



# THRIVE Devotional

## Week 24 – Lesson 1

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### Choosing to Obey Jesus

Scripture reading Matthew 28:16-20

*“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.”*

Jesus came into this world for one reason. He wanted mankind to have a way to Heaven. He came and taught us about Himself and showed us what a wonderful God we have. He died for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead. He made it possible for us to have a relationship with Him and to spend eternity with Him in heaven. Then, He left us with this commission; go and tell the world. This is the purpose of His church. When we get together, we are to encourage one another unto love and good works. The primary good work that God wants us to do is tell other people about Him.

About fifteen years ago, a lady in our church called and asked me if I could pray for her grandma. Her grandma was in a coma. She was concerned because her grandma had not received Christ as her Savior. She asked me to pray that her grandma would come out of the coma. I told her if she did to call me and I would come over immediately and try to lead her to Christ. The next day, she called me and said, “My Grandma just came out of the coma. Could you come over and witness to her?” When I walked into her room, I stood at the foot of her bed. She lifted herself up and said, “Would somebody please save me?” My wife and I moved to the head of the bed and shared Jesus Christ with her. She trusted the Lord as her Savior. The next day, she went back into a coma and within a few hours she passed away. That woman is in heaven today because somebody was burdened for her soul.

Ask God this week to give you a burden for missions, a desire to reach lost people here and around the world. When you become a mission minded Christian, you will THRIVE.



# THRIVE Devotional

## Week 24 – Lesson 2

### See The Need Take the Lead

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Scripture reading Acts 1:1-8

*“That ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the utter most parts of the Earth.”*

Jesus established the first church and gave them the commission to be witnesses to all the earth. That commission was given over two thousand years ago to a handful of Christians He who empowered to be witnesses. On the planet today, there are well over 2.2 billion people, who profess the name of Jesus Christ. There is still a lot to be done. Look at the following stats:

1. 7.6 billion people in this world.
2. 29 thousand evangelical missionaries worldwide.
3. Five thousand independent Baptist missionaries.
4. 40.2% of the 10-40 window have no missionary presence. (The 10/40 window is a region of the eastern hemisphere, plus the European and African part of the western hemisphere, located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator.)
5. 3.14 billion people in the world today have never heard the name of Jesus.
6. 764 million people are considered unevangelised even in countries where the name of Christ has been spoken.
7. 70% of evangelical Christians have never been told about the billions of unreached people around the world.
8. Over seventy thousand die every day in the unreached world without Jesus Christ.

The Bible tell us Jesus looked on the multitudes and He was moved with compassion. When we think of the millions of people around us who do not know Jesus Christ, it should burden our hearts to want to reach them with the Gospel. In the last forty years, over one billion people have died who never heard the name of Jesus Christ.

Christian, what are you doing to reach the lost? Are you the witness God wants you to be? Are you giving to support missionaries around the world? When you do, you will THRIVE.



# THRIVE Devotional

## Week 24 – Lesson 3

### Don't Feel Guilty Get Involved

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Scripture reading 1 Timothy 2:1-8

*“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Where unto I am ordained a preacher, an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) and teacher of the Gentiles throug faith and verity.”*

Several years ago a woman came to me and my wife in the end of May and said, “I want to take you out to lunch because I will not be seeing you for the next month.” My wife asked if she would be going on a vacation. She said, “No.” She just did not want to come to Liberty during the month of June. She knew our emphasis would be on missions and did not want to feel guilty about not giving to missions. During the month of June, we ask people to pray about what God would have them commit to missions. We ask that they put that amount on a card and pray that God would supply that amount each week to be contributed to missions around the world. She did not want to pray about it. She did not want to think about it. She did not want to feel guilty about her lack of involvement for missions. Let me say this, God doesn't want you to feel guilty about not being involved in missions. God wants you to just get involved.

In our world today, there is one missionary for every 60,000 tribal people. There is one missionary for every 71,000 unreligious people. There is one missionary for every 179,000 Hindus. There is one Christian missionary for every 405,000 Muslims. From these statistics, you can see we have a great need for more missionaries in the world. Everybody needs to get involved. My wife shared with that lady God does not want her to feel guilty, but God wanted her to get involved.

There are only three things you can do with missions:

1. You can go and be a missionary yourself.
2. You can pray for missionaries.
3. You can give to missionaries, so they can go where you can't go.

