

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 10

Jonathan Carl

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EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

Spiritual Warfare In The Bible - Volume 10

God's Answers about the Battle of the Followers of
Christ against the Unseen Spiritual Forces of Evil

Dr. Jonathan Carl

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Downloadable resources and helpful study videos
freely available at: **www.SpiritualWarfare.blog**

I am so thankful to God for His strength and truth in Jesus!

I love and am so grateful for my amazing wife Brittney and her loving, tireless support. Together we are blessed with some amazing daughters in Sophia, Lydia, Alia, and Mia! Our church family at South Fork has been incredible in their encouragement :) *Thank you all for putting up with my many hours of studying & writing for this work!*

Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. [11] Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. [12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

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than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible. Accessible online at: www.esv.org

www.SpiritualWarfare.blog



Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. [11] Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. [12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

Life is hard. Life is full of struggles and suffering. We need the reminder that our primary battles are not physical, financial, emotional, or mental, but spiritual. We ultimately are in an ongoing spiritual battle.

What is “spiritual warfare”? Spiritual warfare, based on Ephesians 6:12, is “the battle of the followers of Christ against the unseen spiritual forces of evil.”

This resource is designed to help you find God’s answers about the battle of the followers of Christ against the unseen spiritual forces of evil.

Visit our website to find freedom and victory in your daily battles through Christ’s finished work on the cross. Share our free resources with others to help them as well!

www.TrustworthyWord.com

TRUSTWORTHY WORD

Titus 1:9 “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” (ESV)

Trustworthy Word was born out of a desire to equip churches with free, downloadable handouts as a resource for biblical teaching on various topics. We wanted to see the people of God think deeply about the Word of God and realize the implications that come about as a result.

One of the great things that we have seen happen though is that members of our church (South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville, KY) have begun to use the site as a mobile resource when they are sharing the gospel or having bible-centered conversations.

Trustworthy Word has become a digital filing cabinet where with a few taps of the finger, we can quickly locate helpful resources both for our own spiritual growth and to engage those with whom we are having Christ focused conversations.

Our hope is that you too will find Trustworthy Word as a digital discipleship and evangelism resource you can utilize in moments when you have your phone, tablet,

or computer with you. You may enjoy using some of the free handouts to help guide your small group into a deeper walk with Jesus in Bible study. With just a few clicks we hope you begin to think deeply about the Word of God and see how that impacts your life.

www.Bible.video - “The Video Bible”

@TheVideoBibleChannel



Bible.Video

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.” - 1 Timothy 4:13

Did someone read to you growing up? Did that time impact you? Help you? Grow you? Comfort you?

We feel that reading the Bible visually and audibly to one another is important and helpful too! What a joy it is to see print Bibles reaching the ends of the earth (through amazing groups like the Gideons and The International Bible Society and especially www.NetBible.com).

How incredible it is that translations are made (Wycliffe) and digitally distributed (Bible.com and BibleStudyTools.com) all over the world! In the past few decades, audio Bibles have also become numerous and more accessible through wonderful ministries like Faith Comes By Hearing.

Unfortunately, there isn't much of a presence currently of someone visually reading the Bible to another. We hope to help provide this through the “The Video Bible”!

We feel this is a needed resource for evangelism

and discipleship and we pray that it will be extremely effective! The biblical origins of both visually watching someone read and listening simultaneously is important to how we process and respond to the Word.

We hope to have the opportunity to help get complete bible translations free into the ears, eyes, minds, and souls of millions more over the years ahead via video.

www.Catholic.blog

The **CATHOLIC BLOG**

www.catholic.blog

Ephesians 2:8–9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (ESV)

What does the Catholic Church really believe? Many people have their opinions, experiences, or second-hand information on Catholic beliefs but a true understanding of the Catholic faith is found in its *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

The Catholic Blog simply presents portions of the Catholic Catechism with relevant Bible verses and introspective questions to consider. This free resource will help you on your journey to consider the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and examine for yourself, through tough questions, whether The Catechism of the Catholic Church is biblically valid and trustworthy.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a substantial document of significant history and tradition. If you have yet to read it, I encourage you to read it in its entirety. This guide should be a helpful start and reference! As you consider the “essential and fundamental contents of Catholic doctrine” (CCC, 11), I hope you will be like the Bereans of Acts 17:11 who always put the Bible first to test what they were learning.

The Bereans are described as “noble” after hearing the teaching of the Apostle Paul for two reasons:

1) getting into the Bible with “eagerness”

2) testing the teaching of the Apostle Paul in light of Scriptures to verify his truthfulness.

Similarly, may we evaluate what we see in The Catechism of the Catholic Church in the light of the Bible to “see if these things were so.”

Acts 17:11 “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (ESV)

A 3 Part Approach: Here is the approach you will find to this Bible study.

1) Interesting highlights and quotes - Due to the massive volume of writings in The Catechism of the Catholic Church, I have picked quotes from the text that I think you will find most useful and fascinating.

2) Relevant Scriptures - Likewise, I selected passages of Scripture that I thought particularly helpful in evaluating and understanding the Catholic teachings. Both The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Bible passages should be considered in their original context and setting. There are many more possible Catholic teachings and Biblical passages to consider but I hope this is a helpful start to your studies.

3) Helpful Questions - I have chosen not to insert opinions and assertions but instead propose tough questions that help us to think critically for ourselves about what we are reading.

My end goal and hope is that we all follow God's directive to us in 2 Corinthians 13:5 to "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" (ESV). May we all have the joy of an eternity in the presence of Jesus!

Here are the top 10 Catholic questions answered in this book with biblical answers:

1. What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church?
2. What is Sin According to the Catholic Catechism? Do Different Sins Need Different Sacrifices?
3. Does Salvation Come through Catholic Mass? Does Giving Money to Church Help Us?
4. Is Catholic Baptism Necessary for Salvation? What about Confirmation?
5. Is Catholic Eucharist Necessary for Salvation? What about Penance?

6. Was Mary Always Saved? Did Mary Never Sin? Is Mary the Cause of Salvation? Was Mary a Virgin Her Entire Life? Did Jesus Have Any Brothers? Is It True that Mary Never Died? Did Mary Ascend to Heaven?

7. Are Images of Jesus, Mary, Saints, or Angels Helpful or Harmful? Do Relics & Rosaries have Power?

8. Should We Pray to Mary and Saints? Is it OK to Pray to Angels?

9. Will I Go to Purgatory? Do Indulgences Help Us?

10. Can Marriages Be Annulled? What about Catholic Divorce and Remarriage?

Whether you are Catholic, considering Catholicism, or just curious to understand the Catholic Church better, this Bible study will be a great help to you. Download *A Biblical Study of The Catechism of the Catholic Church* free at www.Catholic.blog

INTRODUCTION

Titus 1:9 “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” (ESV)

This book is different than many others that you might read. The vast majority of the content is simply Bible verses and references. This approach, with lots of bullet points, is intentional in order to help you clearly hear and see God’s truths and not merely human opinion. May this work be a helpful resource for your study of God’s Word. May it help you increase in your love and awe of your Savior. If you aren’t yet a follower of Christ, may the Lord save you through the reading of His Word throughout it!

I have used these resources in teaching my church, small groups, pastors, seminary students, and doctoral students about the subject of spiritual warfare. The source of these writings has been from my own studies, counseling with church members, and sermons. These subjects have arisen from some of the most important conversations that I have had in pastoral ministry for over a decade. I hope and pray that this work serves as a tool for the Lord to use in helping His children through His Spirit and Word.

Ultimately, I have written this for the Lord. He has grown me so much through the years and I pray that this work is faithful to honor and glorify Him. I have also always told my wife and daughters that I wrote this for them as well. I love them so much and if they were the only ones to read this, then I would count it a success!

I do hope that this is a useful Bible study resource for

many around the world. I have made these chapters, videos, and the book (and other books too) in its entirety, freely downloadable and accessible at www.SpiritualWarfare.blog and also at www.TrustworthyWord.com. It has been a joy of mine to see so many souls find Scriptural counsel online at The Spiritual Warfare Blog and Trustworthy Word over the years and I pray that it continues to aid many more until the Lord returns!

In Christ,
Jonathan Carl

Ephesians 6:17 “take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

SERIES

Here is a brief outline of this series of books and Scriptural reminders of their importance. The link below contain video lectures to help you as well:

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/videos

This book is one of 10 other books you can find here:

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/free-books and

www.amazon.com/author/jonathancarl

All 10 books compiled:

Spiritual Warfare in the Bible: A Comprehensive Handbook for Deeper Study (With Course Video Lectures)

- *God and Satan: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 1*
- *Angels and Demons: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 2*
- *Believers & Unbelievers: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 3*
- *Heaven, Hell and Salvation: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 4*
- *Frequently Asked Questions about Spiritual Warfare in the Bible: God's Answers about the Battle of the Followers of Christ against the Unseen Spiritual Forces of Evil - Volume 5*
- *Putting on God's Armor of Light: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 6*
- *Resisting Satan's Schemes: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 7*
- *Prayer and Fasting: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 8*

- *Biblical Health: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 9*
- *Evangelism and Missions: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 10*

VOLUME 10: EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

Free Video Lectures @
[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/
missions](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/missions)

Ephesians 6:18–20 “praying ... also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, [20] for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.” (ESV)

The Christian life is a life called to love in action. We must be on the offense in sharing the hope of the Gospel news of Jesus Christ. This section will encourage and equip you to tell others about the loving life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

WHAT BIBLE VERSES ARE GOOD TO MEMORIZE FOR EVANGELISM?

GOD'S GLORY

- The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Psalms 19:1
- You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. Leviticus 19:2
- Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. Revelation 4:11
- And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30

MAN'S SIN

- Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5
- your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. Isaiah 59:2
- None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. Romans

3:10-12

- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
- Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. Romans 3:19
- everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:28
- Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:15
- For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. James 2:10
- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23
- And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment Hebrews 9:27

CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16
- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. John 3:36
- In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10
- but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
- But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5
- For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

CONVERSION

- Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3
- But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12
- if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9
- everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13
- Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28
- I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6
- And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12
- No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2:23
- No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Luke 13:3
- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9
- Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20
- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

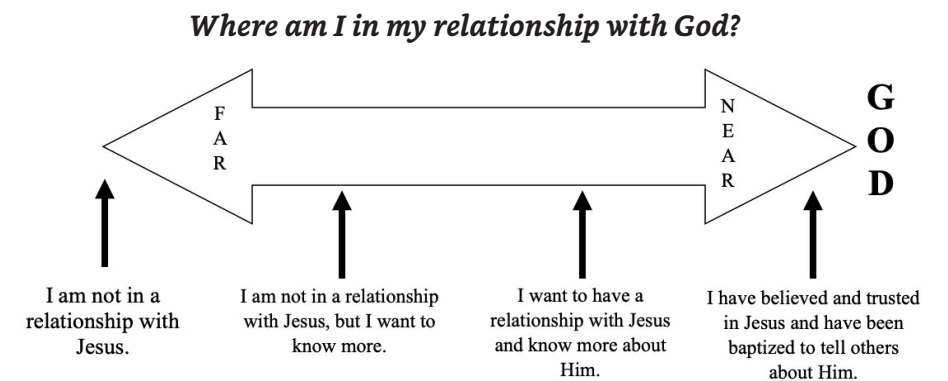
ETERNAL LIFE

- The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10
- All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. John 6:37

- Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:12-13
- The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Romans 8:16
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

GOSPEL COUNSELING BASICS

1. **Pray a lot leading up to this special opportunity. Pray as the Gospel is shared!**
2. **Encourage them about your time together:** “I’m excited to talk with you!”
3. **Bridge into the Gospel:** “Do you have any spiritual beliefs?”
4. **Ask good questions to get them to share where they are at in relation to God:** you could draw this picture on a napkin or paper to help them describe their relationship with Jesus.



5. **Review the ABCs of Salvation & ask corresponding, clarifying questions:**

- Ask open-ended questions. Avoid giving the answers, but help them to understand. Use simple words. Don't assume they understand. Ask another counselor/leader for help if

you get stuck. Keep praying (in your head) as you talk with the child.

- Pick a Scripture for them to read and for you to help them understand: Romans 3:23, 6:23, & 10:9-10 are great verses.”

A—“Admit” to God that you are a sinner and that you need His forgiveness;

- Do you consider yourself to be a good person? Can I give you a quick test? (use some of the 10 commandments) Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever stolen something? Have you ever hated someone? When you stand before Jesus on judgment day, are you guilty or innocent?
- What is sin? Are you a sinner? What are some ways you have sinned? Who are your sins against (people and ultimately God)? How does that make you feel that you have sinned against God?

B—“Believe” in Jesus and that what He did on the cross was enough to provide for your forgiveness of sin;

- Who is Jesus? Why did he die? Do you believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave?

C—“Confess” Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

- What does it mean for Jesus to be your Lord? Do you want Him to be in charge of your life?

6. Ask if they have any questions about being a Christian.

7. Ask if they want to become a Christian today

8. Help pray with them to accept Christ by following the ABC outline.

9. Help encourage them to grow in Christ by:

- Reading their Bible, Praying, Being Involved in Church

10. Pray for them before they go. Write down important information on your conversation to share with your pastor or church leaders.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MISSIONS?

