways God is calling you to 'take up your cross and follow him?' What ways do you feel you are called to risk greatly for Him? In light of the grace of God, do you feel prepared to do this? Bring your sacrifice and concerns to the Lord in prayer.

Spiritual Practice to Apply

Consider praying and fasting for something the Lord has placed on your heart. You can engage in different prayer spiritual disciplines, such as prayer walking, breath prayer, contemplative prayer, or journaling.

DEVOTIONAL TWENTY TWO: BEAUTIFUL FEET PASTOR ALYSSA STEEL

**"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation."
Isaiah 52:7**

Also quoted in the New Testament in Romans 10:15 "And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Context: the ones with the beautiful feet are the people who are walking back (but probably a bit faster than walking) from the war to urgently tell those who didn't go into the war the good news, that the war is over and peace has been restored.

There are two perspectives in these verses I'd like to show you. (FYI: God has called you to be the second)

Firstly, the one who sees the feet.

There are two responses in these people. They are either relieved to see them, to hear the good news that they had been searching for and anxiously waiting for, or they hear and do not accept the good news. Romans 10:16 says, "But not all the Israelites accepted the good news." God knows when we share the word, some will accept and some will not. And that is not on us; all that we are asked to do is be the beautiful feet, the one who shares the good news.

Secondly, the one with the beautiful feet.

I don't imagine that the person who just hiked mountains and valleys for days to get to these people has beautiful feet after all that. Instead, they are beautiful because of the pain and sacrifice that came with bringing the good news. Sharing the good news of the Gospel isn't going to be easy; it comes with pain and hurt to the very part of us that pushes us to keep moving forward, our feet.

Challenge:

1. Are you counting the cost that comes with sharing the good news?
2. Despite the pain and the hardship, is there still an urgency to it? Is your heart burning with the desire to urgently tell people of the good news, of peace, good tidings and of salvation?

DEVOTIONAL TWENTY THREE: CO-MISSION SALLY COX

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

The great 'co-mission; a mission to be done together.

When you are given a group project in school, each person is generally assigned a role. You will have a scribe, a researcher, etc.; each person has a part to play to finish the 'co-mission'. It is the same for our co-mission as Christian's.

Our mission is to love like Jesus and to be disciples who make disciples. While this is our mission as a whole, each person has their own individual mission field. Just like when working on a school project where one may be the scribe or researcher, as Christian's one may be a teacher while the other shares the Gospel on the streets. One may be called to Darwin or to Melbourne, their school or workplace. Into their hometowns or overseas. Their friends or even their family.

Each and every person has their own mission field to contribute to the co-mission. Acts 1:8 talks about the power we receive to fulfil this mission. Jesus says ... "you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judaea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Jesus wasn't telling everyone to go to each of these places, just that these places will be reached.

You are called to a mission field. This may be serving coffee at your local coffeehouse, but if that is where God is calling you, know that people will be reached.

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12, talks about the body of Christ having many parts. Some parts may seem physically smaller, but all are just as important as the other. "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body, we are many parts of one body and we belong to each other" – Romans 12:4-5. We work together with Christ's body to see people come to Him. Wherever the Lord calls you, that is your mission field to contribute to the fulfilment of the 'co-mission' of God's church.

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