

Our Motivation for Missions

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Sermon Summary

Lockdown changes our lives drastically. Even for church, many aspects are suspended. Missionaries here and around the world have likewise had their activities locked down. Thus, it would be very easy to forget missionary activity completely. Yet we must **NOT**. (Lest we forget!)

At its fundamental function, mission work is all about sharing. And the main hindrance to sharing is NOT having learned an approved method, but rather a lack of motivation. And what is motivation, said Han? He posed a most unusual situation to explain this: We are a passenger in a helicopter and the pilot drops dead. [Is this the greatest dread known? P.] If you don't want to die, then you have to get that aircraft down – somehow. **That's motivation.**

Being motivated is the key to mission work. Step 1 is to look to God. To find, to understand, to see, to experience the majesty and grandeur of his Being. Once we see and understand who God **is**, once that illuminates our minds and souls, then we have the motivation to tell others. The more we look – at God – the more we see of him, the more we want to share. Once you study the Bible in depth, things don't go strangely dim – they actually expand.

View our lives through the lens of missions. The bigger the understanding of God, the bigger and more effective becomes your witness. But you must start with friendship. You must be friendly with strangers and neighbours. The more they know you, the more likely you will be sharing with them one day.

View your life as a mission.

The Three Points to a Life that Desires Mission

1. **God's astounding glory.** God is infinite – far above and beyond our understanding. **Isaiah 6:1-4** gives us a (smoke-filled) picture of a glimpse into the extraordinary happenings in God's throne room. "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings; With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory'. At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke."
Can you imagine that? What picture do you see? Are we **worthy** to see that vision? [That's a very deep and demanding question. P.] This passage presents God in his astounding majesty, beyond the full understanding of a human.

For example: How did God **speak** into existence everything we know? Everything we mortals construct has to come from something already in existence. We cannot speak them into being as God can. Did you realise that even the rocks and stars praise God. **Psalm 66:4**. "All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name." **Psalm 148:3-4**. "Praise him, sun and moon, praise him all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies."

2. **God's amazing grace.** Why is God's grace amazing? It is one thing to show kindness (grace) to a friend, but it is even greater to show it to a stranger. But what about to someone we hate? With God there is no grading. His grace, his love is given 100% to all. Now that is amazing. But wait, there's more. He confers (through Jesus) total perfection and righteousness on us. Not 70% – but 100%. But the price he had to pay for all this was the sacrifice of His son on our behalf. Jesus was sent from heaven to live among grubby sinful humans because God loves his creation so much. Let us remember, "Since we are surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (**Hebrews 12:1-2**).
3. **God's appointed guides.** Look to mature Christian leaders for guidance and training. They are there to set examples for us. "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith" (**Hebrews 13:7**). So, do you want to be motivated? Look up to God and others who have gone before you.

Two Points for Meditation

1. **How can we use this time of isolation to prepare for missions in the future?**
2. **How do we utilize technology and engage in mission activity right now?**