What is “missions”?

The word “missions” derives from a Latin word *missio* which means “sending.” In Greek (what the New Testament was mostly first written in) it is close to the word *apostelló*, from which we get the word apostles or “sent ones.” The role of a missionary is closest to that of an ambassador, someone who is actively representing their own citizenship/nation/government/king in a foreign land.

Ephesians 6:19–20 “[pray] also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, [20] for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.” (ESV)

Philippians 3:20–21 “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

Here is a short definition of missions:

MISSIONS is the obedient Gospel **work** of bearing witness of Jesus and teaching His disciples through the **Word**.

- **WORK** - What efforts are you making to share Jesus?
- **WORD** - How are getting yourself & others into the Word?

Luke 10:2 “And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but

the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Who is a “missionary”? In one sense, every Christian is a missionary because they are sent by God to tell and teach others about His greatness and goodness! In another sense there are a variety of missionary callings that are set apart for different durations, distances, difficulties, and types of work.

Here is a short definition of missionary:

A **MISSIONARY** is SENT by Jesus to **go** out to share the Gospel and **grow** disciples.

- **GO** - Where are you going to share the Gospel?
- **GROW** - Who are you teaching about Jesus?

1 Peter 2:11–12 “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

How is every member of the Body of Christ called to be a missionary?

1. We Are Commanded to Go & Grow Disciples

Matthew 28:19–20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. We Are Empowered to Go & Witness to the Lost

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

3. We Encounter God & Go for God

Isaiah 6:8 “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”

“There is a sense that every single follower of Christ is sent.” David Platt

Although, in a sense, every Christian is a missionary, the word “missionary” seems to have been first applied (~1500s A.D.) towards individuals who went out of their home culture to take residence in foreign cultures where the Gospel had not been heard or taught. Their work was primarily to preach the Gospel and plant churches to the “ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

“There are some Christians sent out with a particular purpose.” David Platt

What are the different sorts of missions work and missionaries? *Missionaries come in all types, here are some helpful categories to distinguish and describe them:*

1. Duration - *How long are they in their missions context?*

They may be described subjectively as short-term, medium-term, or long-term missionaries. Their work might be considered part-time or full-time. They could be fully residential in their setting or more apostolic/pioneer/temporary until a healthy church is established.

A helpful analogy might be found in the modern-day nation of Israel where every citizen is expected to serve in the military and be trained and ready for war. Every Christian is considered a soldier of Christ in the midst of an ongoing spiritual war. Every Christian serves Jesus in different ways that vary similarly to how a National Guard or Reservist soldier serves differently than an Active Duty soldier who serves differently than a mobilized/deployed soldier. All are soldiers but serve differently with their time.

- 2 Timothy 2:3 “Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

2. Distance - *What boundaries do they cross to communicate the*

Gospel?

Missionary work involves crossing boundaries to share the Good News of Jesus. This might mean traveling across geographical boundaries or could mean reaching a population in your area with a different language (linguistic boundaries). It might mean serving among a different culture (cross-cultural) or even connecting with people online (digital missions) to share God's truth and love.

- "What about digital missions?" www.spiritualwarfare.blog/digital-missions

We live in an era of human history often referred to as "globalized" where there has been a physical, global spread of nationalities/cultures as well as a digitized inter-connectedness that makes trans-cultural relationships and communication possible without significant physical distance of travel. Despite globalization there is a need, similar to military special forces units, to have specific training, focus, and efforts towards particular people groups to ensure effective communication of the Gospel.

- 2 Timothy 2:15 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."
- 1 Chronicles 12:32 "Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do"

3. Difficulty - *How dangerous or difficult is the work?*

Communication of Biblical truth and demonstration of Christian love can be particularly challenging, difficult, and dangerous in particular cultures. Some "soils" of humanity are particularly hardened requiring more extensive missions labor and increased risk. This means that some missions lifestyles and assignments involve greater sacrifice with increased challenges. Similarly, all soldiers are in real military service, serving to accomplish their mission, some military assignments involve greater challenges, sacrifices, and dangers.

- Matthew 5:10-11 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for

righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] 'Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.'"

- "What Does the Bible Say About Risk?" www.trustworthyword.com/risk

4. Different Work - *What varying means are used to accomplish the missions work?*

While missions is nothing less than declaring the Gospel, there are many roles and functions needed in a team effort to accomplish the Christian missionary goals. God's Spirit gifts the body of Christ with a variety of skills, passions, and abilities to pursue the purpose of declaring the Gospel truth and training up the local church body.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

Although many think of missionaries as only being those who move far away to share the Gospel, Scripture clearly shows every Christian to be called to and sent out as a proclaimer of the love and truth, teaching them to hear, love, and obey God through His Word. Every Christian may pursue their missions task in a variety of ways (duration, distance, difficulty, different work), but no Christian should ignore the commands of Christ to go out and grow disciples. May we each be sensitive and obedient to God's particular, specific calling on our lives and faithful to the ministry/mission to which we are equipped and gifted.

"In my estimation, no man has a right to call himself a New Testament Christian who is not interested in the Great Commission." Adrian P. Rogers

"Every Christian is either a missionary or an

imposter.” Charles H. Spurgeon

HELPFUL SCRIPTURES ON MISSIONS

- Isaiah 6:8 “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”
- 1 Chronicles 12:32 “Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do”
- Matthew 5:10-11 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] ‘Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.’”
- Matthew 28:19–20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- Mark 1:17–18 “And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ [18] And immediately they left their nets and followed him.”
- Luke 10:2 “And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”
- John 21:15–17 “When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ [16] He said to him a second time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ [17] He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love

- me?’ Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ and he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’”
- Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - Acts 5:42 “And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.”
 - Acts 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.”
 - Acts 26:27–29 “‘King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.’ [28] And Agrippa said to Paul, ‘In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?’ [29] And Paul said, ‘Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.’”
 - Romans 10:14–15 “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? [15] And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”
 - Romans 12:4–8 “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ...[6] Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them ...”
 - Romans 15:18–21 “For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, [19] by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; [20] and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else’s foundation, [21] but as it is written, ‘Those who have never been told of him will see, and

- those who have never heard will understand.”
- Philippians 3:20–21 “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”
 - 1 Corinthians 9:19–23 “For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. [20] To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. [21] To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. [22] To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. [23] I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.”
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.”
 - 1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:11 “Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.”
 - Ephesians 6:19–20 “[pray] also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, [20] for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:17–18 “But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, [18] because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.”
 - 2 Timothy 2:3 “Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

- 2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”
- 1 Peter 2:11–12 “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

“Sent”

- Jeremiah 35:15 “I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, sending them persistently, saying, ‘Turn now every one of you from his evil way, and amend your deeds, and do not go after other gods to serve them, and then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to you and your fathers.’ But you did not incline your ear or listen to me.”
- Matthew 10:16–18 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. [17] Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, [18] and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.”
- Luke 10:2 “And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”
- Luke 24:48–49 “You are witnesses of these things. [49] And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”
- John 6:28–29 “Then they said to him, ‘What must we do, to be doing the works of God?’ [29] Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’”
- John 20:21–22 “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ [22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”
- Acts 26:17 - “delivering you from your people and from the

Gentiles—to whom I am sending you”

“Set apart”

- Psalm 4:3 “But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.”
- Acts 6:3–6 “Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. [4] But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” [5] And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. [6] These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.”
- Acts 13:2–3 “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ [3] Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”
- Acts 26:16–18 “But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, [17] delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you [18] to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”
- Romans 1:1 “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God”
- 2 Timothy 2:21 “Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.”

“Ministry/Work”

- John 9:4 “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.”

- Acts 20:22–24 “And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, [23] except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. [24] But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”
- Acts 21:19–20 “After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. [20] And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed.””
- 1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”
- 2 Corinthians 1:24 “Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.”
- 2 Corinthians 3:18–4:1 “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. [4:1] Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17–21 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- 2 Corinthians 9:1, 12 “Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints ... For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also

- overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.”
- 2 Corinthians 10:15–18 “We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, [16] so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another’s area of influence. [17] ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’ [18] For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.”
- Galatians 2:6–9 “And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. [7] On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised [8] (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), [9] and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.”
- Ephesians 4:11–16 “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”
- Colossians 3:23–24 “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will

receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

- Colossians 4:17 “say to Archippus, ‘See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.’”
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12 “To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, [12] so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2–8 “We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.”
- 1 Timothy 5:9–10 “Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, [10] and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.”
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
- 2 Timothy 4:5 “As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

- Hebrews 8:6 “But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.”

Missions is INSEPARABLE from the churches.

Missions is THROUGH the churches.

Missions is the WORK of the churches.

Missionaries are the PEOPLE of the churches.

“What Does the Bible Say About Church Membership?”

www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-church-membership

“What Does the Bible Say About Online Church?”

www.trustworthyword.com/online-church

“Missions Statistics” - www.spiritualwarfare.blog/missions-statistics

EVANGELISM & MISSIONS QUOTES

"I care not where I go, or how I live, or what I endure so that I may save souls. When I sleep I dream of them; when I awake they are first in my thoughts...no amount of scholastic attainment, of able and profound exposition of brilliant and stirring eloquence can atone for the absence of a deep impassioned sympathetic love for human souls." David Brainerd

"We shall have all eternity in which to celebrate our victories, but we have only one swift hour before the sunset in which to win them." Robert Moffat

"Evangelism is not a professional job for a few trained men, but is instead the unrelenting responsibility of every person who belongs to the company of Jesus." Elton Trueblood

"You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most...It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance." John Wesley

"It was a common saying among the Puritans, 'Brown bread and the Gospel is good fare.'" Matthew Henry

"The Gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness." John Wesley

"'Not called!' did you say? 'Not heard the call,' I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters, and servants and masters not to come there. And then look Christ in the face, whose mercy you have professed to obey, and tell him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish his mercy to the world." William Booth

"Perhaps if there were more of that intense distress for souls that leads to tears, we should more frequently see the results we desire. Sometimes it may be that while we are complaining of the hardness of the hearts of those we are seeking to benefit, the hardness of our own hearts and our feeble apprehension of the solemn reality of eternal things may be the true cause of our want of success." Hudson Taylor

"I'd rather have people hate me with the knowledge that I tried to save them." Keith Green

"Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell." C.T. Studd

"The world is my parish." John Wesley

"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer. From Pentecost to the Haystack meeting in New England and from the days when Robert Morrison landed in China to the martyrdom of John and Betty Stam, prayer has been the source of power and the secret of spiritual triumph." Samuel M. Zwemer

"No sort of defense is needed for preaching outdoors, but it would take a very strong argument to prove that a man who has never preached beyond the walls of his meetinghouse has done his duty. A defense is required for services within buildings rather than for

worship outside of them." William Booth

"Preach abroad. It is the cooping yourselves up in rooms that has dampened the work of God, which never was and never will be carried out to any purpose without going into the highways and hedges and compelling men and women to come in." Jonathan Edwards

"I believe I never was more acceptable to my Master than when I was standing to teach those hearers in the open fields. I now preach to ten times more people than I would if I had been confined to the churches." George Whitefield

"I am well assured that I did far more good to my Lincolnshire parishioners by preaching three days on my father's tomb than I did by preaching three years in his pulpit." John Wesley

"Lord, make me a crisis man. Let me not be a mile-post on a single road, but make me a fork that men must turn one way or another in facing Christ in me." Jim Elliot

"It is always a mark of short-sightedness and weakness to be impatient of results." Samuel Smiles

"To teach in order to lead others to faith is the task of every preacher and of each believer." Thomas Aquinas

"Go for souls. Go for souls, and go for the worst." William Booth

"Christ beats His drum, but He does not press men; Christ is served with volunteers." John Donne

"Jesus Christ did not say, 'Go into the world and tell the world that it is quite right.'" C.S. Lewis

"There is no better evangelist in the world than the Holy Spirit." D.L. Moody

"I exhort you, press on in your course, and exhort all men that they may be saved." Polycarp

"Could a mariner sit idle if he heard the drowning cry? Could a doctor sit in comfort and just let his patients die? Could a fireman sit idle, let men burn and give no hand? Can you sit at ease in Zion with the world around you damned?" Leonard Ravenhill

"I would sooner pluck one single brand from the burning than explain all mysteries." Charles Spurgeon

"Any method of evangelism will work if God is in it." Leonard Ravenhill

"As soon as a man has found Christ, he begins to find others." Charles Spurgeon

"I will not believe that thou hast tasted of the honey of the gospel if thou can eat it all to thyself." Charles Spurgeon

"When Andrew went to find his brother, he little imagined how eminent Simon would become... You may be very deficient in talent yourself, and yet you may be the means of drawing to Christ one who shall become eminent in grace and service." Charles Spurgeon

"Ah! dear friend, you little know the possibilities which are in you." Charles Spurgeon

"If you truly feel the sweetness of the Cross of Christ, you will be constrained to confess Christ before men." Robert Murray McCheyne

"Let thy religion begin at home." Charles Spurgeon

"How little chance the Holy Ghost has nowadays. The churches and missionary societies have so bound Him in red tape that they practically ask Him to sit in a corner while they do the work themselves." C.T. Studd

"You must GO forward on your knees." Hudson Taylor

"You wonder why people choose fields away from the States when

young people at home are drifting because no one wants to take time to listen to their problems. I'll tell you why I left. Because those stateside young people have every opportunity to study, hear, and understand the Word of God in their own language, and these Indians have no opportunity whatsoever. I have had to make a cross of two logs, and lie down on it, to show the Indians what it means to crucify a man. When there is that much ignorance over here and so much knowledge and opportunity over there, I have no question in my mind why God sent me here. Those whimpering stateside young people will wake up on the Day of Judgment condemned to worse fates than these demon-fearing Indians, because, having a Bible, they were bored with it---while these never heard of such a thing as writing." Jim Elliot

"I have seen, at different times, the smoke of a thousand villages - villages whose people are without Christ, without God, and without hope in the world." Robert Moffat

"My teaching is not of doing nor of leaving undone, but of being. It is not new works done, but a new man to do them; not another life only, but another birth." Martin Luther

"And people who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives... and when the bubble has burst they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted." Nate Saint

"Had I cared for the comments of people, I should never have been a missionary." C.T. Studd

"The branch of the vine does not worry, and toil, and rush here to seek for sunshine, and there to find rain. No; it rests in union and communion with the vine; and at the right time, and in the right way, is the right fruit found on it. Let us so abide in the Lord Jesus." Hudson Taylor

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies."

