

## **What does it take to become a missionary?**

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What does it take to become a missionary? When someone asks me this question, I would think of Peter. From Peter's life, I've found two things that would make one to become a missionary: (1) love for the Lord (2) willingness to obey and act according to His will and calling.

Why loving the Lord is such a fundamental factor? It is because with love, one would be willing to put in his/her most and not holding back anything (Luke 10:27a). With love, one will slowly lose his/her own self and let the other to reign over instead of reigning over by self (Revelation 3:20). With love, one is more willing to be changed and molded (Matthew 11:29). It's only with love that one can start to see what the Lord sees. It's only with love that one can respond to what the Lord is asking for and fill what the world is looking for. It's God's love that has moved me into becoming a missionary. His love has moved me in seeing the injustice...the cords of the yoke...the oppressed...the hungry...the naked around me. A question then immediate pops up in my mind. How, Lord? How can I loose the chains of injustice? How can I break every yoke? How can I set the oppressed free? How can I feed the hungry? How can I clothe the naked?

All these questions bring me to the next important factor in becoming a missionary. The Holy Spirit has shown me the answer from Isaiah 58. The response should not be 'how' but an obedient heart. If I just go and not turn away from those people, then the light will break forth, righteousness will go before me and the glory of the Lord will be my rear guard (v8). Most importantly, the Lord will be there, saying "here am I", whenever and wherever I call and cry out for Him (v9). The question is "are you willing to go forth and obey", not "how". This entails the need of sacrifice and trust. One might need to act without an understanding of a call. The Lord is good. He addresses my fear by saying "*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.*" (Deut 31:6, NIV)

Therefore, love and obedience are the two fundamental factors that I think are essential if one were to become a missionary. Wait a moment...given a second thought, there might actually be one more thing that I would like to add onto the list. It's the mindset of being the "ends" of God's plan/work, not just the "means". He is constantly at work in shaping us to become more like Him. Indeed, the "out-reach" or "mission" part can be considered as a "by-product" of this molding process. How to cultivate such mindset in us? This brings us back to the loving and obeying part. "*Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I*

*know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:12-13, NIV)*