

Elijah Company, Inc.
Basics2GO--->

Part 1

An Online Course from Elijah Company

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Seminar Notes



I. Basic Essentials for Being a Missionary

Apart from the ability to develop and maintain personal relationships (this is a given), the fundamental needs of all Christian ministers are: absolute indelible faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, belief in and submission to the sovereign Lordship of Christ, and discipline to continue cultivating the life of God in their own personal experience. Other helpful knowledge would include the particular skills required for work in a culture distinct from their own (including language acquisition) and the understanding of the history of God's work both from a biblical and global perspective.

1. Faith in the power of the Holy Spirit

Biblical principle

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

*So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:
'Not by might (military or intellect) nor by power (personal ability),
but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty."*

Zechariah 4:6

Historical perspective

It must be perfectly obvious to anyone that what the whole church needs from top to bottom is a deeper conversion, a profounder experience of the power of the Holy Spirit. . . Awakening in history has never come from regular ecclesiastics getting together to "do something." It has come from inspired nobodies whom the church first ignored, then condemned, then (if they got powerful) took over and finally domesticated. Let us look to see where the Holy Spirit is at work now. Maybe we can learn something.

Samuel Shoemaker

Missiological perspective



Without faith in the Holy Spirit, faith in the Holy Spirit in our converts -we can do nothing. If we have no faith in the power of the Holy Spirit in them, they will not learn to have faith in the power of the Holy Spirit in themselves."
Roland Allen - The Compulsion of the Spirit

2. Belief in and submission to the sovereign Lordship of Christ

Biblical principle

- Jesus has “all” authority. How much is left for devils if all is His? It is on the authority of Christ that the world will be evangelized. It is authority in Christ that answers to prayer will come and demons will be dislodged from their age-old settlements among humanity.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

- The sending of missionaries and “casting out” demons both hinge on the authority of Christ. If age-old, powerful, fallen angels submit to Christ’s authority, how much more should the redeemed believe and experience it.”
- The Greek word *EKBALLO* means to send out, thrust out, cast out. It is used within a few verses of each other, one for sending workers to the Lord’s harvest, two for casting out demons.

*Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers (*EKBALLO*) into his harvest field." He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits (*EKBALLO*) and to heal every disease and sickness.*

Matthew 9:37 - 10:1

3. Discipline to continue cultivating spiritual life in personal experience

A man may be saved, sanctified and filled; but if he is not disciplined it will do him no good.
Dr. Billy Graham



Biblical principle

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into **strict training**. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

- Prayer (and fasting)- _____
- Devotional life- _____
- Study and reading- _____
- Evangelism- _____
- Fellowship- _____
- Work- _____
- Physical fitness- _____

4. Skills required for work in a different culture

- **Understanding people** - what makes people of any society distinct from each other, and how understanding can facilitate God's love in their lives.
- **Cross cultural communication** - being sensitized to the distinctions of cultures and knowing principles for smooth adaptation.
- **Principles of language learning** - knowing a method for language learning to make it a doable, enjoyable process by developing discipline and overcoming obstacles.

5. Understanding the history of God's workings biblically and culturally



· Henry Blackabee teaches that we should learn what God is doing and join Him. The work endeavored in any place is not the beginning of God's work. Exploration into the traditions and sayings, oral or written history, reveal the preparation of a society for the good news of the Gospel.¹

The Missionary Equipment by Hudson Taylor founder of China Inland Mission

A life yielded to God and controlled by His Holy Spirit.

A restful trust in God for the supply of all needs.

A sympathetic spirit and a willingness to take a lowly place.

Tact in dealing with men and adaptability toward circumstances.

Zeal in service and steadfastness in discouragement.

Love for communion with God and for the study of His Word.

Some experience and blessing in the Lord's work at home.

A healthy body and a vigorous mind.

"China is not to be won for Christ by quiet, ease-loving men and women ... The stamp of men and women we need is such as will put Jesus, China, [and] souls first and foremost in everything and at every time—even life itself must be secondary."

"It might be easy to imagine that we will get to a place where we are complete and ready, but preparation is not suddenly accomplished, it is a process steadily maintained. It is dangerous to get into a settled state of experience. It is preparation and (more) preparation."

Oswald Chambers "My Upmost for His Highest"

¹ For a good understanding on this subject read Don Richardson's book, [Eternity in Their Hearts](#).