Hudson Taylor

"I have but one passion - it is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ." Count Zinzendorf

"Keep us little and unknown, prized and loved by God alone." Charles Wesley

"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all." D.L. Moody

"The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner." William Townsend

"I feel now, that Arabia could easily be evangelized within the next thirty years if it were not for the wicked selfishness of Christians." Samuel M. Zwemer

"We need a baptism of clear seeing. We desperately need seers who can see through the mist--Christian leaders with prophetic vision. Unless they come soon it will be too late for this generation. And if they do come we will no doubt crucify a few of them in the name of our worldly orthodoxy." A.W. Tozer

"We are not built for ourselves, but for God. Not for service for God, but for God." Oswald Chambers

"Today Christians spend more money on dog food than missions." Leonard Ravenhill

"It will not do to say that you have no special call to go to China. With these facts before you and with the command of the Lord Jesus to go and preach the gospel to every creature, you need rather to ascertain whether you have a special call to stay at home." Hudson Taylor

"Oh, this is a reality, not a fable, that the Lord Jesus Christ is our friend. And we should not be satisfied till we are brought to this."
George Mueller

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."
John Piper

"If every Christian is already considered a missionary, then all can stay put where they are, and nobody needs to get up and go anywhere to preach the gospel. But if our only concern is to witness where we are, how will people in unevangelized areas ever hear the gospel? The present uneven distribution of Christians and opportunities to hear the gospel of Christ will continue on unchanged." Gordon Olson

"Answering a student's question, 'Will the heathen who have not heard the Gospel be saved?' thus, 'It is more a question with me whether we, who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not, can be saved.'" Charles Spurgeon

"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us; just as the roof of a sunhouse does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it." C.S. Lewis

"As long as I see anything to be done for God, life is worth having; but O how vain and unworthy it is to live for any lower end!" David Brainerd

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." C.T. Studd

"All my friends are but one, but He is all sufficient." William Carey

"I will go down, if you will hold the ropes." [his missions philosophy] William Carey

"God had an only Son, and He was a missionary and a physician."
David Livingstone

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world". C.S. Lewis

"What you do in your house is worth as much as if you did it up in heaven for our Lord God. We should accustom ourselves to think of our position and work as sacred and well-pleasing to God, not on account of the position and work, but on account of the word and faith from which the obedience and the work flow." Martin Luther

"There are three indispensable requirements for a missionary: 1. Patience 2. Patience 3. Patience." Hudson Taylor

"Go not to those who want you, but to those who want you most."
John Wesley

"There is no work better than to please God; to pour water, to wash dishes, to be a cobbler, or an apostle, all are one; to wash dishes and to preach are all one, as touching the deed, to please God." William Tyndale

"The idea that the service to God should have only to do with a church altar, singing, reading, sacrifice, and the like is without doubt but the worst trick of the devil. How could the devil have led us more effectively astray than by the narrow conception that service to God takes place only in a church and by the works done therein...The whole world could abound with the services to the Lord, Gottesdienste - not only in churches but also in the home, kitchen, workshop, field." Martin Luther

"Find preachers of David Brainerd's spirit, and nothing can stand before them...Let us be followers of him, as he was of Christ, in absolute self-devotion, in total deadness to the world, and in fervent love to God and man." [his biography of David Brainerd, who died of tuberculosis at 29] Jonathan Edwards

"I would rather feel compassion than know the meaning of it."

Thomas Aquinas

"Therefore, the Christian heart, since it has been thoroughly persuaded that all things happen by God's plan, and that nothing takes place by chance, will ever look to him as the principal causes of things, yet will give attention to the secondary causes in their proper place." John Calvin

"People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa... It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege." David Livingstone

"You can take nothing greater to the heathen world than the impress and the reflection of the love of God upon your character. That is the universal language." Henry Drummond

"God cannot be comprehended by us, except as far as he accommodates himself to our standard." John Calvin

"Was it not great blindness that God Almighty, who created us, has so often made known to us that he is our Father, and finally even gave his Son for us; and he himself stands there and calls us poor sinners, saying 'Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.' And we went and turned to the creature, and thought God to be so rough and cruel that we dare not come to him." Ulrich Zwingli

"I have come across black men and women who remembered the only white man they ever saw before----David Livingstone; and as you cross his footsteps in that dark continent, men's faces light up as they speak of the kind Doctor who passed there years ago. They could not understand him; but they felt the Love that beat in his heart." Henry Drummond

"I have found my destiny. I must take the gospel to the people of the East End." William Booth

"The first thing I ask is that people should not make use of my name, and should not call themselves Lutherans but Christians.

What is Luther? The teaching is not mine. Nor was I crucified for anyone...How did I, poor stinking bag of maggots that I am, come to the point where people call the children of Christ by my evil name?" Martin Luther

"How we have prayed for a Revival - we did not care whether it was old-fashioned or not - what we asked for was that it should be such that would cleanse and revive His children and set them on fire to win others." Mary Booth

"Wherever the fear of God rules in the heart, it will appear both in works of charity and piety, and neither will excuse us from the other." Matthew Henry

"The right manner of growth is to grow less in one's own eyes." Thomas Watson

"Yes, it is a press, certainly, but a press from which shall flow in inexhaustible streams, the most abundant and most marvelous liquor that has ever flowed to relieve the thirst of men! Through it, God will spread His Word. A spring of truth shall flow from it: like a new star it shall scatter the darkness of ignorance, and cause a light heretofore unknown to shine amongst men." Johannes Gutenberg

"We may note in passing that He was never regarded as a mere moral teacher. He did not produce that effect on any of the people who actually met Him. He produced mainly three results---Hatred---Terror---Adoration. There was no trace of people expressing mild admiration." C.S. Lewis

"God does not have to come and tell me what I must do for Him, He brings me into a relationship with Himself where I hear His call and understand what He wants me to do, and I do it out of sheer love to Him... When people say they have had a call to foreign service, or to any particular sphere of work, they mean that their relationship to God has enabled them to realize what they can do for God." Oswald Chambers

"This Man (Jesus) suddenly remarks one day, 'No one need fast while I am here.' Who is this Man who remarks that His mere presence suspends all normal rules?" C.S. Lewis

"The preaching that this world needs most is the sermons in shoes that are walking with Jesus Christ." D.L. Moody

"Calamity clarifies and comfort confuses; persecution purifies and prosperity pollutes!" Kevin Turner

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Jim Elliot

"My dear Jesus, my Savior, is so deeply written in my heart, that I feel confident, that if my heart were to be cut open and chopped to pieces, the name of Jesus would be found written on every piece." St. Ignatius of Antioch

"I have held many things in my hands, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." Martin Luther

"If you read history you will find out that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next." C.S. Lewis

"In Jesus and for Him, enemies and friends alike are to be loved." Thomas A` Kempis

"The seed once sown grows...of itself, from its own impulse and power of life.... The self-inherent power of growth of the kingdom of God." Rudolph Stier

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried." G.K. Chesterton

"The best of it is, God is with us." John Wesley

"I will place no value on anything I have or may possess except in relation to the kingdom of Christ." David Livingstone

"I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England." C.S. Lewis

"A Christian mother does not give birth to a Christian child; it is not natural birth, but a second, spiritual birth which makes a Christian." Tertullian of Carthage

"Salvation is God's way of making us real people." Augustine

"Since no man is excluded from calling upon God the gate of salvation is open to all. There is nothing else to hinder us from entering, but our own unbelief." John Calvin

"A world of nice people, content in their own niceness, looking no further, turned away from God, would be just as desperately in need of salvation as a miserable world---and might be even more difficult to save." C.S. Lewis

"Is it not wonderful news to believe that salvation lies outside ourselves?" Martin Luther

"Salvation comes through a cross and a crucified Christ." Andrew Murray

"Salvation is from our side a choice; from the divine side it is a seizing upon, an apprehending, a conquest by the Most High God. Our accepting and willing are reactions rather than actions." A.W. Tozer

"O God, save me by Thy righteousness, that is to say, in Thy Son, who alone among men was found without sin." Girolamo Savonarola

"I feel that I am not to be mended, but transformed." Seneca

"Wise leaders should have known that the human heart cannot exist in a vacuum. If Christians are forbidden to enjoy the wine of the Spirit they will turn to the wine of the flesh.... Christ died for our hearts and the Holy Spirit wants to come and satisfy them."

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A.W. Tozer

"A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God." Charles Finney

"God's whole employment is to lift up the humble and cast down the proud" Author Unknown

"The greatest fault is to be conscious of none." Thomas Carlyle

"...If ever a monk could get to heaven through monastic discipline, I was that monk.... And yet my conscience would not give me certainty, but I always doubted and said, 'You didn't do that right. You weren't contrite enough. You left that out of your confession.' The more I tried to remedy an uncertain, weak, and troubled conscience with human traditions, the more I daily found it more uncertain, weaker, and more troubled." Martin Luther

MISSIONS REFLECTIONS

As I write this, I have just returned from a mission trip to Ghana, West Africa. Have you ever had the joy of a missions trip? Or been able to travel to serve in an impoverished area? Every time I get the joy of serving the Lord on mission God teaches me and reminds me of so many life-transforming truths. Here are a few of the ways Jesus grew me in Ghana!

Jesus is amazing. One of the neatest blessings of a missions trip is to get away from the everyday distractions and to have the pure pleasure of walking closer with Jesus every day. More time in the Word. More fellowship with believers. More time to serve Him. More opportunities to share Him. More enjoyment of Jesus. May we be more intentional to prioritize our proximity to Jesus!

Psalm 145:6 "They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness."

Satan is real. Sometimes when we travel to unfamiliar places we experience things that can be quite different or even disturbing. We experienced things in Ghana we have read about in the Bible, but many of us had never seen such demonic attacks first hand. We witnessed several people who were extremely afflicted and oppressed by demons in scary ways. Although it was new to many of us, God had already prepared us in His Word on how to respond and see His powerful presence and to experience His overwhelming peace as we shared the Good News to those who were overcome by darkness.

1 John 4:4 “he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world”

The Gospel is powerful. Too often we forget what Jesus did on Calvary. We need regular reminders of the power of the Gospel to change lives forever. What great joy God gave us in the midst of His harvest to see souls saved and to witness souls encouraged and strengthened in their faith.

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

America is rich. Travel to a third world country is a humbling reminder of our own riches and blessings. Food. Clothing. Shelter. Health. Even the poorest of poor in America has more of the needs of life than the middle class of most nations. We need to be more grateful to God. He has provided for us so abundantly for our daily needs. Every American should witness extreme third-world country poverty if they can. May we be more grateful, content, and generous with what God has entrusted to us.

Philippians 4:19 “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Giving is a joy. Giving of yourself towards the needs of others is such a blessing. Whether it is time, prayer, skills, meeting needs, or speaking about Jesus we have so much to share. Whether in LaRue County, eastern Kentucky, the western U.S., or on another continent may we be faithful to give ourselves and our gospel love away to everyone around us.

Acts 20:35 “remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Missions are essential. Many respond to God’s mission command by saying “I’m not called.” Jesus’ Great Commission is not an option to be considered, but a joyful task to be obeyed. Many have missed out on an incredible experience with God working in them

and through them on mission.

Have you missed out? If so, it’s not too late. Find a way to serve and share the amazing love of Jesus here, there, and everywhere! The challenges, costs, and commitment of missions are real, but the joy of going is so worth it! As long as there is breath in our lungs may we be faithful to declare the glory of our Lord!!

Matthew 28:19–20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ON MISSION FOR JESUS

On occasion I've met people who question the need to go out on mission trips when there is plenty of "need" here at home. How would you respond to such a statement? Why should we be on mission, crossing geographical, linguistic, and cultural boundaries to talk about and show the love of Jesus?