Every Christian must make the choice. Will you go? Will you pray? Will you give? When you are faithful to do what God wants you to do, God will bless you, and your life will THRIVE.



# THRIVE Devotional

## Week 24 – Lesson 4

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### Why Go? – Part 1

Scripture reading Luke 14:15-24

*“And the Lord said unto the servant, go into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”*

Many years ago a friend of mine named Vern Bartlett was a very successful business man in Malibu, California. He had a beautiful home in Malibu Hills. It was filled with all the trappings of wealth. However, Vern was not content in his heart. Though he had everything that anyone could materially want, he was discontent something was missing. One Sunday evening, Vern went to church and heard a presentation from a gentleman from New Tribes Missions, an organization that reaches unreached tribes around the world. He heard the command of the Lord Jesus Christ to go into the highways and the hedges and compel them to come. Vern determined he was going to be involved in missions. First, he was going to give to missions, but beyond that he would give himself. He soon joined the New Tribes Missions organization. He sold his home in Malibu, which later he found out was destroyed by a flood. He and his family moved to a missionary training facility. Within a few years, he was packing up to move to Brazil, where he would reach the unreached tribes of the Amazon River for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will not know until eternity how many were actually reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through his years of service. I believe when Vern walks into the gates of Heaven, he will hear from our Savoir, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

As a Christian, you should determine to be involved in missions. That is our purpose for existence. That is why God leaves us here on this planet. The choice is yours. Do you go? Do you pray? Do you give so that others can go? When you get involved in missions, your life as a Christian will THRIVE.



# THRIVE Devotional

## Week 24 – Lesson 5

### Why Go? – Part 2

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Scripture reading Acts 16:9-10

*“There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia”*

Several reasons why Christians ought to go to tell other people about Jesus Christ. One truth that we examined in our last devotional was Jesus said to go. If we don't go then we are in disobedience.

Let me give you five more reasons why you should be faithful to go.

1. Hell is real. The rich man who had *“lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”* The rich man was in Hell 2,000 years ago and for the last 2,000 years has continued to suffer the consequences of Hell. Hell is real. Revelation 20:15, *“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”* The very thought of Hell should make us determined to be involved in missions. It is a place of terrible torment that lasts forever and ever.
2. The love of Christ. The Apostle Paul said, *“the love of Christ constraineth [me]”*. Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to come, suffer, and die for us. If we are going to show that kind of love to the world, we must go and tell them about Jesus Christ.
3. Because they are calling us. Our text today is referred to often as the Macedonian cry. Paul went because he heard the cry of people who wanted to hear the Gospel. There are people who are waiting for you to tell them about Jesus.
4. Go because someone came to you. Paul said, *“I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.”* (Romans 1:14) Paul felt like it was his debt to pay since Jesus paid for him. He needed to tell others about Jesus.
5. It is our purpose. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 tells us that we are new creatures in Christ. The reason we were made new creatures is to be ambassadors for Christ.

When you go and tell other people about Jesus Christ, you are fulfilling your purpose and you will THRIVE.



## THRIVE Devotional

### Week 24 – Lesson 6

#### Are You the One Sent from God?

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Scripture reading John 1:6-9

*“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”*

Helen Rosevear was a medical missionary on the African continent in the late sixties and early seventies. She was compelled to drive all night long to a village far up in the country to attend a meeting during the early morning hours. As the sun began to rise, she became extremely tired and had to pull over on the side of the road. She cracked her windows for air and fell sound asleep. Sometime later, she was awakened by pounding at her car window. There was a giant African man trying to get her attention. She rolled her window down slightly and asked him how she can help him. He inquired, “Are you the sent one from the great God to tell me how to get to Heaven?” She was certainly shocked by his inquiry and later found that he was a janitor of a local high school where a Christian evangelist had given the Gospel to the students. However, he, as the janitor, was not allowed to listen to the Gospel presentation. He had just heard that there was someone sent from the great God telling people how they can get to Heaven. He prayed and asked God to send them someone who would tell him about the great God and how he could get to Heaven. The Father led him to Helen Rosevear that day and she had the privilege of leading that man to Jesus Christ.

That is a wonderful story, but it would not have been possible if people did not support Helen Rosevear. If people had not sent her to the African continent where she could tell this man who desperately wanted to know about Jesus how he could have eternal life. It is so important that we be involved in missions. God wants you to be involved in missions. When you pray and ask Him how He wants you to be involved, He will lead you and you will THRIVE.