

Missionary Me:

The Spirit empowers **you** to bring the lost home!

In our university Xian fellowship group, a staff worker named Taryn disciplined my soon-to-be wife Leanne. Here's a pic of them back in the day!

The year after Leanne & I graduated from uni, the Berlin Wall came down, 'opening up' missionary doors to Eastern Europe.

Taryn decided after 10 years of uni evangelism & discipleship in America, she'd go to a field **more needy** of gospel workers...& ended up in Romania.

Travel visas for 'missionaries' to Eastern Europe were still slow in uptake, so Taryn went in as a grad student in Art History at University of Bucharest.

After Taryn shared with a professor that her all-time favourite sculptor was the Romanian sculptor Constantin Brâncuși, Taryn was invited to speak to all 4,000 students in the History department! The 1st lecture had 150 students.

The TOPIC?

Just months after **Ceausescu**, the Romanian communist dictator had been executed – and replaced by his right-hand man – Taryn was asked to speak on the topic of art history under **democracy!** No pressure!

So Taryn writes in her book,

*[Eventually] I mentioned that the U.S. Constitution is the longest serving democratic constitution that's remained intact, and that America was founded with an acknowledgement of **God's** authority and moral code, so that even when we falter, **God's** principles can bring us back to the right course.*

I then took a very deep breath, and decided to go for it:

I added that God made His ways known to us by giving His written word, the Bible, & by sending His Son, Jesus to show us what He is like so that anyone can know God personally.

Question time began.

The professors there said there had been absolutely no mention of GOD at the university in the past 45 years.

And then – in broken English – one professor asked:

"We wait you. Why did you take so long?"

In her book by that title (We Wait You), Taryn then adds:

I cannot count the number of times this question was directed at me in Romania.

Many students & profs would've been *awaiting* liberation from communism, just as women rejoiced over liberation from the Taliban after the Iraq War

But others meant much more by this question. Taryn continues,

*Dan counted the names on the sign-up sheet of those wanting follow-up meetings to talk about Jesus . . . Dan exclaimed, "**We have over 100 students to meet with!**"*

(that's more than 2/3 of the students present!)

That was from **1** talk in just **1** department at the university.

And this same question was asked over & over & over again by students re. **bringing the good news of Jesus.**

*"Why did you take so long? **WE WAIT YOU!"***

Sincerely, I share this NOT to 'guilt trip' us,
but to remind us of the great global need of people to hear about Jesus,
AND the great ANTICIPATION so many people have, searching for God –
like those in ancient Athens, whom Paul described as
groping for God in the *darkness* of ignorance & idolatry,
like we earnestly feel for a light switch in a dark room.

Or God-seekers, like young Mariana in Romania, who told Taryn,
*"I prayed to God for months, asking, 'God, please let me know if
You are There . . . let me know You!' I think you were sent to me
from God as my answer, to tell me about Jesus!"*

Truly, how BLESSED are the feet that bring God's Good News!

But the labourers are few ☹

So far in our mini-series we've heard:

- God is a **Missionary God** (He leads the way!)
- A biblical Church is a **Missionary Church** (equipping & sending)

Today we finish our mini-series with 'the pointy end of the stick':

Missionary Me

Someone recently wrote,
*Non-Christians need to be converted to Christians
then
Christians need to be converted to missionaries!*

What does that take?

Our flesh is relentless against counting the cost of missions.

So it takes God's **SPIRIT** in us,

Compelling us for His glory

Empowering us for our good . . .

the **good** of a world not yet knowing the saving glory of God in Christ

Our Big idea this morning is that

The Spirit empowers **YOU** to bring the lost home!

Our Outline highlights:

- **our Glorious PRIVILEGE in Christ** (Acts 1:9-10)
- **and Glorious POWER in Us** (Acts 1:9-10)

Our sermon is very application focused.

We will consider a few extra passages,
but we will launch from Acts 1:7-10

We'll come back to verses 7-8, since that's our 2nd point.

But I want us to start with verses 9-10 . . . our

GLORIOUS PRIVILEGE IN CHRIST (1:9-10)

It's hard for us to appreciate the depths of the privilege we have,
b/c what's going on in vv.9-10 is easily missed if you're not a Jew who'd been waiting centuries
for the promised Messiah to be coronated as King.