Here are five reasons to go on mission trips for Jesus:

1. To enjoy Christ. I was recently reflecting with my wife about mission trips and she insightfully remarked that mission trips have a more exclusive focus of spending time with Jesus. On mission, many of the busyness, obligations, and distractions of life fade away as our focus turns towards prioritizing Jesus throughout the day, looking for opportunities to enjoy Him and be part of His work. Think of Jesus' disciples: three years of following, listening, witnessing, and enjoying Jesus. *On mission trips, we enjoy Christ.*

Acts 4:13 "And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

2. To share Christ. The world has heard of KFC, Coca-Cola, as well as much about American politics, sports, and entertainment. But have they heard of our Jesus? "67% of all humans from AD 30 to the present day have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ... and around 30 million people this year will perish without hearing the message of salvation" (Baxter 2007, 12). Can you believe those numbers? Many all over the world have never heard the name of Jesus or have ever clearly understood the message of

salvation. *On mission trips, we share Christ.*

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

3. To obey Christ. Christians are empowered and in-dwelt by the Holy Spirit with the assigned task of bearing witness to the greatness of God. Hudson Taylor helpfully reminds us that "the Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed." *On mission trips, we obey Christ.*

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

4. To bring hope. The world can be a dark and dreary place, devoid of joy and expectation. Christians have a hope that transcends earthly sorrow and suffering. May we be faithful to prepare, share, and dare to go out with the message of eternal hope! *On mission trips, we bring hope.*

1 Peter 3:15 "always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"

5. To speak truth and to show love. Satan has deceived the world through lies and ignorance. Many have been misled and are spiritually blind. Billions seek pleasure in the things of this life rather than experiencing the overwhelming love of Jesus. Paul Little explains that "Witnessing is that deep-seated conviction that the greatest favor I can do for others is to introduce them to Jesus Christ." *On mission trips, we speak truth and show love.*

Ephesians 4:25, 5:2 "let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor...and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us"

If we fail to reach out with the love, truth, and hope of Jesus we

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miss out on so much. May we be faithful to be on mission here, there, and everywhere with the days, gifts, and resources that the Lord has given us!

MISSIONS STATISTICS

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/missions-statistics

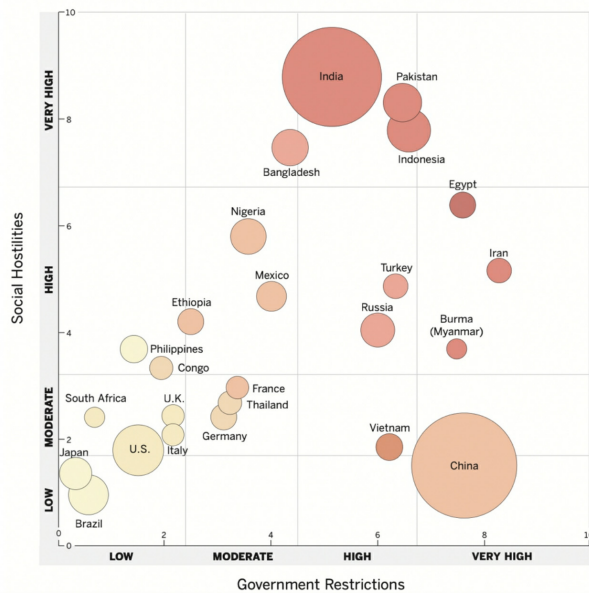
- **There are 7.83 billion people in the world. - 17,440 people groups (Joshua Project Progress 2022)**
- 22.8% significantly reached people groups (1,781,535,000 people, 3,284 people groups, >10% evangelicals) (Joshua Project Progress 2022)
- 24.9% partially reached people groups (1,952,428,000 people, 3,793 people groups, Evangelicals > 2% and <= 10% (Joshua Project Progress 2022)
- 6.9% superficially reached (538,339,000 people, 1,815 people groups, Evangelicals <= 2%, Professing Christians > 50%, (Joshua Project Progress 2022)
- 3.3% minimally reached (259,900,000 people, 1,134 people groups, Evangelicals <= 2%, Professing Christians > 5% and <= 50%) (Joshua Project Progress 2022)
- 42.1% unreached (3,296,866,000 people, 7,414 people groups, Evangelicals <= 2%, Professing Christians <= 5%) (Joshua Project Progress 2022)
- % Christian = 32.3%, % Evangelical = 7.9% (Operation World 2022)
- 2.43 billion are Christian (748 million are Evangelical Christian) (Joshua Project Religions 2022)
- 1.9 billion are Muslim. (Joshua Project Religions 2022)
- 1.19 billion are Hindu. (Joshua Project Religions 2022)
- 1.01 billion are Non-Religious. (Joshua Project Religions 2022)

2022)

501 million are Buddhist. (Joshua Project Religions 2022)

730 million are of Ethnic Religions including Chinese Religion. (Joshua Project Religions 2022)

- 59 mission are of other religions (Joshua Project Religions 2022)
- 8 million other/unknown. (Joshua Project Religions 2022)
- There are 6,800 languages in the world. (Joshua Project)



- **Some 65-70% of the world's population live in religiously restrictive countries. (Joshua Project People Groups 2022)**
- 11,421 people groups have the Jesus Film in their primary language, totaling 7,299,000,000 individuals. (Joshua Project People Groups 2022)
- 64 nations – about one-third of the countries in the world – have high or very high restrictions on religion. But because some of the most restrictive countries are very populous, nearly 70 percent of the world's 6.8 billion people live in countries with high

restrictions on religion, the brunt of which often falls on religious minorities (Pew Research Global Restrictions on Religion 2009)

- **Some restrictions result from government actions, policies and laws. Others result from hostile acts by private individuals, organizations and social groups. (Pew Research Global Restrictions on Religion 2009)**

Scripture Reading

- **Evangelical Protestant - 63% once a week**, 12% 1 or 2 a month, 7% several times a year, 18% seldom/never (Pew Research Scripture Reading 2014)
- Historically Black Protestant - 61% once a week, 13% 1 or 2 a month, 8% several times a year, 18% seldom/never (Pew Research Scripture Reading 2014)
- **Mainline Protestant - 30% once a week**, 13% 1 or 2 a month, 12% several times a year, 44% seldom/never (Pew Research Scripture Reading 2014)

Religious Service Attendance

- **Evangelical Protestant - 58% once a week**, 30% 1 or 2 a month, 12% seldom/never (Pew Research Attendance at Religious Services 2014)
- Historically Black Protestant - 53% once a week, 36% 1 or 2 a month, 10% seldom/never (Pew Research Attendance at Religious Services 2014)
- **Mainline Protestant - 33% once a week**, 43% 1 or 2 a month, 24% seldom/never (Pew Research Attendance at Religious Services 2014)
- 86% of all unreached people groups lie within the region called the 10/40 window, which is between 10 and 40 degrees north and from the west coast of Africa to the east coast of Asia. (Joshua Project)
- In AD 100 there were 360 people for every believer. Now there are 7.3 people for every believer.

(Winter et al., 1)

- **90% of foreign missionaries work among already reached people groups. 10% work among unreached people groups. (Winter and Koch, 543)**
- **Despite Christ's command to evangelize, 67% of all humans from AD 30 to the present day have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ. (Baxter 2007, 12)**
- **91% of all Christian outreach/evangelism does not target non-Christians, but targets other Christians. (Baxter 2007, 12)**
- In the last 40 years, over 1 billion people have died who have never heard of Jesus, and around 30 million people this year will perish without hearing the message of salvation. (Baxter 2007, 12)
- **70,000+ people die everyday in the unreached world without Jesus. (Baxter 2007, 12)**
- **Of foreign mission funding: 87% goes for work among those already Christian. 12% for work among already evangelized, but Non-Christian. 1% for work among the unevangelized and unreached people. (Baxter 2007, 12)**
- **Christians make up 33% of the world's population, but receive 53% of the world's annual income and spend 98% of it on themselves. (Barrett and Johnson 2001, 656)**
- Only .1% of all Christian giving is directed toward mission efforts in the 38 most unevangelized countries in the world. (Barrett and Johnson 2001, 656)
- 22 million internationals visit the US each year. Of these, some 630,000 are university students from 220 countries, 25% of which prohibit Christian missionaries. 80% of those students will return to their countries having never been invited to an American home. (The Traveling Team)
- **American Christians spend 95% of offerings on home-based ministry, 4.5% on cross-cultural efforts in**

already reached people groups, and .5% to reach the unreached. (The Traveling Team)

- There are 430,000 missionaries from all branches of Christendom. Only between 2 and 3% of these missionaries work among unreached peoples. (The Traveling Team)
- **There are 140,000 recorded protestant missionaries serving in the world, with 64,000 from the US. (The Traveling Team)**
- Of the 140,000 Protestant missionaries, 74% work among nominal Christians, 8% among tribal peoples, 6% Muslims, 4% Non-religious/atheists, 3% among Buddhists, 2% Hindus, 1% Jews. (The Traveling Team)
- **MISSIONARIES PER RELIGION:** (The Traveling Team)
 - **Tribals** – 714,108,000 population with 11,900 Missionaries: **1 for every 60,000**
 - **Hindus** – 984,532,000 population with 5,500 Missionaries: **1 for every 179,000**
 - **Unreligious** – 831,267,000 population with 11,700 Missionaries: **1 for every 71,000**
 - **Muslims** – 1,703,146,000 population with 4,200 Missionaries: **1 for every 405,500**
 - **Buddhists** – 520,002,000 population with 2,000 Missionaries: **1 for every 260,000**
- Christians' annual income is \$12.3 trillion. \$213 billion is given to Christian causes. \$11.4 billion is given to foreign missions, 87% of which goes to work being done among the already Christian, 12% goes to work among the evangelized non-Christians, 1% among the unevangelized. (The Traveling Team)
- Over 160,000 believers will be martyred this year. (The Traveling Team)
- The total cost of Christian outreach averages \$330,000 for each and every newly baptized person. (World Evangelization Research Center)

- 54% of evangelical Christians are non-whites. (World Evangelization Research Center)
- The country with the fastest Christian expansion ever is China, now at 10,000 new converts every day. (World Evangelization Research Center)
- **It costs Christians 700 times more money to baptize converts in rich Christian countries, such as Switzerland, than in poor unevangelized countries, such as Nepal. (World Evangelization Research Center)**
- US ministries send out over 144,000 short-term missionaries each year. (Weber and Welliver 2007, 13)
- **US mission agencies have an annual budget of over \$5.2 billion.** (Weber and Welliver 2007, 13)
- **The average American Christian gives only 1 penny a day to global missions.** (Yohannan, *Revolution in World Missions*, 142)
- 86 countries prohibit or restrict Western missionaries. (Yohannan, *Come Let's Reach the World*, 31)
- Christian organizations spend \$8 billion a year on conferences. (Yohannan, *Come Let's Reach the World*, 126)
- Indigenous missionaries do 90% of pioneer mission work, but only receive 10% of mission funding. Meanwhile foreign missionaries do 10% of pioneer mission work, but receive 90% of mission funding. (Finley 2004, 178 & 244)
- Two of the largest Gospel radio broadcasters, Far East Broadcasting Company and Gospel for Asia, both receive around 1,000,000 listener responses each year. (Far East Broadcasting Company, 15; Gospel for Asia)
- **There have been 4.1 billion viewings of the Jesus Film, representing about 3 billion individuals. More than 99% of the world's population could view the film in a language they know.** (Johnstone and Mandryk 2005, 7)

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“As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you” (John 20:21)

5 WAYS TO PRAY FOR MISSIONS

*Here are some ideas of how to pray for
missions teams and missionaries.*

1. Spiritual Health, Life Balance, & Provision “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:10-12 ESV)

- “What Does the Bible Say About Spiritual Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/spiritual-health
- “What Does the Bible Say About Home Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/home-health
- “What Does the Bible Say About Financial Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/financial-health

2. Unity and Focus “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18)

- “What Does the Bible Say About Relational Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/relational-health
- “What Does the Bible Say About Workplace Health?”

www.trustworthyword.com/work-place-health

3. Spiritual Boldness & Clarity “and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:19-20)

- “What Does the Bible Say About Risk?”
www.trustworthyword.com/risk
- “What Bible Verses Are Good to Memorize for Evangelism?” www.trustworthyword.com/what-bible-verses-are-good-to-memorize-for-evangelism

4. Overcome Fear & Worry

- Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Lk 12:7)
- And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. (Luke 12:22)
- “What Does the Bible Say About Worry?” www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-worry

5. Physical, Mental, & Emotional Health & Protection

- And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? (Lk 12:25)
- Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. (3 John 1:2)
- Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:14)
- “What Does the Bible Say About Physical Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/physical-health
- “What Does the Bible Say About Emotional Health?”

www.trustworthyword.com/emotional-health

- “What Does the Bible Say About Mental Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/mental-health
- “What Does the Bible Say About Sexual Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/sexual-health

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT RISK?

