

# The Heart of a Missionary

Small Groups Winter 2009

## INTRODUCTION

*Last week we talked about three important points in having a heart of a missionary. They were “be all things to all men”, “don’t stick to your legalism”, and “do not be a stumbling block”. These are directly from the Word of God. It’s easy to hear, and then when the time comes to live it out, we forget. This is why it is so important for us to stay in the Word of God and memorize it so that when the time comes, the Holy Spirit can easily show us how to walk!*

*This week we are going to talk about the **power** of the message we have. The heart of a missionary knows the truth and power of the message they bring when they share the gospel with someone.*

## DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

What does it mean to be ashamed of something?

Tell about a time you were ashamed to share Christ. What was the outcome?

Read **Romans 1:16**. The gospel of Jesus Christ IS the power of God for salvation! And this gospel message is for everyone - ANYONE who believes!

When you are holding back the gospel from someone because you were afraid of what they would think of you, is that being ashamed of the gospel?

Maybe you’ve been worried that unbelievers wouldn’t understand you. How is this worry a “self-centered” shame?

## THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER OF GOD

Tell about a time when you discovered a remedy which healed you from a certain sickness, and the remedy sounds really strange to others? (for example: putting onions on your chest)

When you hear someone speak about that same sickness, why is there hesitation to tell them about your “foolishness” in the remedy you found?

Read **1 Corinthians 1:18**. It is true that the message of the cross is foolishness to those who do not believe. *But* for us who have believed, it is the **power of God!** It has given us life. So, one of the ways we can overcome our fears is to *expect* that they will find our words to be foolishness. Our perspective with unbelievers can free us from wanting their approval. But since we know that the gospel is true, then we can share it with confidence and we should not be ashamed of it.

Continue in **1 Corinthians 1:19-31**.

Read verse 21. The world's wisdom can never help in knowing God. Salvation is given to those who believe in Christ, not to those who come to great wisdom. . Some of our shame may be due to thinking we can't give ALL the answers that the "wise" are seeking. That is not what God is calling us to do.

Read verse 22. What are people asking for and looking for today?

We can give the gospel message and let it be simple: Christ crucified for sins, resurrected and then hope for sinners. **Read Romans 10:8-10.**

## **CONQUERING SHAME LEADS TO CONFIDENCE IN SUFFERING**

Read **2 Timothy 1:7-12**. How does can this passage give us boldness when sharing the gospel?

As we are not ashamed of the gospel, we also should expect to suffer for the gospel. We then move past shame and embrace suffering because of the high calling and eternal purposes of God through Christ.

## **PRAYER TIME**

Continue praying for your neighbors.

We are going to be meeting for one more week in this month of February. After this, we will be gearing up for Small Group meetings during Resurrection time! Invite anyone God lays on your heart!