So Acts 1:9-10

*Jesus was taken up as they were **watching**,
and a **cloud** took him out of their sight. They were gazing into **Heaven***

needs to be heard how Jews would have, connecting very clearly with Daniel 7:13-14

*I was **watching**, and one like a Son of Man
was coming with the **clouds** of **Heaven**.*

He approached the Ancient of Days... (clear connections!; Daniel continues . . .)

*He was given dominion and glory and a **kingdom**;
so that those of every people, nation and language should serve Him.*

*His dominion is everlasting and **His kingdom** will not be destroyed! (Dan 7:13-14)*

In fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy, **Jesus** is clearly this prophesied "Son of Man"!

So please hear this: Jesus 🙌 **ASCENSION** is His 👑 **CORONATION**:

God the Son – risen, exalted and **CROWNED** as King – by God the Father!

Not just King of the Jews, like the sign Pilate placed on Jesus' cross.

But King of Kings and Lord of Lords . . . King over ALL the earth.

And who are we, us Christians? HIS **Ambassadors!!!**

But what does an 'Ambassador' DO?

Something our culture has become *very* accustomed to:
having someone "REPRESENT": from...

Down's Syndrome *Lucky Few*, to Black lives / women's lives / Asian lives / Muslim lives / Youth lives,
everybody wants representing!

But historically speaking, Ambassadors represent their **King/President/P.M.** to other NATIONS.

Stop & Think of whom we get to represent!

Our **Perfect, Sinless, GLORIOUS** King Jesus, who Humbled Himself & took on flesh, walked in
our shoes, died in our place – willingly giving His life for us scoundrels –

for any & all who repent & trust in King Jesus:

- He has forgiven your mountainous debt of sin
- He has cleansed you from your shame, clearing your conscience
- He has adopted you into His forever family, as co-heirs of glory!
- HE has commissioned YOU, to **REPRESENT HIM!**

Not only to **KNOW** Him, but to **SHOW** Him, to spread His fame & good news around the earth!
What a glorious **PRIVILEGE!**

This is why for centuries Ministry & Missions was a calling of HIGHEST esteem.

Dr. David Livingstone was a pioneer of modern missions to Africa, incld. the hard to access areas. Here's 1 of my favourite quotes from him:

*"If you know men who will come ONLY if there is a 'good road',
I don't want them.*

I want men who will come if there is NO road."

A time when the calling of Mission was of HIGHEST esteem, calling for the best of men and best of women.

Tragically, 😞 such times have passed.

- Today's "**heroes**" are **Grunge Rockers** & **TikTok-ers**.
- Other "heroes": are people SO significant to society's well-being, because they place a place a BALL in **hole** or a **goal** (we call them 'athletes').

A Word to Christian **PARENTS**

We have let this happen **UNDER OUR WATCH!** 😞

We've **SETTLED** for the low bar of allowing our kids be **inspired** by Instagram influencers who do 'profound' things, like product placement and putting on fashionable clothing.

Or, we hold up to them genuinely helpful vocations – like doctors, dentists – as The HIGHEST pursuit.

Those are noble and helpful vocations, but let's best honest:

\$ and worldly esteem are *often* paramount in those pursuits.

Having many Asians in my extended family, it's called an "**Asian Fail**" if you don't become:
a Doctor, Dentist, or Lawyer. And they let their kids know that!

Caucasian families are not immune! My dad wanted me to be a lawyer.

When I told him for grad school, I decided instead to go to Bible college, his reply:

"What a WASTE of potential."

Parent in Christ: **RAISE their GAZE!**

Lead your children to be *inspired* by **everyday heroes** called Missionaries

Normal people who count it a *high honour* to represent Jesus to all nations!

Raise your children to at least seriously consider missions as a calling.

How?: More to come in the next section for all of us.

So here, I'd like to encourage Parents in just 1 way:

Expose your kids to missions by reading auto/biographies of missionaries,

stories that are compelling, that testify to God's amazing works

– particularly when we dedicate our lives to Him in service!

If **reading** is a bit challenging, the Christian History Institute has distilled dozens of missionary biographies into animated shorts of ≈30 mins called **Torchlighters** . . . all **FREE** to watch online! highlighting great glories of missions and great personal costs of missions.

Our kids need a vision not just of what God *did* in ancient times, but what He **is doing** in our modern times, our times! *Torchlighters* gives both.

