

Six Ways to Prepare for our Missions Emphasis Month

Preparation is woven into every day. Students prepare for school. Mothers and fathers prepare for family outings. Adults prepare to go to work in the morning. A woman searching for work prepares for her big interview. Preparation is part of our lives. Preparation should also be part of our spiritual lives. We ought to prepare spiritually for every day (Matthew 6:34). We should prepare spiritually for weekly worship. We should also prepare for our missions emphasis month. Here are six ways to prepare to maximally profit from our missions emphasis month.

1. **Review your commitment to Christian mission.** It is called the “Great Commission” not the “Great Suggestion.” Reflect on how you have obeyed these marching orders from our Lord and what you can do to recalibrate your priorities to align with the priority of our call to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8).
2. **Review your availability for Christian mission.** The main qualification for the Lord’s work is not ability but availability. Isaiah expressed it this way, “Here I am. Send me” (Isaiah 6:8). Are you available for the Lord to use you? Have you become so preoccupied with life here and now that you have lost sight of living for eternity? Evaluate if you are available to be part of God’s mission.
3. **Review your participation in Christian mission.** How are you engaged in missions? Have you taken steps, no matter how small, to be intentional about participating in the Great Commission? Do you have missional goals? How many lost co-workers, neighbors, friends, and loved ones are you praying for? How purposeful are you in involving yourself in God’s global purposes? Are you praying for missions (Matthew 9:38)? Are you giving to missions (Philippians 4:14-16)? If we’re not going we should be sending, or holding the rope, for those who are willing and called to go.
4. **Review the course of your life as it relates to Christian mission.** Are you willing to change the course of your life if prompted to do so during our missions emphasis month? What if the Lord impresses upon you that you should begin a Bible study with a specific individual or simply befriend an unbeliever? What if you sense a direction to give more to missions which may require a change of lifestyle? What if you sense the call to full-time gospel ministry, church planting, or to serve a missionary in a foreign land? Are you ready to take the steps and make the sacrifices necessary?
5. **Review your calling to Christian mission.** Every Christian (yes, every!) is called to be part of Christian mission. Is your vocation God-honoring and on a parallel track with glorifying God? This may not necessarily mean full-time ministry but it does mean being a full-time Christian witness at home, work, and play. If we are followers of Christ, we will orient our lives based on our identity in Him.
6. **Review your readiness to hear the word and respond to it.** Pray that this month will have a profound and lasting impact on our church family for Christian mission. Pray for the speakers and their ministry among us. We want the Lord to use our speakers and messages for the month to leave a lasting, unshakable impact on the hearts and lives of our congregation. It would be great to “lose” an individual or family to missions. It would be great to gain individuals or families as our congregation commits themselves to Christian mission. We want God to use His servants and word in a powerful way during our missions emphasis month.