As humans, we often fear the unknown and seek to protect or isolate ourselves from potential harm or loss. The Bible clearly demonstrates that the riskiest behavior is to isolate ourselves from God and distrust His commands. May we be a people who imitates the examples set before us of faithfulness in the midst of risk (Hebrews 11:32-40).

Fast and Pray - Jesus followed the Spirit's leading into the desert to be personally tempted and tried by Satan. Instead of fleeing, Jesus fasted and prayed, using Scripture to rebuke Satan's deception (Matthew 4:1-11).

Put on the Full Armor of God - Paul recognized that our battles and enemies are not primarily with humans or situations, but rather are best spiritually understood. He exhorts Christians to remember that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but with Satan and his demons. Accordingly, we need Jesus' reminder that our weapons are not of this world (Ephesians 6:10-20, 2 Corinthians 10:2-6).

Flee - At times God calls us to flee risky situations. Jesus preached so clearly in His hometown of Nazareth that they sought to throw Him off a cliff in order to kill him, yet Jesus passed through them and went away (Luke 4:16-30, John 10:39). Paul and the disciples of Jesus likewise had situations in which he was called to, prepared for, and initiated escape (2 Corinthians 11:32-33, Acts 5:17-42, Acts 9:23-25). When the risk is towards a situation of

temptation, Christians are called to flee as a way of escape (1 Timothy 6:11, 2 Timothy 2:22, 1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:12-14)

Stand Firm - Jesus stood firm even when officials were present and ready to arrest Him, trusting in God's perfect plan and timing (John 7:32-52). Paul and Silas had the perfect, God-given opportunity in Philippi to escape prison safely, but God called them to remain (Acts 16:25-40).

Resist - At times the Christian is called to resist, whether it be a government or the devil who is seeking to inspire disobedience against God (Acts 4:1-31, James 4:7)

Speak - Christians are called to speak boldly and courageously even in the midst of dangerous and threatening circumstances (Acts 4:1-31; 18:9-11). We are warned by the example of Peter of the danger of denying Jesus in risky situations by our sinful silence or speech (Matthew 26:69-75).

Be Silent - Sometimes the Christian call is to remain calmly silent in the midst of verbal and physical threats (Matthew 27:11-14, John 19:1-11).

Embrace Risk - Both Jesus and Paul demonstrated a willingness to enter into risk for the sake of Gospel love, fully aware of the suffering and death they encountered in their future (Luke 9:51-56, Matthew 26:47-56, Acts 21:10-36). Christians are reminded that risk is part of the cost of following Jesus faithfully (Luke 9:57-10:12).

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PERSECUTION?

We must not minimize or redefine persecution, understanding that persecution involves not merely verbal or social opposition, but opposition to the Gospel message that results in significant financial or physical harm or loss.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” (Matthew 5:10-11 ESV)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ [44] But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. [46] For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? [47] And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? [48] You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:43-48 ESV)

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. [19] If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. [20] Remember the word

that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” (John 15:18-20 ESV)

“To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, [12] and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; [13] when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.” (1 Corinthians 4:11-13 ESV)

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. [8] We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; [9] persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; [10] always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. [11] For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.” (2 Corinthians 4:7-11 ESV)

“You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, [11] my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. [12] Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. [14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:10-17 ESV)

HOW TO DOWNLOAD, USE, AND SHARE THE GIDEON BIBLE APP

What is the Gideon Bible App? The Gideon Bible App (www.gideons.bible.is) offers mobile access to Scripture in a multitude of languages including text and dramatized Audio Bibles so you can read and listen to the Bible in your own language.

Why is a Bible App so important and essential? Mobile digital time (phones, tablets, watches, etc.) is significantly higher than those who use desktop/laptop computers for accessing the internet. 80% of all internet users own a smartphone. Mobile device users access digital media 89% of the time through apps, not through websites, using mobile apps for over an hour per day.

How can I download the Gideon Bible App? Go to iTunes or Google Play via your mobile device and search “Gideon Bible App.”

How can I change the language of the Bible? What languages are available? When you initially open the app, click on the “languages” or “country” tab in the top-center of the screen and select one of the 1,100+ available languages. You can also access this from the default page by clicking on “Bibles.”

How can I look up a specific Bible book, chapter, or verse? The easiest way is once you have selected your Bible translation, click on the top center bible book and chapter reference (i.e. “Genesis 1” is the default) and scroll to select the book and chapter. Once

you are in the correct book and chapter, you can scroll to select the desired verse or passage. There is also a search bar in the left menu within which you can type the specific verse address.

How can I bookmark or highlight a specific Bible verse or passage? How can I share a specific Bible verse or passage? Press and hold on the desired verse to select the verse or passage you desire. Then select the left red bookmark, yellow highlighter, notebook, or sharing tool

How can I take notes in my Bible app? How can I sync my Bible bookmarks, highlights, and notes? In order to take notes in your Bible app you will need to sign up for an account and log in. Once you have an established account your data will be synced on any logged in platform you use.

How can I search for a particular passage, word or theme in the Bible? Hit the three horizontal line button in the upper left corner to pull open the left menu. In the upper left search bar (next to the magnifying glass) you can type in the passage, word or theme you desire to search.

How can I listen to the Bible? Under the Bible selection, hit the play button (sideways triangle) to play the current text. From the same toolbar you can download (downward pointed arrow), advance or rewind (sideways pointed double triangle) the chapter.

How can I read or listen to the Bible offline? Select “Downloads” from the left side of your screen and select the particular Bible language and translation you want to download for offline use. You then will select to download the “Text” (Old Testament or New Testament in its entirety) or “Audio (selecting the specific book or chapters you want to download). You will need a free account to download the text for offline use. You can click “Edit” in the upper right-hand corner to delete any audio files that you have downloaded (to save memory).

What is the link on “Help in Time of Need” for? This is a

topical index of Bible verses that you will find greatly helpful in discovering God's truths for every time and season of life.

What is the link on "Help with Life Problems" for? This is a selection of common temptations and sins so that you can find God's truths concerning His will in your life.

What is the link on "Decision" for? Select "Decision" for a biblical Gospel presentation, opportunity to respond, encouragement for church involvement, and biblical assurance for new believers.

What is the link on "Character" for? Select "Character" for a topical presentation of Bible verses concerning the character God seeks for believers to model in their lives as a Gospel witness.

How can I share the Gideon Bible App? Click the "Share the App" feature to select how you would like to share the app (text, email, WhatsApp, social media, AirDrop, etc.)

What is the link on "Settings" for? This area allows you to change the Bible translation you are using, the text size, theme, and font, account setup/login, and some informational links.

What is the link on "Donate" for? The Gideons provide this Bible app free of charge and have distributed over 2 billion Bibles through the generous donations of Christians all over the world.

Who is The Gideons International? The Gideons International (gideons.org) is a non-profit ministry that is dedicated to getting God's word to everyone, everywhere.

Who is Faith Comes by Hearing? Faith Comes By Hearing (www.faithcomesbyhearing.com) is the world leader in Bible recordings, seeking to provide free audio and text access to God's Word in every language available.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [5] You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. [6] And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. [7] You shall teach them diligently to

your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. [8] You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. [9] You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

MISSIONS IN THE METAVERSE:

Reconciling Humanity With Their Creator By Reaching Them Where They Live, On Their Devices, Via Digital Missions

Full Paper: www.SpiritualWarfare.blog/digital-missions

Thesis: The Metaverse is less about virtual reality and more about the increasing reality of people living (time spent communicating and connecting) in digital places. Christians have the imperative and opportunity to enter the digital realm in order to effectively reach and teach souls with Jesus' Scriptural truth and love.

Why Digital Missions? The Biblical Foundations & Imperatives

What is the metaverse? The metaverse is an increasingly common reference to a developing internet where there is an integration "of the available technologies into a more immersive experience, decentralizing, democratizing information" (Nieuwhof CNLP470 2022). In simple terms, the metaverse is a more interactive online experience with both virtual (three dimension) and augmented (real world and internet

interconnected) experiences.

Why does it matter? This paper shows that people increasingly "live" on digital devices, spending the vast majority of their day looking at, thinking about, and interacting with their screens. Real mental, emotional, and spiritual communication and connections occur through this developing "metaverse" and the goals of many companies is to increase the "screen time" of the world's population.

What is the concept of "digital missions" and is it biblical? In-person missionaries cross real-world boundaries with an in-person presence to reach the lost and disciple the saved. Digital missionaries cross real-world boundaries with a digital presence to reach the lost and disciple the saved. While in-person missions will be shown to be the biblical ideal, digital missions will be shown both to be biblically permissible and a statistical necessity and imperative.

This paper is just a beginning. More research and writing are needed on this important topic. It is my hope that as the world grows increasingly digital, Christians must consider the available options for reaching and teaching souls with Jesus' Scriptural truth and love. Our Christian churches, denominations, ministries, missions agencies, and seminaries must consider strategically and tactically how to engage in digital missions. In an ever-changing digital environment, theologians must help the church consider which means are biblically permissible to help us effectively and rapidly spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth.^[1]

A Biblical Theology of Digital Missions

Are digital mission strategies a biblical approach to reconciliation? Can reconciliation genuinely occur through digital media and platforms? Can evangelism and discipleship happen effectively and biblically across geographic, linguistic, and cultural boundaries without an in-person presence? Here are some helpful considerations when looking at both Gospel communication and spiritual connections. Paul's epistles are a particularly helpful example when evaluating the means and

prioritization of digital missions and digital missionaries.

Here are some scriptural examples of God's communication and connection to us as He reconciles us to Himself in salvation and carries the message of reconciliation through us to the world (Ephesians 2:14-16, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Some of these passages emphasize the importance, necessity, and priority of in-person communication and connection. Several passages illustrate that some aspects of reconciliation may happen at a distance and through means that are not "in-person." These examples help us to consider where digital means may be effective in evangelism and discipleship for digital missions.

Prophecies, Dreams & Visions. The Lord often used prophetic messengers who used both spoken and written means of communication with the people to whom they were sent. The Lord spoke directly to these prophets often through non-physical means such as dreams and visions (Deuteronomy 18:22). This non-physical means of spiritual communication from and connection with God is promised to continue into the future through the sending of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29). In a similar way, a non-physical vision also prompts Paul to go Macedonia to preach (Acts 16:9). God use of prophecies, dreams, and visions should caution us from restricting the concept of evangelism and missions to solely existing through in-person communication and connection.

Theophanies & Angelic Appearances. God also appears supernaturally Himself (theophany) or through the sending of His angelic messengers to bring real spiritual communication and connection. This occurs in many places and to many believers and non-believers across the Old and New Testaments and is promised to continue through Jesus' return.^[2] These in-person appearances of God and through His angelic beings illustrate the importance of in-person communication and connection. While digital means may be shown to be biblical and effective, it seems that the ideal for a Christian missions presence would be in-person when possible. The incarnation of Jesus in the primary example of the primacy of in-person missions.

In-Person Ministry. Much of Jesus' ministry was dedicated to direct, physical encounters with His audience rather than settling on an indirect word-of-mouth ministry. Jesus prioritized in-person encounters (Matthew 11:1) with crowds, followers, and individuals. He also sent out His disciples to preach the Gospel and use their gifting to show God's love and speak God's truth (Mark 3:14-15, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8). These descriptions and commands were for a missions' task of direct, in-person communication and connection all across the world. Jesus' coming in the flesh shows the importance of the in-person missions' task for the task of reconciliation. Many of the below examples however allow for and encourage the effective use of distanced-means for the task of reconciliation through Christian missions.

Limited Workers. Incarnate Jesus had limited time and opportunities in ministry. Since He could not go everywhere, He sent others ahead of Him and beyond Him (Luke 10:1-2, Matthew 9:37-38). The urgency and overwhelming need of the missions' task should drive Christians to desperate and dependent prayer for more missionary workers to reach and teach more souls. God has given His followers the message and "ministry of reconciliation" as His representatives (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). God chooses to make His appeal globally known through the calling out of His people.

Acoustics & Visibility. In several situations Jesus speaks to large crowds. In pre-amplification eras, there were limited options for expanding the reach of one's voice and the visibility of one's presence in public speaking. It at least two instances, Jesus chooses a place to preach where He could maximize His reach. In Matthew 5 Jesus goes up on a mountain above the crowds in a way to feasibly help with the projection of His voice over the crowd. In Mark 4:1 and Luke 5:3 Jesus gets into a boat and puts out a little so that His teaching could be better heard and seen. In a similar fashion, missionaries should consider what "places" might be more effective in their means of reaching the overwhelming crowds with the Gospel message.

The Outcasts. Jesus' parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:12-24) illustrates the calling God has given us to reach into hard places for the outcasts and bring them into Christ's saving presence. He also communicates the need to go to the "highways" and "hedgerows" as calling out of our familiar areas in order to reach foreigners and outcasts with strong urging to receive the Gospel invitation. Missions ministries should consider where groups of people have less access as "outcasts" and need a more intentional and focused effort to compel them into Christ's loving embrace.