II. A Personal Survey of Missionary Characteristics

Score yourself from 1-10 (1 being lowest or no, 10 being highest or yes)

- _____ Spiritual mature
- _____ Good relational ability
- _____ Knows missions reality
- _____ Is considered faithful (you do what you say)
- _____ Consistency and growth in the Christian life
- _____ Enjoys studying the Bible
- _____ Strong prayer life
- _____ Shares Christ with others
- _____ Freedom from controlling fears
- _____ Able to teach the basic doctrines of the faith
- _____ Evidence of the power and fruit of the Holy Spirit
- _____ Emotional wholeness
- _____ A good reputation inside and outside the church
- _____ A finisher and not just a starter
- _____ Financial stability, having no unpaid debts
- _____ Ability to trust God with your personal needs
- _____ Able to trust the Lord with the lives of those you love
- _____ Willingness to suffer for the Gospel
- _____ Contentment
- _____ Empathy for people who are different
- _____ Ability to have fun
- _____ Does not take self too seriously (can laugh at self)
- _____ Forgiving

_____ **Total (Perfect score is 230)**



III. The Process of Becoming a Missionary

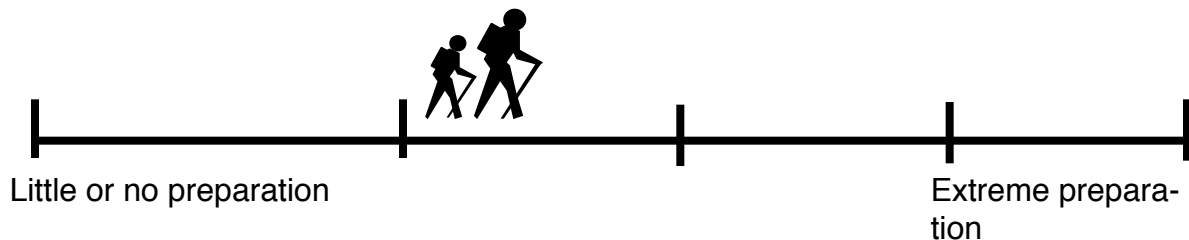
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to Ekballo (send, thrust out) workers into his harvest field. Matthew 9:38

1. What is needed to be a missionary

- Know the real situation in order to count the cost
- Know the how to's - i.e., write a prayer letter, build a base of constituents
- Know the power of prayer and affectively and persistently practice it
- Know study disciplines and principles of Bible interpretation
- Know how to develop the ability to believe God for great challenges (faith)
- Know how to find and work with mission agencies
- Know how to work with other denominations (know the essentials like biblical plumb line)
- Know how to work with people (understanding personalities and cross cultural communications)
- Know how much, and what, education to get (if any)
- Know what are the biblical principles of “being sent”
- Know how to do spiritual warfare.
- Know if God's will is for overseas; if it is, where, when, with whom, what, and how
- Know the kind of character qualities expected of a missionary

2. The spectrum of missionary preparation

· As people respond to God's call to missions, they seek preparation. It is wise to prepare. Some people go through minimal preparation. A good example of this is Bruce Olsen who planted a church among an unreached people group in South America. Others spend four years in Bible school followed by three years of seminary, followed by two years of support raising, followed by two years of language study. They go with a hefty support base, retirement plans, children's education funds, health and life insurance, and all the technology that exists.



· There is a great deal of freedom in determining the extent of preparation a person or couple should obtain before going to the field. How much preparation depends on many factors.

1. Age and prior Christian experience
2. Education
3. Severity of field (e.g. very different culturally, hostile, climactic change, prevalent religion)
4. Family needs
5. Amount of funding needed as determined by church and / or agency
6. Language acquisition
7. Type of work to be done, and anticipated duration on the field
8. Type of agency
9. Willingness to suffer (less preparation time and funding could mean less creature comforts)

3. The process of getting to a field

- Develop a repertoire of fruitful service
- Receive appropriate mentorship
- Share the vision with church leaders
- Determine the field or agency for placement
- Develop a base for prayer and financial support or a sending team
- Select a committed mentor who will walk you into your call

Notes _____



IV. The ladder of missionary development (from bottom to top)

<p>-Reproduction-</p>	<p>Before retirement (which for many is death and going to heaven), a time of reproducing the missionary life and experience in others, national and international.</p>
<p>-Fruitful missions carrier-</p>	<p>After all the preparation comes a time of planting and reaping. This will vary greatly, but the essence is a fulfillment of what the missionary is called to do.</p>
<p>-Mentorship-</p>	<p>A spiritual guide and coach will provide the direction, encouragement and correction the missionary will need. The mentor should be a person who has been on the mission field.</p>
<p>-Bible and culture training-</p>	<p>Because missionary endeavor is focused on taking the Gospel to those who have never heard it, a missionary needs to have cognitive understanding of the flow of the Bible, and understanding about culture.</p>
<p>-Fruitful home church ministry-</p>	<p>Discipleship should lead to forms of service under the umbrella of a local church. It is in these ministries that spiritual gifts surface, and a spiritual resume is formed.</p>
<p>-Personal discipleship-</p>	<p>Soon after a person comes to faith in Christ their practices, attitudes and lifestyle should be formed by the pattern of Jesus' life.</p>
<p>-Conversion-</p>	<p>Central to missionary work is the message of salvation through faith in Christ. This is the motivation for being a missionary</p>

