

# Motives of Missionaries

*Why are you a missionary?*

## Missionary Motive

A passion  
for Jesus  
Christ

**“Any work for God that has less than a passion for Jesus Christ as its motive will end in crushing heartbreak and discouragement.”**

*Oswald Chambers*

## Missionary Motive

An affection  
for Jesus  
Christ

**“Jesus must first become  
the focus of our affection  
before he becomes the  
focus of our commitment.”**

*Gunter Krallman*

## Missionary Motive

The Love for  
Christ

**“Shall not the love of  
Christ carry the missionary  
where the love of gain  
carries the trader?”**

*David Livingstone*

## Missionary Motive?

Eagerness to  
make Christ  
known

Based on your  
conception of  
God

**““How good a man’s God really is will be shown by the man’s eagerness to make Him known to all the world.”**

*Robert Speer*

## Missionary Motive?

A passion to help “sick souls”

“I hungered for Hell. I pushed into the midst of it in the East End of London. For days I stood in those seething streets, muddy with men and women, drinking it all in and loving it all. Yes, I **loved it because of the souls I saw**. One night I went home and said to my wife: ‘Darling, **I have given myself, I have given you and our children to the service of these sick souls.**’ She smiled and took my hand, and we knelt down together. That was the first meeting of the Salvation Army.”

*General William Booth*

## Missionary Motive

A passion  
for those  
who have  
not heard

“While I have this day had the privilege of worshipping the true God in solemnity, I **have been pained by the thoughts of those who have never heard the sound of the gospel.** When will the time come that the poor heathen . . . shall own the living and true God? Dear Savior, haste to spread the knowledge of thy dying love to earth’s remotest bounds.”

*Sarah Boardman Judson*

## Missionary Motive

A sense of the value of a human life in the plan and thought of God

“One of the great purposes of our Lord’s coming here to earth was that **he might show men the value of a man’s life** in the plan and thought of God.... What was His own example but the illustration of the immeasurable value of man? He did not come to teach the uselessness of human life, but its pricelessness.”

*Robert Speer*

## Missionary Motive

To fill a little  
but  
indispensable  
place in the  
service of God

**“Even a little man may fill such an indispensable place as that of helping God lay hold of a great man who will be one of the unmistakable forces of God.”**

*Robert Speer*

## Missionary Motive

To use every moment for benefiting fellow mortals

“How important is time. One moment gone is gone eternally, the **opportunity to honour God, or benefit fellow mortals, irrecoverably past.**”

*William Carey*

## Missionary Motive

The thought  
of a fellow  
human being  
perishing  
forever

“The thought of a fellow creature perishing forever should rouse all our activity and engage all our powers.”

*William Carey*

## Missionary Motive?

### Desire to follow the example of Christ, the missionary

**“It is something to be a missionary. The morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy, when they first saw the field which the first missionary was to fill. The great and terrible God, before whom angels veil their faces, had an Only Son, and He was sent to the habitable parts of the earth as a missionary physician.”**

*David Livingstone*



## Missionary Motive

Living a life  
that has  
eternal  
significance

"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*



## Missionary Motive

Motives  
more than  
sufficient

““I am, notwithstanding the little success we have had, far from being discouraged; and should I never succeed, yet I am resolved in the strength of the Lord Jesus to live and die persisting in this work, and never to give it up but with my liberty or life. The worth of souls, the pleasure of the work itself, and above all the increase of the Redeemer’s kingdom are with me motives sufficient, and more than sufficient to determine me to die in the work, that I have undertaken.”

*William Carey*



Carey's motives  
are exemplary.

What saith the  
Scriptures  
themselves?

The worth of souls

The pleasure of the work  
itself

The increase of the  
Redeemer's Kingdom

## Missionary Motive

Obeying  
God's  
command

Mark 16:15, “And he said to them, ‘**Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.**’”

## Missionary Motive

# Obeying God's Command

- That alone should be sufficient motivation. The presumptive answer should be “I’ll go in obedience to a clear command.”
- **“Why should you *not* go?”** was the challenge to those who attended the first international student conference, from which sprang the Student Volunteer Movement.



The Mount Hermon 100 at Northfield in 1886

## Missionary Motive

Obeying God's  
personal calling,  
fulfilling one's  
personal spiritual  
stewardship  
(duty)

Act 13:2, "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have **called them.**"

1 Cor. 9:16, "For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, **I am still entrusted with a stewardship.**"

## Missionary Motive

Christ's love  
– for me,  
and mine  
for Him

2 Cor. 5:14, *“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died.”*  
(NKJV)

## Missionary Motive

The assurance  
of reward in  
heaven for  
every faithful,  
expectant  
believer

2 Tim. 4:7, “I have fought a good fight,  
I have finished my course, I have kept  
the faith: 4:8 Henceforth there is laid  
up for me a **crown of righteousness**,  
which the Lord, the righteous judge,  
shall give me at that day: and **not to  
me only, but unto all them also that  
love his appearing.**”

## Missionary Motive

The  
provocation  
of idolatry  
and spiritual  
ignorance

Act 17:16 “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.** 17:17 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.”

17:22, So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 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.**”

## Missionary Motive

Compulsion to speak of what we have experienced in Jesus Christ and learned of Him

*“So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for **we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.**’”*

Acts 4:18-20

## Missionary Motive

Desire to teach and disciple (a legitimate and even required motive)

Mt. 28:18b-20, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.”

## Missionary Motive

Desire to be a light of salvation to those who sit in darkness -- even to the ends of the earth

***Act 13:47***, “For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, ‘**I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.**’ 48, And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.”

***Mat. 4:12***, “Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 ‘The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, **Galilee of the Gentiles—** 16 **the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.**’”

## Missionary Motive

Being that light  
with the  
assurance that  
some will believe;  
finding those  
“appointed”

**Act 13:48**, “For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ 48, And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and **as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.**”

## Missionary Motive

Serving with the aim and knowledge that some from every kindred, tongue, tribe and nation will be redeemed

Rev. 5:9, “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and **hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every *kindred*, and *tongue*, and *people*, and *nation*.”**”

## Missionary Motive

To impart spiritual help and strengthening to existing believers for mutual encouragement

*Rom. 1:11, “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—  
12 that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.”*

## Missionary Motive

To fulfill the ministry of the gospel in an area previously unreached

*Rom. 15:17, “In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. 18 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;***

## Missionary Motive

To preach the  
gospel to  
unreached  
people

Romans 15:20, “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.”

2 Cor. 10:15, “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.”

## Missionary Motive

To aid God's  
worker even at  
the risk of  
one's life

*Rom. 16:3, "Greet **Prisca and Aquila**, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 16:4 who **risked their necks for my life**, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well."*

*Php. 2:25, "I have thought it necessary to send to you **Epaphroditus** my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also ... honor such men, 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me."*

Remember  
these motives

The worth of souls

The pleasure of the work  
itself

The increase of the  
Redeemer's Kingdom