

The Devotionary Call

MISSION AS AN ACT OF LOVE

“God doesn’t need me. He wants me. Christian mission is an act of devotion resulting in increased intimacy with the Person of God.”

-ME

God does not need me

Psalm 50:11-13, ESV

¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.

¹² “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine.

¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?

Isaiah 59:1, ESV

⁵⁹ Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened,
that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

God does not need me

An elementary but correct way to think of God is as the One who contains all, who gives all that is given, but who Himself can receive nothing that He has not first given.

God has a voluntary relation to everything He has made, but He has no necessary relation to anything outside of Himself. His interest in His creatures arises from His sovereign good pleasure, not from any need those creatures can supply nor from any completeness they can bring to Him who is complete in Himself.

Our relationship with God is not co-dependent. The dependence only goes from created to Creator.

God wants me.

John 3:16, ESV

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 17:3, ESV

³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Saved into life—not just *from* death

Ephesians 4:1-6, ESV

4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Do what the team is doing

John 5:19-20, ESV

¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing.

Do what the team is doing

Galatians 5:16-25-26, ESV

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. . .²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

How do we do it? We are heaven-empowered: we do it by grace

Matthew 28:18-20, 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, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Go, Baptize, Teach, in His authority

The Great Commission as an act of devotion

John 14:15, ESV

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

Matthew 28:19-20a, ESV

“¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

John 21:15-17, ESV

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

What it takes to go

Romans 10:13-15, ESV

¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

What do we need to keep “go”ing?

- To Know God and to Operate by His grace
- We currently want to raise another \$1700/month to continue to stay and to work there
- Ways You Can Give:
 - pray
 - one time gifts or monthly donations
 - % toward Great Commission
 - property, stocks, vehicles
 - fundraiser
 - connect us with more people

What it takes to give: freedom, desire and vision

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully^[a] will also reap bountifully.⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency^[b] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ By their approval of this service, they^[c] will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

What it takes to give: love

John 12:1-3

Six days before the Passover Feast, Jesus went to Bethany, where Lazarus lived. (Lazarus is the man Jesus raised from death.) ² There they had a dinner for Jesus. Martha served the food. Lazarus was one of the people eating with Jesus. ³ Mary brought in a pint of very expensive perfume made from pure nard. She poured the perfume on Jesus' feet, and then she wiped his feet with her hair. And the sweet smell from the perfume filled the whole house.