And of course, parents, to be impactful, you'll need to value missions yourself!

More on this under our next point.

So under this point (our Privilege), let me just say to all Christians here, parents or not:
YOU are included in the call! **You don't get a 'Hall Pass'** 2 get out of the Great Commission!

While some of us honestly just want an excuse, a way out of missions.
 others have concern about context & proper application, saying:

The Great Commission was given to The Eleven (the 12 -Judas), called the "apostles." 🙌 I'm no apostle!!

Let me highlight 1 thing about the Great Commission, Matt 28, Jesus said

Go, therefore, & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & Son & Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you"

Don't miss this part of what the Eleven were told:

*"Make disciples...teaching THEM to observe **EVERYTHING** I have commanded you" "Them" is us, you and me!*

Apostles were commanded to *make disciples **BY** going, baptising, teaching*

And they're commanded to teach **US** to do the **VERY SAME!** No Hall Pass!

Of course not every Christian can or should go overseas.

There is gospel work to be done here! Massive need in highly secular Australia.

But the CALL is shared by ALL.

It is unbiblical to presume you should not *go* in mission unless you sense a call.

We are all called to God's mission: make disciples, here or there.

So the question to ask, "Should I **STAY?**"

There may be *really good* answers for stay!

But given Jesus' command, the question must be asked by *each* of us

It's a question **Leanne & I had to ask ourselves.**

Taryn's example impacted us, to consider areas **more needy** of gospel work than our highly evangelised homeland with **380,000 churches.**

25 years ago, QLD – had few thriving Bible churches,

only a couple tiny Bible Colleges training up leaders.

Thanks to a connection with Craig Lloyd (my Bible College roomie),
 we decide to come here.

With a common *heritage* (England) and a common *language* – sort of –
 it was more of 'shallow end' step into the pool of overseas missions.

Nonetheless it was still very difficult to leave all our family behind, a very long & very expensive distance away, felt most acutely when parents are dying from cancer. 2 so far, 3rd now w/my Mum.

Despite the costs, if we did one of those commercials by L'Oreal,
 that always end with "*Because you're worth it*"

Our commercial would end with "*Because He's worth it*"

Is not the Lamb who was slain **WORTHY** to receive the reward of His suffering, as we fill the earth His glory proclaiming His glorious salvation!?!

The times may have changed regarding societal "esteem" of missions.

But our glorious King has not changed.

And our **glorious privilege** is the same.

Yet the calling of missions can be intimidating! And you might be thinking: 🤖 what can I do?

GLORIOUS POWER IN US (Acts 1:7-8)

I'll front-load a bunch Bible verses, then we'll have an extended focus on **Application**.

In Acts 1, the disciples were asking Jesus – now resurrected – Qs about God's **timing** of global events. But Jesus gets them/us to refocus on the **NOW**, our mission:

It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Where? To the ends of the earth. A job not yet finished & a job not for of a subset of Christians with a subset of special gifting. We all have God's Spirit. It's **our job** keep spreading the G news.

I do NOT want us to get side-tracked here about the *miraculous signs* at the coming of the Spirit in Acts chapter 2.

The **OUTCOME** of the Spirit's coming is what's important. Pastor James Boice is helpful here:

*"In Acts, in **EVERY** case where someone is 'filled with the Spirit', they **TESTIFY EFFECTIVELY** to Jesus Christ.*

Someone might say, 'Yes, but at Pentecost they did it in tongues.' True enough.

But that is not the emphasis, nor is it part of other examples of 'filling.'

In Acts 2 the emphasis is that everyone heard about Jesus.

*So if you ask whether a person is 'Spirit-filled,' the only way to answer the question is by determining whether or not he or she speaks often and effectively about Jesus."*¹

Amen!

This is true outside of the book of Acts as well. In John 15 Jesus taught:

*"When the Counsellor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father — the **Spirit** of truth — **you will testify about Me.**" (John 15:26-27)*

In John 15, Jesus is instilling courage in His disciples b/c of persecution.

In our world, with many parts anti-Jesus & hostile to Jesus' followers,

the **Holy Spirit gives us courage**:

"The Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." (2 Tim 1:7)

Let's use 2 Tim 1 as 'frame' to unfold varieties of power the Holy Spirit gives us – you & me:

- *Power to speak effectively about Jesus*, even when it's hard.
- *Power to fight sin*, which **enhances** our testimony to the world

"by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body" (Rom 8:13 – the self-discipline described in 2 Tim 1:7)

¹ James M. Boice, *Acts: An Expositional Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997), p. 42.

