

EVANGELISM & MISSIONS

Part 12 of THE PURPLE BOOK. Acts 10.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. March 27, 2022.

THE GLOBAL CORNERSTONE

- Christianity is a missionary faith.
- Christianity is a global faith.
- Therefore, we all need a global missions mindset.

ACTS 10: CONTEXT & READING

GLOBAL MISSIONS MINDSET: 5 PRINCIPLES

1. God Is A Missionary - verses 1-34

Psalms 3:8 (ESV) Salvation belongs to the Lord ...

2 Peter 3:9 (ESV) The Lord ... is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (ESV) ... God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Isaiah 52:10 (ESV) The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Luke 19:10 (ESV) "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

2. Jesus Is the Sovereign Lord of All - verse 36

Acts 10:36 (ESV) ... preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all)

Romans 10:12-13 (ESV) 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. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Matthew 28:18-19 (ESV) 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

3. The Gospel Is for the Whole World - verses 9-24

Romans 15:8-12 (ESV) For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 AND in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." 10 And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." 11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." 12 And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.

4. Jesus Is the Message - verses 34-43

Acts 4:12 (ESV) "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 10:43 "To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

4. The Holy Spirit Gives Life - verses 44-48

Acts 10:44-45 (ESV) While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.

John 3:5 (ESV) Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 6:63 (ESV) It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all.

CONCLUSIONS: APPLY THE PRINCIPLES

Isaiah 66:18-23 (ESV) And they shall come and shall see my glory, 19 ... And they shall declare my glory among the nations. 20 And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD ... so shall your offspring and your name remain 23 ... all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.

TODAY'S BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL TERM: PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES

Our prayers supply missionaries with essentials for their survival. Prayer is partnership in their work. Consider praying for the following.

Favor with Local Authorities: Missionaries don't merely need access to a country; they benefit from the ability to remain there long term in a steady and peaceful living situation. This fits with Paul's instruction to Timothy and the church in Ephesus to pray for those in positions of authority over them. We do so in order to live and minister in stable societies, ultimately with the hope that many will be saved (1 Timothy 2:1–4). We should pray for our missionaries to have good relationships with all authorities, such as local police and tribal chiefs, even school boards and landlords.

Healthy Partnerships with Christians on the Mission Field: Missionaries need the locals. When we observe the pattern of Paul's ministry, we find him constantly looking for opportunities to partner with local churches in his missionary endeavors (Acts 13:1–2; 1 Corinthians 16:6; Philippians 4:14–17). Paul's pioneer missionary efforts depended on local churches and their leaders.

Bold Witness to Unbelievers: I've seen many missionaries, those who go to the ends of the earth at great risk to themselves and their families, consistently struggle to open their mouths with the gospel. They might justify their silence for the sake of a broader strategy, or to avoid persecution or expulsion.

Therefore, we should pray earnestly for our missionaries to be willing to speak the gospel boldly (Acts 4:29; 20:20, 27; Ephesians 6:19). They aren't super-Christians. Like all of us, they're tempted to grow weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9), to lose heart (2 Corinthians 4:1–2), or to avoid difficult conversations.

Adapted from *Prayer Will Win the Nations*, an article by Elliot Clark, July 2, 2020. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/prayer-will-win-the-nations>