Anonymous or Secretive Encounters. Is it ok to provide pathways for hearing about and encountering Jesus in more private or safe locations? Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, likely out of concerns for his own safety (John 3:1-2). Later on, by day, Nicodemus brings an expensive offering for the care and preparation of Jesus' body (John 19:39). Yet others approach Jesus for healing by proximity in moving forward to touch His clothes or to be touched by Jesus (Mark 6:56, Matthew 8:3). Those who were unable to come into Jesus' presence were brought by their friends into His presence for healing (Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26). One woman came to encounter Jesus by hiding herself only later to reveal herself (Luke 8:43-48). Although Jesus most often heals in proximity, occasionally he heals at a distance without His physical presence (Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10). Sometimes anonymous, stealthy, secretive, or non-physical encounters can allow Gospel conversations and connections that may not happen otherwise (think digital encounters and anonymity opportunities with avatars). Digital missions may allow for the gathering of larger crowds from restrictive locations where the listeners may not feel exposed and may be more vulnerable and open to hearing the Gospel message of reconciliation.

The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works in non-physical ways that we cannot fully understand through His indwelling presence in believers (Acts 2:4, Romans 8:11). Believers, even when not physically present with one another, have a connection

and union with one another through the Holy Spirit as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 4:4-6). All Christians are indwelt with God the Holy Spirit who connects to us and communicates to us. There is a real union between Christians through the Holy Spirit that transcends physical and temporal boundaries. God's Spirit can genuinely work in digital missions through the crossing of geographic, national, linguistic, and cultural boundaries through digital means.

Sermons and Songs. The Scriptures include songs that are transcribed for the reception and reading of others beyond the initial time of praise and worship by Moses, David, Mary, and others (Deuteronomy 32:1-44, Psalms, Luke 1:46-56, Revelation 15:3). Likewise, sermons are recorded and shared beyond the original audience for evangelistic and discipleship purposes (Matthew 5-7, Acts 2:14-41). The transcription and communication of sermons and songs in the Scriptures is a great example of why we should share what happens in our worship services (live stream) with those outside of our physical gatherings. The Bible clearly shows that in-person gathering is always necessary to constitute a local church (Carl 2022, "Online Church"), but some of the evangelistic and discipleship functions of the church may be effectively carried out from local gatherings of churches through both in-person and digital missionaries.

Various Locations & Responses. Gospel ministry wasn't confined to particular locations in the New Testament. Believers went into temples, homes, synagogues, marketplaces and other places where people would gather for prayer or discussion (Acts 5:42, Acts 16:12-14, Acts 17:16-21, Acts 17:22-23, Acts 18:4, Acts 20:20). Such passages remind us that the Christian call is to go wherever they can gain a hearing to teach and preach about Jesus. Places of worship and private homes are great opportunities for in depth Bible conversations. Believers should also seek Gospel sharing opportunities where people come together to maximize the Kingdom impact and reach. Followers of Christ should go into both religious and secular settings as Paul's exemplified in going to synagogues, marketplaces, and wherever the invitation

or opportunity is allowed. We are called to preach in such settings with boldness and cultural awareness to diverse. Digital missions provide continuous opportunities to reach innumerable audiences across the globe.

Ignoring External Identities. Believers are reminded that in Christ, “there is no distinction between Jew and Greek” (Romans 10:11-13 [ESV]) and that we should no longer look at anyone “according to the flesh” (2 Corinthians 5:16-17 [ESV]). God saves souls regardless of national, cultural, or religious background. We need these reminders to not merely see or think of people by their physical appearance (Galatians 3:28, Colossians 3:11) as our earthly identities do not matter compared with our spiritual identity in union with Jesus. The use of pseudonyms and avatars in the digital realm may have the unintentional benefit of not pre-judging our audience by their external appearances. Such false self-chosen identities may also conversely require the reminders to not judge someone by what appears on your screen. As we consider digital missions we must think biblically about emerging advantages and challenges.

Various Opportunities, Time, & Approaches. Some missionary encounters may be short-lived while others may be long-lasting. Obstacles to reaching one’s target audience may be significant and difficult to overcome or bypass (Romans 15:22–28). Some missionary tasks, such as bringing financial aid from one church to another, no longer require the formerly arduous, long journey of past biblical days but can be done today with a few touches on a screen without an in-person presence. What other digital tools help us accomplish biblical missionary tasks more effectively, efficiently, and rapidly?

Paul also explains that he communicates and connects differently when he is at a distance and when he is face to face. He remarks that “I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!” (2 Corinthians 10:1–2 [ESV]). Positively, we may notice similar tendencies in ourselves when physical proximity encourages humility and physical distance prompts courageous communication. Conversely, we may be

warned of temptations to be less courageous in person and overly harsh when online or at a distance. Gospel humility, preparedness, and clarity is important in whichever dimension we get to communicate and connect with the command to “do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15 [ESV]).

Real Spiritual and Emotional Connection. Are online avenues real routes for evangelism, discipleship, and missions? What about those who never get to see a Christian “face to face”? Paul speaks to believers in the church at Colossae and says that “though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ” (Colossians 2:1–5 [ESV]). This is a significant passage and should not be overlooked in regards to digital missions. We can see that even without physical presence, there is a spiritual union between believers that transcends our face to face limitations.

Paul also writes to the church at Thessalonica when he was “torn away” from them, describing that it was separation “in person not in heart,” alluding to a spiritual and emotional union that cannot be entirely broken between believers (1 Thessalonians 2:17–18 [ESV]). He also explains that this separation was a goal and work of Satan, saying that “Satan hindered us” from such an in-person visit. Nevertheless, Paul continues to have a “great desire to see you face to face.” While in person separation can be difficult, emotional, mental, and spiritual connections are real even at a distance. Satan actively attempts to keep believers physically separated from one another. We must be aware of the devil’s schemes and we should always endeavor to be connected to one another in person wherever possible. Where an in-person presence is not possible, a digital missionary presence can still effectively evangelize and disciple.

Desire to Be In-Person. In several places we see both that Paul and John express that in-person disciple-making is the ideal and to be desired. Paul explains that “we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith” (1 Thessalonians 3:9–10 [ESV]). Such urgent prayers seems to indicate that a physical presence can

provide for spiritual growth which cannot occur solely through communication from a distance. Peter also expresses that he “would rather not use paper and ink” but “hopes to see you soon and talk face to face” (2 John 12, 3 John 13-14 [ESV]). He also emphasizes that such in person communication and connection brings about a fuller experience of joy. Written, or less personal correspondence, is important and helpful but has its limitations. When Christian missionaries are impeded from being present with their targeted people groups, they should follow the example of Paul and John by using modern day “paper and ink” that is possible through digital media.

Summary. We can conclude from this brief scriptural survey that missions efforts are both biblically permissible and effective in both evangelistic and discipleship tasks through a non-physical presence. While such approaches are possible, the in-person presence is always to be sought as the most effective means of Gospel communication and connection. Such biblical examples must be closely evaluated and remembered as we attempt new digital means of missiological evangelism and discipleship. Simultaneously we must always champion the creation and continuation of in-person church gatherings as the biblical goal for our regular ways of being known, serving, worshiping, evangelizing, praying, learning, and giving.

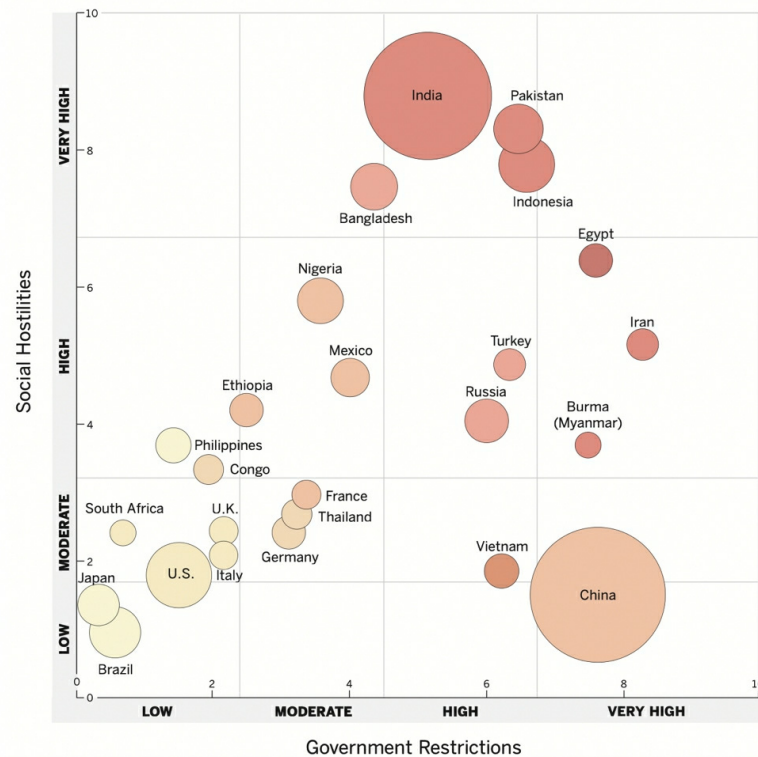
The scriptures are a sufficient source of communication for reconciling humanity with their Creator. The Bible can be communicated both in-person and by other mediums of communication (written and oral communication and digital). The church can carry the Gospel out and teach the scriptures digitally, but it cannot fully function as the body of Christ solely in the digital realm (Carl 2022).^[3] While pursuing in-person opportunities, missionaries should evaluate their specific calling in order to understand which evangelistic, discipleship, and missional tasks can be accomplished in the digital realm. These scriptural examples show us that connections in the digital realm are real spiritual, mental, and emotional connections even without a physical presence.

Why Digital Missions? The Statistical Realities & Opportunities

There are 7.83 billion people in the world and almost 70% of them “live in religiously restrictive countries” (Joshua Project - People Groups 2022). What do these numbers mean for our missionary calling? How do these statistics impact our prioritization of digital missions?

Christian organizations have often lagged behind society in adapting to technological changes and missed out on key opportunities for gospel reach. The history of Christian missions demonstrates an ever-present urgency to go to the lost wherever they live. Increasingly, the lost “live” on their digital devices. Christian missionaries must “go” to the lost on their devices, obtaining a fraction of their screen-time attention for the sake of their souls. This paper will share the statistics to demonstrate the importance of understanding the evolving digital age of the metaverse.^[4]

The Difficulty. *How many souls are extremely difficult to reach & teach in-person?* At least 5.5 billion souls. Jesus explains the numerical harvest that is waiting (Matthew 9:37-38) and statistics can quantify many of the unreached. Surveys and research can explain that our restricted access to the nations can “result from government actions, policies and laws” (Pew Research Global Restrictions on Religion 2009). Other missiological impediments can arise “from hostile acts by private individuals, organizations and social groups” (Ibid). Here is a helpful chart to visualize the restricted access issues today:



Missiological Challenges within the Church. Missional challenges exist not merely outside the church, but also internal to the churches who are called to go and send. Low frequencies of scripture reading (Pew Research Scripture Reading 2014) and worship attendance (Pew Research Attendance at Religious Services 2014) have stunted the spiritual growth of believers. Generosity is significantly low and mis-prioritized as well (The Traveling Team 2022). Christians are estimated to make up 33% of the world's population, but disproportionately receive “53% of the world's annual income” and unfortunately “spend 98% of it on themselves” (Barrett and Johnson 2001, 656). When money is given from Christians through their churches, 95% is spent domestically and “only 4.5% on cross-cultural efforts among already reached people groups, and .5% to reach the unreached” (The Traveling Team 2022). Christian dedication to scripture reading, church attendance, and financial giving is a

serious impediment to mobilizing much needed Gospel missions.

Missiological Assignments and Funding. The missiological challenges extend beyond the local churches into the missions agencies. The reality of missions assignments is that “90% of foreign missionaries work among already reached people groups. 10% work among unreached people groups” (Winter and Koch, 543). Corresponding with personnel assignments, funding priorities can be seen in international missions when “87% goes for work among those already Christian. 12% for work among already evangelized, but non-Christian. 1% is given for work among the unevangelized and unreached people” (Baxter 2007, 12). While United States mission agencies may have access to over \$5.2 billion in funding (Weber and Welliver 2007, 13), some countries such as Switzerland may cost 700 times as much per capita to reach than in poor unevangelized countries such as Nepal (World Evangelization Research Center). The missions task is overwhelming and the decisions for missions assignments and funding must be complex. With limited resources and personnel there is a compounding difficulty of reaching the unreached without an in person missionary presence.

Global Lostness. Since Jesus ascended to Heaven, approximately 67% of all humanity has never heard His name and “70,000+ people die every day in the unreached world without Jesus” (Baxter 2007, 12). Out of the world's population of 7.83 billion only 7.9% confess to a biblical faith (evangelical), amounting to a possible 619 million souls claiming faith in Jesus (Operation World 2022). What about the 7,210,000,000 souls who do not currently claim Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? This vast number should overwhelm us with grief. Our Christian call is to be burdened for each and every one of these souls. The missionary task of every believer is to go and tell. We must remember Jesus' words that, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37–38 [ESV]).

