

What a Missionary Is

A description based on what we see of Paul in the book of Acts



1. A missionary has and reports to a home church (14:26-28; 18:22-23) but is primarily and directly guided by the Holy Spirit (13:2, 4, 9; 16:6-7; 20:22-23).

2. A missionary ministers as a part of a larger team, not as a lone ranger (13:2; 15:40; 20:4).

3. A missionary preaches the Gospel and proclaims the Word of God everywhere he goes (13:5, 16ff, 14:1, 7, 21, 25; 16:13; 17:2, 10, 17, 22; 18:4; 19:8).

4. A missionary faces constant opposition, which may move him out of a given area but never from his determination to preach the Gospel (13:8, 45, 50; 14:5, 19; 16:19-24; 17:5-9, 13, 32; 18:6, 12-17; 19:9, 21-41).

5. A missionary expects and experiences supernatural intervention that furthers the Gospel he preaches (13:11; 14:3, 8-10; 16:18, 26; 19:11-12). [We would not expect today the signs and wonders of Paul, but we can expect unusual divine help in answer to prayer.]

6. A missionary sees people saved *almost* everywhere he goes (13:12, 48, 52; 14:1, 21; 16:14, 30-31, 40; 17:4, 11, 34; 18:8; 19:18).

7. A missionary seeks to establish churches everywhere he goes (Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Ephesus).

8. A missionary does not settle down as pastor of those churches. He assists the disciples to form their own churches with their own leadership (14:23; 20:17).

9. A missionary does not live in one place but travels from place to place, according to the leading of the Holy Spirit and the local response to the Gospel. (He is not tied down by buildings and/or mission compounds.)

10. A missionary spends a significant amount of time revisiting, teaching (18:11; 19:9; 20:20), and strengthening disciples won through his ministry (14:21-22; 15:41; 18:23).

11. A missionary includes nationals as a part of his ministry team, giving them adequate opportunity for the exercise of their gifts (16:1-3; 20:4).