

# The call from Within

*“For Christ’s love compels us...”*

*-- 2 Corinthians 5:14a*

As a final reflection on the call to mission we reflected on the call that comes from within... the call that urges us and moves us from deep within our own hearts, the desire burning within us to see the lives of others changed by the power of the Gospel. And no one describes this sense of call better than Paul, in his second letter to the church in Corinth. He tells the church about their ministry and witness for Christ and gives them this one, single, reason as motivator for the ministry that they exercise – the love of Christ compels them.

The love of Christ that had taken root in the hearts of Paul and his companions was the driving force behind their ministry. It compelled them to reach and propelled them forward. It was as though Paul was telling his readers that they had no choice, no other option available to them... they could not keep silent, they simply could not remain idle, they had to minister because the love of Christ that had gripped them was so great and glorious that it had to be shared. They heard the call that came from within.

The question is, do we? Can we hear the call to mission that is born in the heart of the true believer, the one in whom the Spirit of God lives and moves? Do we hear the voice of Christ’s love compelling us to reach out to others? Are we unable to resist the opportunities to share the grace of God with other? This is the call that comes from within – this sense of being compelled to witness for Christ.

For the intentional Christian this call comes loud and clear and is almost unavoidable. We must not only hear and listen to it... we feel ourselves compelled to obey and follow.

When we respond to the call to mission we respond not only to the instruction of God, the cries of the needy, and the invitation of the sceptics. The true believer responds also to the call that comes from within... the sense of being compelled to reach out in the name of Christ and make a difference.

Let us listen to the voice of God’s Spirit within us today. Let us allow him to compel us to reach out by reminding us of the great love that Christ has for us – a love that must be shared!