Limited Missionary Numbers. How many laborers are

among the harvest currently? Not enough. There are only “140,000 recorded protestant missionaries serving in the world, with 64,000 from the US” (The Traveling Team 2022). When we compare these missionary numbers with assignments, we see some overwhelming ratios. There is only one missionary for every 60,000 members of tribal religions. There is only one missionary for every 71,000 “unreligious” peoples. There is only one missionary for every 179,000 Hindus. There is only one missionary for every 260,000 Buddhists. There is only one missionary for every 405,500 Muslims (Ibid).

The status quo is unacceptable. While seeking additional funding and mobilization for in-person missionaries we must consider the developing opportunities in digital missions. We must find a way to get the Gospel clearly proclaimed to every soul on planet earth. How can we change? What must we do to see more souls hearing the Gospel news? How can we reach and teach more with the call of discipleship? We must consider the opportunities available in digital missions.

The Statistics of Digital Change

Have you noticed the changes where you live? Over the past decade, a significant change has occurred around us. More and more souls have a phone in their pocket or purse. More and more people spend their time with their eyes focused on their screens. More and more of God’s image-bearers are communicating and connecting with others through “screen time.”^[5]

Digital Preference. While radio and print used to dominate as forms of communication, people are shifting their attention to digital devices. One example is in news consumption, with “half of Americans say they prefer a digital device” for their news (Pew Research News Platform 2021). Advertising revenue is one way to track where people can be accessed, and “digital advertising grew to \$152 billion in 2020” amounting to “63% of all advertising revenue” (Pew Research Digital News 2021).

Digital preference is not simply an increasing phenomenon among adults, but “fully 89% of parents of a child age 5 to 11 say their child watches videos on YouTube” with “53% reporting that their child does this daily” (Auxier, Anderson, Perrin, and Turner 2020). All ages are showing their increasing desire for digital consumption. How does such desire connect with digital access?

Digital Access. As of 2021, 97% of all Americans own a cellphone with 85% of all Americans owning an internet-accessing “smartphone” (Pew Research Mobile 2021). Almost 75% of all U.S. adults additionally own a desktop or laptop computer, while “while roughly half own a tablet computer (Pew Research Mobile 2021). Is this digital access merely a phenomenon in the United States? No, this is a global trend.

Over 78% of the world’s population is estimated to have access to smartphones based on “an estimated 6.4 billion smartphone subscriptions worldwide and a global population of around 7.8 billion” (O’Dea 2021). Even in poverty stricken Sub-Saharan Africa, 48% of the population has smartphone access (Ibid). In the next five years, smartphone subscriptions are estimated to expand to 7.69 billion (Ibid). This trend is not merely among younger generations, but “about half (53%) of people 65 and older are smartphone owners” (Livingston 2019).

While “internet use is nearly universal in most advanced economies surveyed” among “emerging economies, about half or more use the internet in every country but India” (Silver 2019). Cumulatively it is estimated that 59.5% of world’s population is using the internet (Moody 2021). Not only is access increasing through the internet and devices, but the speed of access is making such online usage more effective (“average mobile internet speed = 42.7Mbps, fixed = 96.43Mbps” (Moody 2021). Digital access is a window of opportunity into the souls of the lost.

Digital “Screen Time.” Not only to people have access to digital devices and the internet, but they are increasingly spending large portions of their daily life “living” on the internet. “Screen time” is the phrase used to describe the time spent looking at a digital device. U.S. teenagers spend 7.7 hours a day

outside of school on their screens (Rodriguez 2021). Globally, digital content is consumed an average of six hours and fifty-nine minutes when digital media such as phone, TV, and other forms are included (Koetsier 2020). Mobile devices are being used by the average person for over 25% of their daily time awake and half of U.S. residents spend most of their days on their screens (Ibid). This trend is affecting all ages in the United States significantly (Livingston 2019, Schaeffer 2019, and CDC 2022).

Screen time is showing up in significant ways globally as well. Egyptians spend 41% of their daily screen time on social media while Saudi Arabians spend 40% (Moody 2021). Across the planet, “the average person spends 2 hours and 25 minutes on social media each day” (Moody 2021). Filipinos ranks highest in screen time international with almost 11 hours a day of screen time, almost 6 hours of which is spent on mobile devices (Ibid). Worldwide, the average person has 8.4 social media accounts and spends 6 hours and 55 minutes on digital devices (Ibid). How can this screen time be leveraged for Gospel missions?

The vast majority of the world now has internet and smartphone access. A significant portion of their waking day is spent looking into a screen. Christian missions must become strategically digital to reach them where their attention is most focused, on their devices.

The phenomenon of digitization is not restricted to a particular region or age group, it is global. While the numbers may vary among people and places, global digitization is rapidly increasing. This is an opportunity for Christian missions that must not be missed. Some call this emerging trend of living online as the “metaverse.” The apparent and developing reality is that “physical spaces and virtual spaces will be seamlessly integrated, and digital technologies will disappear so completely into our lives and surrounding environments that we will barely notice it” (Anderson and Rainie 2022).

How do these missions and digitization statistics intersect? Why do they matter? We must consider the calling that the Lord has given us. Whether it is a particular people group or place, we

have opportunities today that we cannot ignore. Digital missions must be implemented and increased rapidly for the sake of the 70,000+ lost souls that are dying daily and entering an eternity in Hell.

What to Do in Digital Missions: Understanding the Digital Realm

The developmental direction of technology has increased communication and connection in scope, depth, and speed. Historically, we have seen such immense social change produced from the printing press to audio and image recording technologies. The invention of electricity and moving pictures and radically transformed the world we live in and how we spend our time. The development of the internet has allowed worldwide communication and connection to take place in milliseconds. The ongoing development of “Web3/Metaverse” will continue the increasing trend of digitization and will likely result in more access and time spent on digital devices.^[6]

Does the metaverse matter? The renaming of Facebook’s parent company as Meta is not an isolated event or outlier. Major companies like Microsoft, Google, and Apple as well as thousands of small companies are investing significant resources and attention into the digital realm (The Street 2022, Reuters 2022). Such widespread investments are a key signal for the increased importance of understanding and utilizing augmented and virtual reality as a real “place” where people “go” to meet people.

The current practices in the metaverse are in taking existing digital spaces into a more interactive and three-dimensional experience. Virtual reality devices like the “Oculus” already allow numerous opportunities for social events, gatherings, gaming, sports, entertainment, sports, education, and exercise (Oculus 2022). Augmented reality will increase and be impossible to ignore. Many have referenced the metaverse as something you have to experience yourself to fully understand, invoking and

modifying Morpheus' statement from the movie *The Matrix*, "you can't explain what the Matrix [Metaverse] is, you have to experience it for yourself" (Nieuwhof CNLP470 2022).

What is the goal of Christian missions? Many Christian writers have explained it to be the task of crossing boundaries (whether geographical, cultural, linguistic, or governmental) with the purpose of making disciples of Jesus. Zane Pratt, Vice President for Global Training with the International Missions Board affirms that, "a missionary is nothing more than a disciple of Jesus, who makes disciples of Jesus, where Jesus is not known yet" (Akin 2022).

What then is "digital missions"? *Digital missions is the task of intentionally entering into the digital world to make disciples of Jesus.*

Who then are "digital missionaries"? *Digital missionaries are those disciples of Jesus who intentionally enter the digital world to make disciples of Jesus.*

Consider your own current digital practices. Look at your phone or device's "screen time" calculations. How many devices do you own and use? Where do you think you could be more effective missionally with digital means and methodologies for the cause of Christ? What if every Christian with digital devices and internet access began to intentionally enter the digital world with the purpose of making disciples of Jesus?



How to Do Digital Missions: Urgent Next Steps for Reconciling Humanity with their Creator

Seeing these concerning missions statistics and the developing global digital access should prompt us to consider how we might "go" online more effectively to reach and teach the nations.^[7] Missionaries have been inventive and creative for centuries in discovering ways to access and reach the nations with the Gospel. Missionaries have been brave and diligent in going to the world to make disciples of Jesus. We need digital missionaries today who are inventive, creative, brave, and diligent to enter the digital world with the purpose of evangelism and discipleship.

Spiritual Cyber Warfare. Modern day military warfare has increasingly found avenues of offense and defense in an evolving era of "cyber warfare" (U.S. Cyber Command 2022). Satan has modeled *spiritual cyber warfare* by effectively utilizing digital strategies both to enslave the lost and to impede the saints' approaches to evangelism, discipleship, and missions. Online addictions are real in pornography, gambling, gaming, nonstop entertainment, and the appeal of false teachings. Christians must counter these attacks more effectively with both defensive and offensive approaches of engagement in spiritual "cyber warfare" for the sake of the lost. Here are some digital missions strategies, tactics, and challenges that Christian churches, organizations, and agencies should take under serious consideration.

Spiritual Force Multipliers. A "force multiplier" is military terminology for technology or techniques that magnify your effectiveness on the battlefield. Digital missions is a spiritual "*combat or force multiplier*" that missionaries cannot ignore.

Cyber approaches can effectively strengthen and broaden their effectiveness in reaching the lost and discipling the saved. Missions agencies and organizations, as well as missional seminaries and churches, must enter into a significant season of self-evaluation in order to adapt their strategies and staffing to this emerging age. If a denominational agency has an “international missions” and a “national missions” group, it needs to immediately start a “digital missions” group. Seminaries and conventions need to train, equip, and motivate their students and members to be digital missionaries now. There is an urgent need to implement new tactical approaches for immediate impact and future foundational frameworks. Here are some specific next steps to consider for more effective reconciliation via digital missions.

Digital Missions Strategies. In a military context, strategies are higher-level considerations for how to defend against, engage with, and defeat one’s enemies. Christian missionaries must ask themselves higher-level questions in evaluating their established purpose and vision. They must consider the timing (when), audience (where and who), leadership and workers (who), available equipment/resources (what), and the skills, budget, training, and approach (how) for their mission success. As these big-picture questions are considered, assessed, and addressed a more focused strategy can be developed with the integration and increase of digital missions. Each organization and individual should conduct research, both religious and secular, as to how digital strategies are being developed elsewhere. While many individual Christians and churches are accomplishing digital missions independently, few Christian organizations (other than Cru) are demonstrating any sort of organized, strategic approach to digital missions.^[8] We must act with urgency to organize the church for the important task of digital missions and mobilizing digital missionaries.

Digital Missions Tactics. Militarily tactics are the application of strategies at an individual or small unit level. Christian leaders, teams, and workers need to think tactically

about their battle which is “not with flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:10-20 [ESV]). How digital tools be used as both the spiritual armor and weapons in the digital places into which God has placed you? The situations are too numerous and diverse to consider wholistically here, but are some thoughtful questions and ideas that may prayerfully birth Spirit-led implementations and tactical approaches to your own missionary work:

- Self-evaluate – What are your current digital practices?
 - How have you previously organized and strategized your digital missions work?
 - Where are you strong? Where are you weak?
 - What financial and personnel resources do you need to grow in your digital outreach?
 - How frequently do you need to calendar re-evaluations?
- Try & Learn – What can you research, explore, & experiment with now?
 - What organizations are ahead of you? How can their example inspire and help you?
 - Who do you need to interview and learn from?
 - What books do you need to read?
 - What videos do you need to watch?
 - How can you start experimenting now?
 - How will you resource and evaluate these experiments?
 - Who will lead and serve in such efforts?
 - What goals can you set? Are they SMART? (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound/limited)?
 - What does digital “success” look like in your context?
- Watch & Brainstorm – Where can you go to be inspired in your creativity?
 - Watch & Discuss Future Focused Digital Films – “Inspector Gadget” (1983, 1999), “Matrix” (1999), “Minority Report” (2002), “Surrogates” (2009), “Avatar” (2009), “**Ready Player One**” (2018) (DISCLAIMER: Not endorsing the language and situations depicted, check reviews first for

your own decision considering appropriateness for yourself and context.)

When can you conduct a brainstorming session? What would a successful brainstorming session produce? Where can you go and who can you bring to maximize success?

- Who Can You Find? – Who do you have already?

How can you encourage innovation within yourself and your organization?

What incentives and recognition might help?

Who is already working digitally within your organization? Outside your organization?

Who can you raise up in influence, resource, or empower?

Who needs to change positions to free up space and influence for another?

What outside resources can come to teach and lead your changes?

- Equip Trainers – What resources and time do they need?

What about initial entry training in your organization?

What about ongoing development and advanced training?

What is in your current syllabus or training manuals? What needs to be added? What needs to be modified? What needs to be deleted?

What assignments and expectations need to change?

What does this look like in churches?

What does this look like in seminaries?

What does this look like in lay ministries?

What does this look like in mission agencies?

What does this look like among mission teams?

- Examine Your Margin – Are you and your organization too busy?

What tasks/expectations can be eliminated or reduced to create margin?

What tasks/expectations must be added into that margin?

What is the priority and timeframe for change? What is too slow? What is too fast?

- Maximize Digital Presence & Content Creation – What is urgent?

How are your websites (static content) and social media (interactive experiences) implementation currently? Where do you need to step it up? Where do you need help?

What can you do now with your current resources and staffing?

