

Theology of Mission, Summary of Chapter 1, Part II

AIMS AND TYPES OF "GOING"

1- Seeking Livelihood: The genuine desire to endure all the sacrifices involved in going to a foreign land in order to achieve the ideal standards.

2-To escape danger: "Arise, take the young child and his mother, flee [go] to Egypt." Matthew 2:13

3-To escape Tribulation: "At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem, and they were all scattered... those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8:1-4

4- Believing in the Lord and Being Committed to obey Him; to prepare a chosen people, and receive the promise of eternal life: "The Lord said to Abram, 'Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you; and make your name great, and you shall be blessed..." Genesis 12:1-2

5- To Preach the Gospel: Give birth to children of God, born through the water and the Holy Spirit: "Go Therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Mathew 28:19-20... "What man of you... And go after the one which is lost until he finds it." Luke 15:4

PREREQUISITES AND CONSTITUENTS OF "GOING", FOR THE GOSPEL

1- To forsake All Things: When the Lord commanded us to go to remote and foreign places for the sake of the gospel, He also commanded us to leave behind all things because those who do will be rewarded by the Lord. "Assuredly I sat to you, there is no one who has left houses or brothers or sisters of father or mother or wife or children or lands, for my sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundred fold now in this time... and in the age to come eternal life." Mark 10:29-30. It is wise to abandon everything for the Lord's Name, or for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, or for the sake of the expansion of the Kingdom of God on earth.

2- Not to burden oneself with Many Material Things: As for the needs of the flesh, the Lord assures us that these will be abundantly provided for. It is an historic fact that when St. Marks arrived in Alexandria in 24 AD, he did not carry any shoes in obedience to the Lord's commandment. One of the fruits of this obedience was the miracle the Lord manifested through him. This miracle (Anianus- the shoemaker) opened the door, of evangelism among the Egyptians, for him.

3- Sent them two by two: "two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one be warm alone? Through one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken." If the apostles were subjected to martyrdom, the presence of a companion with the martyr enabled him to write his sayings and his biography for the benefit of the church. "But the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established." Deuteronomy 19:15

4- To be wise as serpents and harmless as doves: The spiritual power opens many doors and spares us many dangers. Thus, the evangelists are protected, and at the same time, the hearts of the recipients are opened. "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves..." Mathew 10:16

5- To the whole world: This includes crossing over all barriers, obstacles, and limitations. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

6- Proclaim: "And as you go, Preach saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Mathew 10:7

7- Pray for the people: Pray for the sick to be healed, for the lepers to be purified, for those possessed by demons to be freed, for the dead to be resurrected...

8- Speak in New Tongues: The evangelist ought to learn the languages of the people amongst whom he ministers, as this is a very important medium to convey a comprehensive spiritual teaching, according to the gospel. The first ability of the apostles on Pentecost Day was the ability to speak in tongues of the people. "They will speak with new tongues." Mark 16:17

