

Life on Mission

Jesus' words to His followers just before He ascended into heaven concerned missions.

Acts 1:8 (NASB) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.*

The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses for Jesus. The Greek word translated as “witnesses” is *martyres*, which primarily conveys the idea of someone testifying in court.

Jesus tells His followers where to go to testify about Him. He said they would be witnesses in:

- Jerusalem, which symbolizes our hometown, our family and friends, and our co-workers.
- Judea, which is like sharing the Gospel with people who are like you in background, belief, and heritage, but outside your immediate circle.
- Samaria, or those considered outsiders or even enemies. This represents taking the Gospel across cultural, racial, or religious boundaries.
- The remotest part of the earth, which is the global mission of the church.

From Jesus' statement, we learn that He sends us with a mission to reach people in other countries and also those who surround us. Missions are how we should live our lives.

Our Ultimate Mission: As believers, our ultimate mission is to make disciples of all nations. Share the gospel and love of Jesus with intentionality to the people we meet wherever we go.

In doing this, you should familiarize yourself with organizations in your community that provide services for homelessness, food distribution, domestic violence, mental health crisis, suicide prevention, senior services, or sex trafficking. When you know what is available in your area, you can ensure that you have all the necessary tools to help those in need around you (**Matthew 25:35–40**).

Our Personal Mission: God has given each of us unique gifts, passions, and opportunities. If you are unsure of yours, ask yourself:

- What am I good at?
- What do I love doing?
- Who or what breaks my heart in a way that stirs me to act?

Serving: Serving others is at the very heart of the Gospel (**Mark 10:43–45**).

Our role as believers is to be present in our community, meeting fundamental needs with no strings attached. This is not necessarily about getting people to go to church, but about being the Church to people right where they are.

