



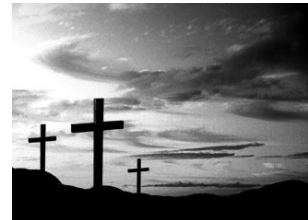
Chapter 11: Promise of Blessing

PROMISE OF BLESSING FOR A MISSIONARY

Christ himself promised to be with you through each and every step of your missionary preparation as well as your life and work on the mission field. He will be right there with you even when you may feel lonely and rejected in that foreign country.

This is his promise and his last will to us before ascending to heaven 2,000 years ago:

"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 28:19-20)



Before we go further, I want you to learn of power of keeping one's last will from the books of Genesis and Exodus:

"And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath and said, 'God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place.'" (Genesis 50:25)

This was the will of Joseph to his family before he died. And we can see that when Joseph's last will was kept by Moses hundreds of years later there was a clear sign of God's presence and blessings on the people of Israel.

"Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, 'God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place.' After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people." (Exodus 13:19-22)

If God so honored those who kept a mere human promise/will with His presence and blessings, how much do you think He will honor those who strive to keep the last will of His Son on earth? After all, the blessing of God's presence is guaranteed to the missionaries who 'go and make disciples of all nations'! What

a blessed life to experience this glorious promise in one's day-to-day and moment-by-moment living! Indeed, there is no greater privilege than being a missionary in one's life.

Do *not* give up once you are assured of your missionary call and committed to be a missionary. Did you know that a statistics shows that only one out of a hundred missionary candidates actually reach the mission field? After all, you are one of those 'blessed ones' who are chosen by God to carry His ultimate message of love to the nations! If you are called to be a missionary overseas, remember that God has personally invited you to partake fully in all of seven Abrahamic blessings shown in Genesis 12:1-3.

"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I WILL show you. □ I WILL make you into a great nation and □ I WILL bless you; □ I WILL make your name great, and □ you will be a blessing. □ I WILL bless those who bless you, and □ whoever curses you I WILL curse; and □ all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'"

Please don't forget. ***As long as you do not give up, God's blessings are on you and are at work in you. And He still wants to share those blessings with all peoples on earth THROUGH YOU!***

The next story will encourage you to keep on going in the pursuit of your missionary call no matter what the cost may be.

NO RESERVES. NO RESERVES. NO REGRETS.

(Adapted from: Borden of Yale, by Mrs. Howard Taylor, Moody Press, Chicago)

In 1904 William Borden graduated from a Chicago high school in the United States. As heir to the Borden Dairy estate, he was already a millionaire. For his high school graduation present, his parents gave 16-year-old Borden a trip around the world. As the young man traveled through Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, he felt a growing burden for the world's hurting people. Finally, Bill Borden wrote home about his 'desire to be a missionary.'

One friend expressed surprise that he was 'throwing himself away as a missionary.' In response, Bill wrote two words in the back of his Bible: 'No reserves.'

Even though young Borden was wealthy, he arrived on the campus of Yale University in 1905 trying to look like just one more freshman. Very quickly, however, Borden's classmates noticed something unusual about him and it wasn't his money. One of them wrote: "He came to college far ahead, spiritually, of any of us. He had already given his heart in full surrender to Christ and had really done it. We who were his classmates learned to lean on him and find in him a strength that was solid as a rock, just because of this settled purpose and consecration."

During his college years, Bill Borden made one entry in his personal journal that defined what his classmates were seeing in him. That entry said simply: "Say 'no' to self and 'yes' to Jesus every time."

Borden's first disappointment at Yale came when the university president spoke on the students' need of 'having a fixed purpose.' After hearing that speech, Borden wrote: "He neglected to say what our purpose should be, and where we should get the ability to persevere and the strength to resist temptations." Surveying the Yale faculty and much of the student body, Borden lamented what he saw as the end result of this empty philosophy: moral weakness and sin-ruined lives.