Finally, the Spirit gives us power to **love** even the UNLOVELY: as God does

*God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit
who was given to us (Romans 5:5)*

Speak Holy, Live Holy, Love Holy.

I hope you can see that if by unrepentant sin you are **quenching** the Spirit rather than **walking** in the Spirit, you will not prioritise missions...

you won't be kindling a holy love that *cares enough* to count the cost for a holy life that GOES to the nations with holy speech about Jesus.

APPLICATION will fall into 3 categories, that rhyme to help you remember☺

- ***Draw Near***
- ***Get in Gear***
- ***Start Here***

DRAW NEAR - TO GOD

There's No Short-Cut . Putting it bluntly:

We don't prioritise missions because we don't **LOVE** God or neighbour enough.

Our **fast-Paced, mirror-Faced** world, fixated on self-image & selfies, means that in our cultural narcissism, we've downgraded biblical virtue.

C.S. Lewis caught on to this, writing in the Weight of Glory:

*If you asked 20 upright people today what they thought the highest of the virtues,
19 of them would reply, Unselfishness.*

*But if you asked almost any of the great Christians of old, they'd answer: **Love**.*

You see what has happened? A NEGATIVE term has been substituted for a POSITIVE . . .

not SECURING GOOD for others, but of going without them ourselves, as if our abstinence & not their good was the important point.

Can you see how this hinders mission: not pursuing *their good*, salvation?

Lewis then writes,

*Self-denial is not an end in itself. We are told to deny ourselves & to take up our crosses
IN ORDER THAT we may **FOLLOW** Christ.*

Christ, whose love for the church, compelled Him to **give Himself** for her.

Christ, whose love for the Father compelled Him to **fulfil** the Father's mission

Jesus said, **not My will, by Thine**.

We are too FEARFUL of missions, because we to FOCUSED on ourselves! (repeat)

What is a biblical 'self-focus'? When we consider self, what should our reference point be?

One biblical reference point: **How much we've been FORGIVEN!**

Jesus' said this about the woman who washed His feet with her tears and anointed them with perfume:

*"She has been **FORGIVEN** much. This is why she **LOVES** much" (Luke 7:47)*

In ongoing, Spirit-convicting confession & thanksgiving, meditate on God removing your sins as far as the East is from the West. Paul described himself as “the chief of sinners”, so he wrote:

The love of Christ compels me (2 Cor 5:14-15)

a verse from Paul’s primary passage about being an ambassador for Christ, where he continues about “*no longer living for ourselves but for Christ*”, motivating his sharing the gospel w/the world

NEVER FORGET: Jesus loved us & died for us while we were **ENEMIES** w/God (Romans 5:10)

So “friendship evangelism” is fine, but it is limited to and dependent upon *our* friendship circle!

Jesus calls us to **follow Him** in something more dependent on the Holy Spirit: **ENEMY Evangelism!**

Love your enemies:

do good to those who hate you,

bless those who curse you, **pray** for those who mistreat you (Lk 6:27)

Christlike love – enemy love – motivates Enemy evangelism & mission.

Apart from God’s Spirit at work in us,

• **we want to share Jesus in the least inconvenient, least costly way**

• **we want to save dirty people at a distance.** That’s not love.

So remember your Mt Everest of sins God has **forgiven**, and be **driven to mission by love**.

Next, PRAY – Prayer is another God-given means to draw near to God AND stir our affections toward missions. Jesus taught us:

“The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.

Therefore, PRAY to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest. Lk 10:2

I’m reading *Get Real*, written by a missionary to Muslims in France, a tough gig, as that’s tough soil! But not too tough for God’s Spirit. From the book:

It is the Holy Spirit who opens the eyes of non-Christians and softens their hearts. Our role is always secondary. When we make our role primary and God’s role secondary, PRAYER is treated as less important, as we spend most of the time in planning, strategizing, and marketing.

[1 word: OUCH! What does your prayer life reveal about nearness to God’s ❤️ for mission?]