- Some inspiration and ideas:

- Go to current ministries and missions and think of 3D or digital versions of ways your missions or ministry has been successful before

- Buy an Oculus for your organization and pass it around. Spend a full day in 3D.

- Could missionaries or ministers be more available digitally?

- Who does social media well? What can you imitate? Personalize?

- What social media expectations and limitations should you have?

- Take an in-person or digital field trip to foster content creation and innovate – Creation Museum, Ark Encounter, Bible Museum, Bible Map, Bible Storying (Creation to Christ) and consider how can you make things more “experiential” and less “informational”?

- What content do you already have that can be digitized or distributed better?

- What is being done in the locations, languages, and culture you feel called to? What can be done better? What gaps can you fill? Where do they like to spend their time digitally?

- What digital events could you host?

- What tourism is popular in your settings? How could that be a digital “hook”?

- Create artificial intelligent “bots” that can have effective evangelistic and discipleship conversations. Use GotQuestions.org, the Bible Project, and LivingWaters.org as examples that might move into the 3D and AI realms? (think

Christian Siri/Alexa/Google with an avatar)?

- How can you use translation technology better? Immediately written and audio, bubble over your shoulder, sign language <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ordizc-8gvE> @ 1:29
- Could you host virtual Christian concerts? Language lessons? Exercise classes? Masters Courses? Health clinic?
- Look at current ideas with Meta: <https://www.oculus.com/experiences/quest/3002729676463989/>
- Watch YouTube VR 360 degree videos: <https://www.oculus.com/experiences/quest/2002317119880945/>
- Play to earn incentives – coins for attendance, participation
- Provide VPN or Internet access with evangelism links
- What is your digital advertising budget?
- What is your social media following among non-believers?
- Who could you recruit & hire Christian missionaries from FB, Instagram, YT, TikTok, Shorts, Reels

Digital Missions Challenges. Although the opportunities are vast in the digital realm there are some serious challenges that need to be considered. Whenever you take digital missions steps you need to anticipate and prepare for Satan's counterattacks and resistance. Here are some questions to consider as you consider the unique challenges of digital missions:

- What other organizations can you learn from by asking them about their difficult experiences?
- What do you need to consider on the platforms you will use? What are their reputations and temptations (think Snapchat and TikTok)? What addictions may they feed and what accountability do you need.
- As equipment evolves, do you have the budget to keep up with the rapidly required costs?
- What rules and regulations do you need internally for protection? What gatekeepers and obstacles can you expect where you go? (Anderson and Rainie 2021)

- What morally complex situations do you need to anticipate now?
- What are the inefficiencies, limitations, distractions, and discouragements you need to prepare for or avoid?
- How might you might be attacked? (i.e. critics, haters, trolls, ads, spammers, surveillance, cyber-bullies, predators, and identity thieves) How can you best protect those who gather to your digital missions?

Conclusion

Biblical truths and examples support the implementation and effectiveness of digital missions. The statistical needs of spiritual lostness and digital opportunities are numerous and convicting. The world around us is changing rapidly. We have the privilege and urgent calling to share the Good News of Christ to those who have never heard. There are real challenges with digital missions and much to learn about this ever-evolving media. We must see digital missions as a spiritual cyber warfare that can reach billions of souls rapidly if we plan strategically, implement tactically, and consider the obstacles and counterattacks that we will face. The Metaverse is not going away. Digital missions is an opportunity we cannot avoid or delay. May we pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up and send out digital missionaries.

Thesis: The Metaverse is less about virtual reality and more about the increasing reality of people living (time spent communicating and connecting) in digital places. Christians have the imperative and opportunity to enter the digital realm in order to effectively reach and teach souls with Jesus' Scriptural truth and love.

Helpful Resources for Further Study

Full Bibliography: www.SpiritualWarfare.blog/full-digital-missions-bibliography

DIGITAL MISSIONS SCRIPTURES

Prophecies - Deuteronomy 18:22 “when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.” (ESV)

- The Lord often communicated through messengers who used both spoken and written means. The Lord spoke directly to these messengers often through non-physical means.

Dreams & Visions - Joel 2:28-29 “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.” (ESV)

- Paul’s Vision to Go to Macedonia (Acts 16:9)
- The Lord sometimes appears, communicates and connects to His followers through a non-physical presence and means in dreams and visions.

Theophanies & Angelic Appearances – Real Spiritual Communication and Connection

- God Appears (theophany) or Sends Angels (Genesis 16:7-14 to Hagar, Genesis 22:11-15 to Abraham, Genesis 31:11 to Jacob, Exodus 3:2-4, Exodus 19-34 to Moses, Exodus 23:20-21, 33:2, Numbers 20:16 an Angel before the Israelites, Numbers 22:22-38 to Balaam, Judges 2:1-3 to all the people of Israel, Judges 6:11-23 to Gideon, Judges 13:3-

22 to Manoah and his wife, 1 Chronicles 21:15 to destroy Jerusalem, 1 Samuel 3 to Samuel, 2 Samuel 24:16-17 to David, 2 Chronicles 32:21, 2 Kings 19:35 destroys 185,000 Assyrians, 1 Kings 19, 2 Kings 1 to Elijah, Daniel 3:16-30 to Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego, Daniel 4:28-37 to King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel 5:5 by hand to King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel 6:22 to Daniel in the Lions Den, Zechariah 1-6 angelic visions to Zechariah, Zechariah 3:4 The angel of the Lord takes away the sin of the high priest Joshua, Luke 1:11-20 Gabriel to Zechariah, Luke 1:26-38 Gabriel to Mary, Matthew 1:20-25 to Joseph, Luke 2:8-15 to the shepherds at Jesus’ birth, Matthew 2:19 to Joseph in Egypt, Matthew 4:11 to minister to Jesus after Satan’s temptations, Luke 16:22 carrying Lazarus to Heaven, Matthew 3:13-17 Father’s Voice at Jesus’ baptism, Holy Spirit visibly descends, Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36 Father’s Voice at Jesus’ Transfiguration, John 12:28 the Father’s Voice, Luke 22:43 strengthening Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Matthew 28:2-7, John 20:12-13 to open Jesus’ tomb, Acts 1:9-11 at Jesus’ ascension to Heaven, Acts 5:19 opening the prison doors to free the Apostles, Acts 8:26 to Philip, Acts 9:1-19 to Paul and Ananias, Acts 10:1-16 to Centurion Cornelius and Peter, Acts 12:7-10 to deliver Peter from prison, Acts 12:22-23 to kill King Herod, Acts 27:23-24 to Paul before a shipwreck, Revelation, Matthew 13:29-49, Matthew 16:27, 24:31, 25:31 at the end of the age and at Jesus’ return)

- The Lord sent angels or appeared directly in a supernatural manner with real spiritual communication and connection. (<https://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/miracles-of-god>)

Matthew 11:1 “When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.” (ESV)

- Much of Jesus’ ministry was dedicated to direct, physical

encounters with His audience rather than settling on indirect word of mouth ministry. Jesus prioritized in-person encounters.

Mark 3:14–15 “And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.”

- Jesus sent out His disciples to preach the Gospel and use their gifting to show God’s love.

Acoustics & Visibility

- Matthew 5:1 “Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.” (ESV)
- Mark 4:1 “Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.” (ESV)
- Luke 5:3 “Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. (ESV)
 - **Sometimes Jesus preached in places where He could gain a better hearing audibly and visibly.**

Matthew 10:13–14 “And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.” (ESV)

- Seek opportunities to maximize reach where doors are open.

Luke 10:1–2 “After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his

harvest.” (ESV)

Matthew 9:37–38 “Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (ESV)

- **Our prayer and heart should be for more missionary workers to reach many.**

Great Banquet Luke 14:12-24

Luke 14:21 “So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’” (ESV)

- We are called to reach into hard places to reach the outcasts and bring them into Christ’s saving presence.

Luke 14:23 “And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’” (ESV)

- We are called to go out of our familiar areas to reach foreigners and outcasts with strong urging to receive the Gospel invitation.

John 3:1–2 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.’” (ESV)

- Sometimes anonymous, stealthy, or secretive encounters can allow Gospel conversations that may not be able to occur elsewhere. (think digital anonymity opportunities)

Jesus Heals Everyone Who Touches His Clothing (Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30)

Peter Heals Many of Diseases and Demons, Even through His Shadow (Acts 5:12-16)

Jesus Heals a Paralytic Let Down from the Roof by Friends

(Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26)

- Jesus mostly heals with close proximity to those who are sick with disease or indwelt by demons.

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Paralyzed Servant (Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10)

- Jesus sometimes heals at a distance without His physical presence

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (ESV)

- There is a physical command to go out and reach all nations, teaching them to follow Christ's command and to publicly identify as a follower of Jesus through baptism.

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (ESV)

- Our missions task is to bear witness to Jesus' love and truth throughout the world.

Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." (ESV)

Romans 8:11 "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you." (ESV)

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit." (ESV)

Ephesians 4:4-6 "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you

were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (ESV)

- All Christians are indwelt with God the Holy Spirit who connects to us and communicates to us. There is a real union between Christians through the Holy Spirit that transcends physical and temporal boundaries.

Acts 2:14-41 "But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ..."

- The transcription and communication of sermons and songs in the Scriptures is a great example of why we should share what happens in our worship services (live stream) with those outside of our physical gatherings.

Acts 5:42 And **every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching** that the Christ is Jesus. (ESV)

- Believers are called to go wherever they can gain entry to teach and preach about Jesus. Places of worship and private homes are great opportunities for in depth Bible conversations.

Acts 16:12-14 "and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, **where we supposed there was a place of prayer**, and we sat down and spoke to **the women who had come together**. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul." (ESV)

- Believers should seek Gospel sharing opportunities where people come together.

Acts 17:16-21 "Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens,

his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he **reasoned in the synagogue** with the Jews and the devout persons, and **in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there**. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And **they took him and brought him to the Areopagus**, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would **spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.**” (ESV)

- Christians should go into both religious and non-religious places in following Paul’s example as he went to synagogues, marketplaces, and wherever the invitation or opportunity is allowed.

Acts 17:22–23 “So Paul, standing **in the midst of the Areopagus**, said: ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.’” (ESV)

- Preaching with boldness to diverse audiences should be done with a level of cultural awareness and connection.

Acts 18:4 “And he reasoned in the **synagogue every Sabbath**, and **tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.**” (ESV)

- Conversion to Christ is the ultimate goal of our conversations with unbelievers.

Acts 20:20 “how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and **from house to house**” (ESV)

- It takes courage to speak consistently of the truth whether in public or private.

Romans 10:11–13 “For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’ For **there is no distinction between Jew and Greek**; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” (ESV)

- God saves regardless of national, cultural, or religious background.

Romans 15:22–28 “This is the reason why I have **so often been hindered** from coming to you. But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, I hope **to see you in passing** as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem **bringing aid** to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you.” (ESV)

- Efforts to go to places can be limited by opportunity and time. Some purposes, such as financial gifts, do not require physical presence in the modern day.

2 Corinthians 5:16–17 “From now on, therefore, **we regard no one according to the flesh**. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. [17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (ESV)

- We need the reminder to not merely think of people by their physical appearance.

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and **gave us the ministry of**

reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us **the message of reconciliation**. Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**” (ESV)

- Our calling is to represent Jesus with an urgent message to be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 10:1–2 “I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who **am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!**— I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh.” (ESV)

- Physical proximity can encourage humility and physical distance can encourage courageous communication.

Galatians 3:28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus.**” (ESV)

Colossians 3:11 “Here **there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free;** but Christ is all, and in all.” (ESV)

- Our outward identities do not matter compared with our spiritual identity in union with Jesus.

Colossians 2:1–5 “For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and **for all who have not seen me face to face**, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am **absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing** to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.” (ESV)

- Even without physical presence, there is a spiritual

union that transcends our face to face limitations.

1 Thessalonians 2:17–18 “But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, **in person not in heart**, we endeavored the more eagerly and with **great desire to see you face to face**, because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but **Satan hindered us.**” (ESV)

- While in person separation can be difficult, emotional and mental connections can remain strong. We should always endeavor to be connected to one another in person wherever possible. Satan actively attempts to keep believers physically separated from one another.

1 Thessalonians 3:9–10 “For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as **we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?**” (ESV)

- Being together physically should be prayed for and can provide for spiritual growth that cannot occur solely through communication from a distance.

1 Peter 3:15 “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;** yet do it with gentleness and respect” (ESV)

- We should look for opportunities and be prepared for Gospel conversations.

2 John 12 “Though I have much to write to you, **I would rather not use paper and ink.** Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.” (ESV)

3 John 13–14 “I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. **I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.**” (ESV)

- Written or less personal correspondence is important and helpful, but has its limitations. In person communication and connection is the ideal whenever

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possible.

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Jonathan Carl grew up in the great state of Texas as the oldest of six kids. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served in the U.S. Army as a tanker with a combat tour in Iraq in the early 2000s. He had the joy of journeying to Kentucky where he met and married his wonderful wife, Brittney. Several years later he became the lead pastor at South Fork Baptist Church where he has served for over a decade. He enjoyed the opportunities to study and earn his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Evangelism & Missions from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jonathan

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