During his first semester at Yale, Borden started something that would transform campus life. One of his friends described how it happened: "It was well on in the first term when Bill and I began to pray together in the morning before breakfast. I cannot say positively whose suggestion it was, but I feel sure it must have originated with Bill. We had been meeting only a short time when a third student joined us and soon after a fourth. The time was spent in prayer after a brief reading of Scripture. Bill's handling of Scripture was helpful ... He would read to us from the Bible, show us something that God had promised and then proceed to claim the promise with assurance."

Borden's small morning prayer group gave birth to a movement that spread across the campus. By the end of his first year, 150 freshmen were meeting for weekly Bible study and prayer. By the time Bill Borden was a senior, one thousand of Yale's 1,300 students were meeting in such groups.

Borden made it his habit to seek out the most 'incurable' students and try to bring them to salvation. "In his sophomore year we organized Bible study groups and divided up the class of 300 or more, each man interested taking a certain number, so that all might, if possible, be reached. The names were gone over one by one, and the question asked, 'Who will take this person?' When it came to someone thought to be a hard proposition, there would be an ominous pause. Nobody wanted the responsibility. Then Bill's voice would be heard, 'Put him down to me.'"

Borden's outreach ministry was not confined to the Yale campus. He cared about widows and orphans and cripples. He rescued drunks from the streets of New Haven. To rehabilitate them, he founded the Yale Hope Mission. One of his friends wrote that he 'might often be found in the lower parts of the city at night, on the street, in a cheap lodging house or some restaurant to which he had taken a poor hungry fellow to feed him, seeking to lead men to Christ.'

Borden's missionary call narrowed to the Muslim Kansu people in China. Once that goal was in sight, Borden never wavered. He also inspired his classmates to consider missionary service. One of them said: "He certainly was one of the strongest characters I have ever known, and he put backbone into the rest of us at college. There was real iron in him, and I always felt he was of the stuff martyrs were made of, and heroic missionaries of more modern times."

Although he was a millionaire, Bill seemed to 'realize always that he must be about his Father's business, and not wasting time in the pursuit of amusement.' Although Borden refused to join a fraternity, 'he did more with his classmates in his senior year than ever before.' He presided over the huge student missionary conference held at Yale and served as president of the honor society Phi Beta

Kappa.

Upon graduation from Yale, Borden turned down some high paying job offers. In his Bible, he wrote two more words: 'No retreats.'

William Borden went on to graduate work at Princeton Seminary in New Jersey. When he finished his studies at Princeton, he sailed for China. Because he was hoping to work with Muslims, he stopped first in Egypt to study Arabic. While there, he contracted spinal meningitis. Within a month, 25-year-old William Borden was dead.

When news William Borden's death was cabled back to the U.S., the story was carried by nearly every American newspapers. "A wave of sorrow went round the world ... Borden not only gave (away) his wealth, but himself, in a way so joyous and natural that it (seemed) a privilege rather than a sacrifice" wrote Mary Taylor in her introduction to his biography.

Was Borden's untimely death a waste? Not in God's plan. Prior to his death, Borden had written two more words in his Bible. Underneath the words 'No reserves' and 'No retreats,' he had written: 'No regrets.'

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Let us remember that it is the quality *not quantity* which Jesus is asking from us. Even the parable of the talents clearly shows us that (Matthew 25:14-30).

When we focus on Christ as our ultimate 'Vision,' *not the works we do for him*, we can truly learn to value the quality of our call regardless of circumstances. The longer we serve the Lord this way, the more we will become who God designed us to be. However, if our goal is on amusing ourselves with quantity, we may easily lose focus on our call and begin not to be able to see things around us with the eternity perspectives. God has called us to be His precious missionaries. And He expects us to keep it high and noble until we stand before His rewarding table someday.

" Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care ... " (1 Timothy 6:20)

MOTTOS FOR A MISSIONARY

- The supreme task of the Church is the evangelization of the world.
- Only as the church fulfills her missionary obligation, does she justify her existence. The church that does not evangelize will fossilize.
- The *mission* of the church is *missions!*
- The light that shines farthest shines brightest nearest home.
- The church which ceases to be evangelistic will soon cease to be evangelical. (Alexander Duff)

- Untold millions are still untold.
- This generation can only reach this generation.
- You have one business on earth - to save souls. (John Wesley)
- Sympathy is no substitute for action.
- The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet.
- We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.
- Give according to your income lest God make your income according to your giving. (Peter Marshall)
- You can't beat God in giving. (Oswald J. Smith)
- You must go or send a substitute. Every Christian is a missionary. (Oswald J. Smith)
- Why should so few hear the gospel again and again when so many have never heard it once? (Oswald J. Smith)
- *"But seek first his kingdom (meaning the extension of God's kingdom worldwide) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* (Matthew 6:33) Remember, God's program never fails.
- God's vision is a world vision, and that is the vision He wants us to have. *"For God so loved the 'world' ..."* (John 3:16) Christ died not only for you and me but for the 'world'!
- You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead. (Oswald J. Smith)
- The prospects of God are as bright as the promises of God. (Judson)
- Anywhere, provided it be forward! (David Livingstone)
- Farther, still farther, into the night.
- Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God. (William Carey)
- If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him. (C.T. Studd)
- Now let me burn out for God. (Henry Martyn)
- Yet more, O my God, more toil, more agony, more suffering for Thee. (Francis Xavier)
- God had only one Son and He made Him a missionary. (David Livingstone)

- I cared not where or how I lived, or what hardships I went through, so that I could but gain souls to Christ. (David Brainerd)
- God will be no man's debtor. (Oswald J. Smith)
- I have seen the Vision and for self I cannot live, life is less than worthless 'till my all I give. (Oswald J. Smith)
- We must not ask God to bless what we are doing. We must see what God is doing and go and bless it, learn from it and work with it. True worship always results in 'hearing God' together and births ministry and mission. (John Wimber)
- A missionary is not a person who crosses the seas but a person who sees the Cross.

FINAL WORDS FOR A MISSIONARY

Heaven is counting on you. Souls are waiting for your message. Angels are cheering you up wherever you go with the message. Most of all, our Commander-in-chief is interceding for you (Romans 8:33-34, Hebrews 7:25, 1 John 2:1).

Make sure to find time and space to seek the *face* of God not just His *hand* once you are on the mission field. Pray at least an hour each day as Jesus himself personally asked us, "*Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?*" (Matthew 26:40, Mark 14:37)

For more information about 'One hour prayer movement', please visit <<http://www.eaptc.org/English/ministries/PowerArmy/index.htm>> and <<http://www.eaptc.org/English/ministries/PowerArmy/Covenant.htm>> It will keep you strong and stable each and every day of your life on the mission field as you attempt to represent God as well as the country of your origin in that foreign land where God has called you to go serve.

Once you arrive on the mission field, God's word will give you strength and also be your guide. Reading and meditating of particularly five books of the Bible - *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus* - will provide you further 'hands-on' missionary's manuals. Keep yourself always close to God's presence and His word. Then you will succeed in this precious calling which God has entrusted to you for the nations.

The message of the cross will motivate you to move forward at any time you get discouraged or disappointed. Christ loved us with great suffering and death on the cross. And the only sustaining power that enabled him to go through the horror of crucifixion was his love for you and me. Indeed, he gave his best sacrifice for us! Christ's love for you is 'as strong as death' (Song of Songs 8:6) and 'many waters cannot quench that love' (Song of Songs 8:7). Make sure to get closer to Jesus each and every day while serving on the mission field. In his unending love, you will find a source of sufficient power for you to win the souls and make disciples of the very mission field which God has called you to serve.

" For Christ's love compels us ... " (2 Corinthians 5:14)

" For the message of the cross is ... to us who are being saved it is the power of God. " (1 Corinthians 1:18)

We cannot stop until all nations have been made disciples. WE SHOULD NOT STOP. Our only limitation will be 'the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8) because this great adventure sums up the very heartbeat of our heavenly Father's redemption business. May God use you in the center of this meaningful work is my sincere prayer!