2 practical ways @ Logan this year that we’re trying to prioritise Missions by prioritising Praying:

1] Adopt-a-Missionary Missionary

Each of our GGs is “adopting” a missionary to keep in touch with, by regular updates to **pray for** weekly as a group, & send love parcels to, have quarterly video chat with together, maybe plan for a visit.

I *think* it will be great for the missionaries; I **know** it will be great for us!

2] Persecuted Church Prayer Guide

Given to the whole church, but our Grace Groups are committing to pray for Christians in the most persecuted countries in the world, 1 country a week. I am slowly realising that just as:

Out of sight = out mind

Out of **prayer** = out of **reach**

So we are trusting God that as we pray to the Lord of the Harvest, and that He will stir in the hearts of some here to go!

GET IN GEAR

After someone becomes convinced & committed to overseas mission – with picking a mission agency, interviews, visas, support raising, maybe language study – it usually takes a **couple years** to prep.

So what can be done to get cracking *now*!

What can you do, to get equipped, evaluated, and on track?

1ST: PERSPECTIVE SHIFT:

To go to the Mission Field, you do **not** need a 'gift of evangelism'

Some missionaries go to learn culture & language to translate the Bible. That is *LASTING* missions work . . . God's word in native tongue for Gens!

Some people go to the mission field as SUPPORT workers to free up missionaries for their task of church planting, evangelising, translating.

- Many missionaries with kids need school teachers in the kid's language
- Some bigger mission fields need accountants to balance the books under local laws/currencies, mechanics to maintain equipment, tradies to maintain bldgs./hospitals. Such support work requires GOING.

Certain skill sets can get you into countries otherwise closed.

Taryn got into Romania as a uni grad student.

Medicos can get into many closed countries to provide medical care.

In Kazakhstan, a country very hard country to get into,

I've been told they have a *specific* need for **PASTRY CHEFS!** 🧑🍳

Men AND women are needed since many countries, esp. Muslim countries, have a high degree of gender segregation. My daughter's been photogr. @ Somali weddings lately – even the reception has men in 1 room, women in another! So a female photogr. is requ'r'd. Men to reach Men, W2W

To go to the Mission Field, you do **not** need a special 'gift of evangelism'

You need a **love for the lost that counts the cost** . . . to go.

2ND: TASTE & SEE

One thing that often prevents people from becoming missionaries is FOG. That is the *murky, mysterious 'unknown'* about what missions is like, what it's like to live cross-culturally.

Short term missions is often *very different* (& sometimes *very distracting*) to a long term missionaries ongoing missions work. Not a great Taste & See.

It's more effective, more realistic to stay with missionaries for a bit to observe what they do normally, and what daily life is like.

We've just started supporting 2 Reformed Baptist couples I cannot name in SouthEast Asian country, I cannot name. They're in their 3rd year on field finishing lang. training, prepping to church plant & translate the Bible. A **bonus** reason for deciding to support them, in a recent video chat, they mentioned they would **WELCOME** any church members considering becoming missionaries, to come and live with them for a couple weeks, to have a taste of cross-cultural missionary life!

Also, one of the guys was raised as a missionary kid in PNG; his parents were missionaries with New Tribes Mission there, so he knows missions @ every age & stage, and is happy to share stories – particularly about removing the almost 'romantic mystique' of missions.

What a resource to our church network, to Taste & See!

YOUTH here: Taste & See what missions is like

Before you lock yourself into a degree, consider missions & Bible college.

YOUNG Adults: before getting locked into your career, *Taste & See*

RETIRES, with your newly abundant spare time: *Taste & See*

Jim Elliot, famous missionary killed by Auca Indians in S. America in 1950s had a much less famous but very fruitful missionary brother . . . Bert.

Over 6 decades in Peru, Bert & his wife Colleen planted 158 churches.

Still serving in their 80s, when back in America on furlough (on leave), visiting churches, Bert told one pastor ***"I can't wait to get back."***

You *young puppy* retirees in your 60s, it's obviously not too late! T & See!

3RD: CONFIDENCE BOOST

Anthony Higgs is a semi-retired GBC missionary to Thailand, who along with his wife Annette, now provide on-field support & pastoral care to current missionaries in Southeast Asia.

Anthony has mentioned to me on more than one occasion☺ that many typical members of the GBC network – not pastoral staff, just plain ol' GBC members – have better Bible knowledge and better basic equipping in ministry skills than ***most*** of the missionaries he & Annette provide on-field support to.

