

# To Say or To Show

In seeking to be filled with God's purposes and a clear vision of His will for the world, I set aside a time after Charity Missions Conference 2007 to seek the Lord. My heart had been especially gripped with a message Bro. Ross Ulrich preached on the souls of men who are perishing without Christ<sup>1</sup>. As I prayed and fasted for a few days, the Lord heard the cry of my heart and opened to my spiritual perception just a glimpse of the realities of eternity.

This poem was an outflow of my heart as I agonized before the Lord for the souls of perishing millions all over this world.

Father, as I sought Your face and prayed,  
As for a moment at Your side I stayed,  
You opened to my eyes eternal visions-  
The souls of men, Your kingdom, hell, and heaven.

And as I stood, I saw the great abyss  
And countless souls, not knowing of their Christ,  
As on they throng into eternity,  
A Christ-less, hopeless, endless agony.

My mind feels stretched beyond capacity.  
It breaks my heart to see my past delinquency,  
To see and own the debt of love I owe  
And all the Kingdom cause of Christ to know.

I studied world statistics for one hour.  
I looked at how You said You'll show Your power  
In this decrepit world of sin and shame  
That once was made to glorify Your Name.

As I surveyed the dread reality  
Of all the ways throughout man's history  
That we have failed your awful majesty,  
Your cause o'erwhelmed me almost hopelessly.

We shouldn't be surprised that men today  
Have turned their hearts away from God, away  
To follow humanistic reasonings  
Because, they say, "Your faith no answer brings."

How can we say we have the answer full  
To all the miseries of sin so cruel,  
When all our lives so few the souls we lead  
To find the all-inclusive answer for their need?

As I consider all Your will to do,  
I know that I must have a purpose true;  
To live for one and only cause always,  
A life that magnifies and shows Your ways.

I realize that though I've loved You much  
For all You've done and will still do and such,  
I must have clearer visions of your will  
That all my life Your purposes may fill.

My heart is sad to see my limitations.  
Sometimes I wonder why in God's creation  
He made us with so many human passions  
That hinder us from fullest consecration.

And then He limits to us mortal beings  
The work of all His glorious will revealing  
To all those dying throngs who never heard  
And those who hear but never saw His Word.

Lord make my life a living sacrifice  
As poured out wine and bread that will suffice  
To feed the longing, empty, crying hearts.  
Send forth Your Spirit; wisdom now impart!

The one and only purpose I pursue  
Is for my life to be consumed with You!  
That every step and all the ways in which I walk  
May of Your Kingdom and Your holy Person talk.

And now my prayer and longing heart implores  
That as I finish here and walk out through the doors.  
I must not leave this hungry heart behind!  
Lord, bring each day Your purposes to mind!

Lord, let that moment's heartrending passion,  
Eternal visions, Your Kingdom calling fashion  
All of my life so that each day I'll see  
The mandate clear, the purpose full, the message free.

I cannot bear to think of compromise;  
I won't let up until I reach the skies,  
Do all that can be done with human life  
Although the way be rough, the trials rife.

You made me, Lord, in Your own likeness pure,  
And now I'm trusting that You will restore  
The fire, the passion, vision clear and sure,  
That all my life be bent to praise You more!

Stamped deeply on my heart as I left that season alone with God were a few profound, soul-searching questions. How can it be that:

We **say we believe** that after this life, **every** human who has lived on this earth will spend endless eternity in one of two places. Heaven, we believe, is a place of unending rest and unfathomable joy, being in the immediate presence of our Creator and Father. Hell, we believe, is a place of unending pain and torment with eternal, infinite separation from the presence of God.

We **say we believe** that Christ is the **only** way to be accepted by God and forever dwell with Him in eternal bliss. Aside from this knowledge and faith in Christ, no other way exists to be reconciled with God. All mankind who lived without Christ will forever waste away in the horrors of hell.

We **say we believe** that we have come to know Christ and that He has

revealed Himself to us and has saved our souls. We believe that this, the answer of our acceptance and salvation before God, is the answer for every human's need.

How can it be that we **say we believe** this combination of facts, yet we continue to live as if we had no personal obligation to them? The combination of these three tenets of belief creates an equation that can result in no other answer except:

We **must** live our whole lives for the salvation of lost souls and the eternal exaltation and glory of God who created humanity for that purpose. Otherwise, our lives will bear witness against us that we did not actually believe these basic principles of God's revelation of Himself and His glorious plan for mankind.

Although the current situation of the needs of the world and the millions who still do not know of Christ portrays a desperate representation of the slothfulness of the church as a whole,

let us turn our gaze now to look on the marvels of our God. Let me warn you to not keep your focus for too long only on the bare, heart-rending facts of the immensity of the task and our inadequacy to realize its everlasting implications. Stay there only long enough to allow its indelible impression on your heart so that you can never rid your life of its results. But now, let's turn, and look up to our Infinite, Self-Existent, Self-Sufficient Creator.

Although God has chosen to work through humans for the salvation of the rest of humanity, <sup>2</sup>God Almighty is not making appeals for your help. He does not have an unpaid debt to mankind that can only be paid with your assistance. God swore by Himself (Heb. 6:13), when He covenanted with Abraham to bless "all families of the earth" through his descendants (Gen. 12:3). God promised through Isaiah that "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9).

God will accomplish His purposes, and He will use men to reconcile the world unto Himself. In fact, He has committed unto us the word of reconciliation (II Cor. 5:19)! However, He is not dependent on me! His work will go on without me if I fail to answer His call. His glorious Name WILL be exalted in the earth, and I will be the one forever forfeiting the wonderful privilege of being a co-worker with God. The salvation of the souls of men in this age waits on men and women like us who not only **say they believe** the principles of the Bible but who **show they believe**.

—Matthew Kauffman

Messages referenced:

1 #3797 - The Sin of Doing Almost Nothing - Ross Ulrich

2 #3626 - God's Unchanging Perfections - Denny Kenaston

Set 147 - The Divine Attributes of God