

VISION AND MISSIONS

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A MISSION WITH A VISION MAKES FUSIONS (REVOLUTIONS)

AND

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AND

A VISION WITHOUT A MISSION IS ONLY AN ILLUSION

True, isn't it?

Of course, we need missions. Every Christian must be inspired and empowered by the final but great commandment of Christ in Mathew 28: 19 & 20

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

All born again Christians are missionaries too, one way or the other, spearheading missions small or great. You can be a missionary in your home, in the neighborhood, in your place of work and in the society. And you can travel with great mission far and near, even though that is not a pre-requisite of a missionary's work. God has placed you wherever you are now as an ambassador of His Kingdom.

However, the underlying question that every Christian must ask is “Why am I missionary?” “What for I am doing these things in the name of Christ? “Do I do things for my fame or glory?”

Read and meditate Col 1: 25 to 29 and be inspired by the ultimate purpose of the missions that Paul undertook.

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

The very purpose of missions of Paul is quite evident in these verses and this became God's will and desire for the life of every Believer.

The dynamic outcome of such a lifestyle of Paul is history as we gaze through the Book of Acts and Epistles.

THUS, A MISSION WITH A VISION MAKES SPIRITUAL FUSIONS that is spiritual revolutions.

But, beware!!! What would be the outcome of **Missions without a vision?** Of course it does not have positive spiritual results but creates only negative confusions.

This is what happened in many churches and organized Christian mission works. The original vision was lost. Mechanisms might still function, but there is no vision. Administrations might continue but without a vision. Outwardly everything might look alright, but without the inward spiritual pulse and action.

When self-glory creeps in, it would result to be a graveyard of missions. The free will work of the Holy Spirit often is forced to give way to Egocentrism and Ethnocentrism. The so called 'wise', 'influential' and "rich" men and women try to control the things of God with the support of the profile of their personality and worldly logistics. 'Professionalism' and 'management techniques' learned from secular schools and colleges are being applied in taking care of the Lord's work. Tactics used in political and strategic realms will become tools of controlling and running the mission affairs. Replacement of 'Glory to God' with 'Glory to man' led to unspiritual scenarios in churches and mission fields. **What a loss of vision!**

YES, A MISSION WITHOUT A VISION (AND WITHOUT BURDEN FOR SOULS) RESULTS INTO CONFUSIONS. No doubt, Satan the very epitome of dilemma shall utilize the situation towards his benefit.

An opinion without a suggestion is meaningless! What is the solution?

Let God's word as revealed through Paul cling in the hearts of every believer.

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”. (1st Corinthians 10:11)

Each and every person who involves in the Lord’s ministry must inculcate and exhibit the very attitude Christ demonstrated through His actions and words. In crystal clarity He taught the lifestyle that He expects from His followers.

We read in Mark Mr. 10:43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

What is the very essence of these verses? Servant Leadership! How could a leader become a servant? In other words, opposite to the secular leadership in business, politics or in social groups, a Christian leader must serve and minister others. He becomes a leader through his servitude. It is said that ‘a leader is not born but made’. Let’s rephrase it by saying that “A Christian leader is not born, but made through his servitude qualities”

This is what Christ himself demonstrated. By the time of the Last Supper night He had become a popular leader. Notwithstanding while in such an elevated position, what did He do? He washed the feet of His followers, which normally in those days in the Middle East, an inferior servant of a household did. Which leader on this earth ever did such a humiliating job especially after he becomes a popular leader? None in history, but only the unique Christ did and demonstrate it through His life.

Thus, all those who involve in His Master’s ministries and mission, whether at home, church, neighborhood or in the society must demonstrate such a lifestyle of servitude character. Intellectual tactics and capabilities are to give way to the filling of the Holy Spirit who always works through one’s humble lifestyle.

A vision with a burden for souls blended with servitude for Christ -such an attitude would certainly only glorify God’s Kingdom. It must be reflected in every action of a Christian, especially when he/she handles missions of small or great in his/her life.

AND FINALLY, A VISION WITHOUT A MISSION IS ONLY AN ILLUSION.

Many Christians are in an illusion. When they hear about missions they rejoice. Of course it is expedient that they rejoice.

However, there are no answers to questions such as -

Where do you stand as far as missions are concerned? Have **you** involved yourself for the building up of the Kingdom of God? What objective have **you** taken to lead your family members to Christ and nurture them in the Lord? What measure have **you** taken to reach out the people around **you**? What is your role in the Church? What role have **you** taken for others to grow spiritually?

To a majority of Christians these are areas for other “specialized men and women” to involve themselves. But remember, you have a call. Could you discern your call?

If one fails to discern his call and the spiritual gifts God has empowered on him to accomplish, that call for God’s Kingdom, every response to other’s mission shall remain as an illusion. You have no role in it and you only just dream about it.

Yet there is another category of dreamers. To them every mission in the Word is “their own mission”. Without discerning their specific role and corresponding spiritual gifts which God has invested in them to fulfill these roles, they just remain as commentators on those missions. If those missionaries or workers who are involved in specific missions do not go according to the interests and opinions of certain groups, these dreamers are also criticizing such men and women.

For such Christians all missions are their own, but no specific roles to play and only actions by words.

Paul says in 1 Cor. 9: 23 “ And this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I might be **partaker** thereof with you”. Hello Christian dreamers, try to become partakers of missions.

Dear Brother /Sister, if you are a Christian, you have a call and got a role to play. When you respond to that, it will become a mission in your life. It might be a small mission, but God wants you to respond to it. And let’s do that mission with vision and burden for souls.

As Paul said be ‘partakers’ of missions. (I Cor.9.23)

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