TRANSLATION:

Many of you here – you & you & you – are right now, already BETTER equipped than the *majority* of current missionaries the Higgs help, likely better equipped than many missios around the world.

Stop & think about that!

So what's stopping you from going?

Ben reminded us in Pt 1 of our series that **7,427 people groups** are still unreached, that is, places with no believers or just a few believers, unequipped to meet the task b4 them.

You can help!

God doesn't need super-gifted stars; He wants faithful men & women.

7,427 . . . take your pick & go!

Well, don't quite take your pick & go...

4TH: TALK TO THE ELDERS ABOUT MISSIONS

Get assessed to see if overseas missions is a good fit!

The Bible gives qualifications so that missios sent away will **bless**, not make a **mess** . . . & also be blessed, not experience shipwreck of their faith, marriage, etc.

If character looks good & theological convictions appear solid,

you'll likely be encouraged to get more fully equipped!/prepped

This could mean an internship, cross-cultural training, could mean Bible College

For those *potentially interested* in medium to long term missions, we are planning a missions interest day, w/past & present missionaries, to share perspectives, answer Qs.

Register interest and **Come along!** NEXT . . .

START HERE!

When you cross a border, spiritual 'pixie dust' does not fall on you, instantly changing you into an evangelist or discipler or church planter!

Missions is not an escape from life here.

It's an extension of ministry there.

For non-support workers, that is, for those considering overseas missions to evangelise, disciple & church plant – whether in towns, cities or universities . . .

Start here in LOCAL outreach @ uni, in the city, when *Hope Explored* is on.

Start here teaching R.I. at a local school while the cultural door is open.

Start here in local "cross-cultural" outreach to neighbours or uni students who've immigrated from another country (likely some in Mummy & Me?)

- When you're loving neighbours locally by sharing Jesus
- When you're loving local church members discipling & equipping them
- When you're willing take the gospel to 'that side of town/across the tracks'

Then going 'across the ocean' will likely be a good fit.

So, with the en-couragement of **God's indwelling Spirit**, START HERE!

CONCLUSION:

I close with a brief **encouragement** with the everyday sort of folk that God uses to build His kingdom: simple Christians filled w/God's Spirit

Charles Spurgeon's ministry impacted not just England but the world.
How did his ministry begin? . . . How was he converted to Christ.

One night stormy, snowy night, the teen-aged Spurgeon visited church.

The pastor, who lived some distance away, could not get to church through the snow, so an **uneducated shoemaker** filled the pulpit.

Spurgeon is really blunt recollecting this night. I quote him,

"Preachers should be educated; but this man was quite stupid.

*He mispronounced many words, and he was obliged to **stick to his text**,
for the simple reason that **he had little else to say!**"*

The text was just one verse, Isaiah 45:22,

*"Look to Me, and be saved – all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other."*

Spurgeon remembers the shoemaker declaring, that to be saved,

*"It ain't by lifting your foot or your finger [your deeds], but looking to God.
Many of ya' are **looking to yourselves**; it's no use lookin' there!
The text says, look unto Me."*

With only a dozen attending church that stormy night,
Spurgeon stood out as an obvious 'visitor'.

This shoemaker wasn't so dumb after all, because he had a bold confidence in the Holy Spirit to do a saving work through the Spirit-breathed words of Scripture, pointing to Jesus Christ, the good news, the power of God to save

Near the end of the sermon, the preacher looked at young Spurgeon,

*"Young man, you look miserable, and you always will be miserable
until you heed this text. Young man, look! Look to Jesus, look and Live!"*

Spurgeon recollects,

*"**The blow struck home**; I had been waiting to do 50 things to find God.
I looked & looked until I almost looked my eyes away,
and I saw at Christ as my salvation."*

The IRONY!

One of the most **eloquent** preachers in world history
saved through the **fumbling-but-faithful** preaching of an uneducated shoemaker!

God doesn't need super-gifted stars; He wants faithful men & w, filled with God's Spirit, to go & rep.
humbly dependent on God, motivated by love of G
What can **you** do?

HEAPS! The Spirit empowers **YOU** to bring the lost home!

So:

**Draw Near
Gear in Gear
Start Here**

because, "**THEY WAIT YOU**"

PRAYER