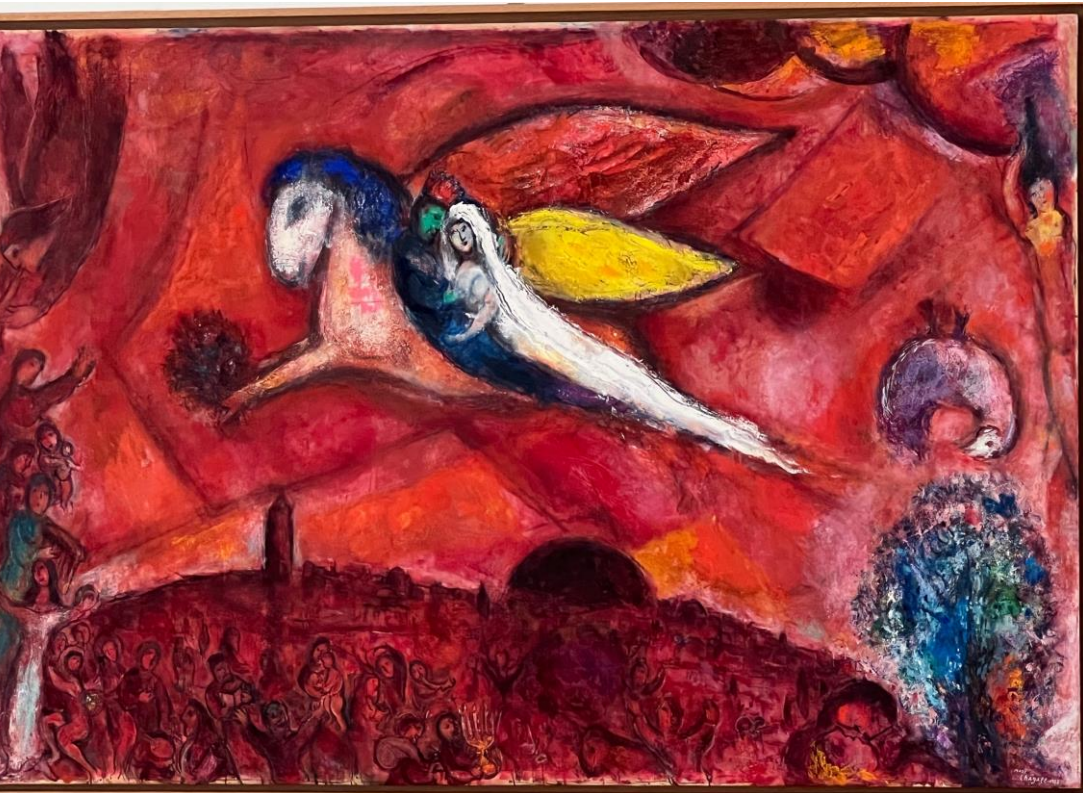
What it takes to give: wisdom

Matthew 6:21-24, ESV

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.^[a]



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Ministry of the Broken-Hearted

He binds up my broken-heart in doing the tasks with Him that He leads me into

—spirit of the sovereign lord . . . To bind up the broken-hearted

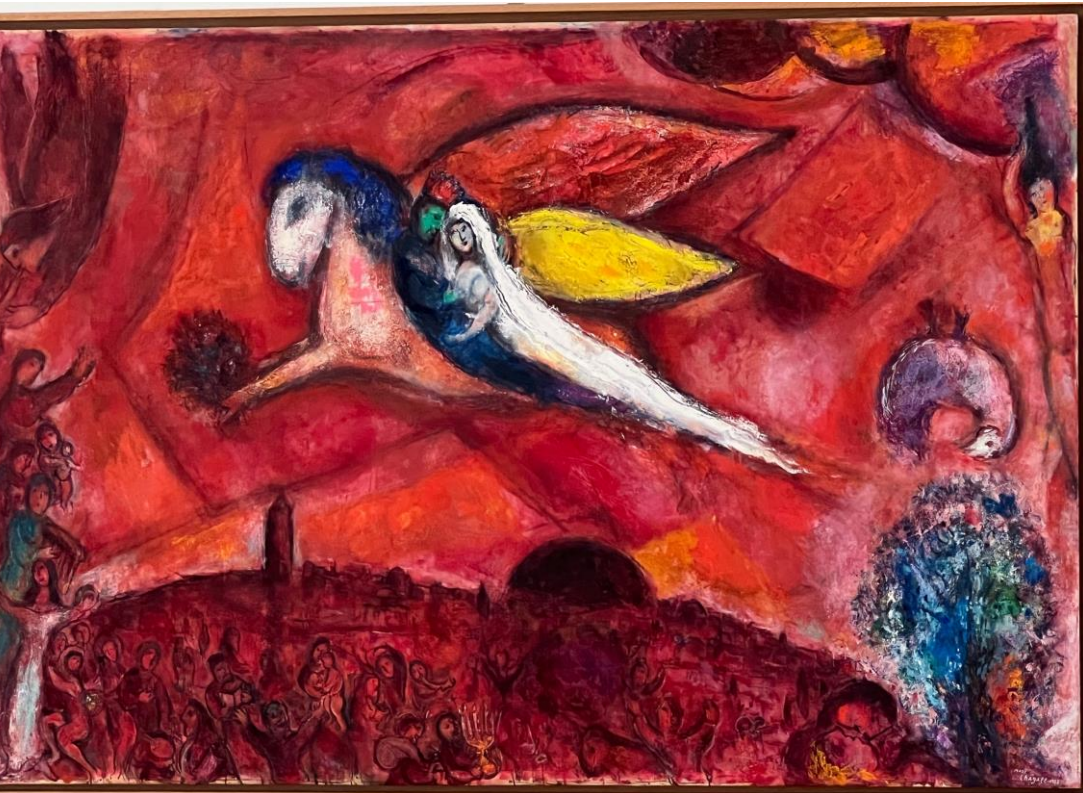
—keeps this ministry in jars of clay

—keep in Step with the Spirit (be lead into all truth, reminded of what He said, empowered to do His will); and ask for more of Holy Spirit (but take notice that you are then led by circumstance)

—this is eternal life: to know the father, and the son whom he sent

—glory to glory

—now we see through a glass darkly



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Pouring Oil Out

Feeding Lambs, Feeding Sheep: preaching twice a month

Foreigner and the Stranger: community center language classes and tutoring

The Least of These: everybody

Prayer, Spoken Word and Power: intercession, prayer, speak the word, declaration

Pastoring: walks, talks and blessing

Apostling: