



As part of the Evangelical Alliance's *Confidence in the Gospel* initiative we are hosting a series of five national consultations to wrestle with significant and timely issues relating to the gospel.

To ensure that as many people as possible can engage with this programme, the talks are being filmed and made available online.

Why not watch some of the videos, and use the questions provided, to explore these vital subjects with your small group or leadership team?

For more information, videos and resources visit eauk.org/confidence

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Synopsis

Tertullian said: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." This is certainly true in sub-Saharan Africa where, 200 years ago, there was next to no Christian witness. However, missionaries went knowing that they would probably not return and since then the growth of Christianity throughout the African continent has been phenomenal. Pastor Kingsley suggests that three words help us understand and learn from this growth: Passion, fire from the Holy Spirit, and the presence of God.

- 1) Africans have a deep passion and hunger to know God.** Philip Yancey suggests that God goes where He is wanted and the people in Africa are deeply hungry for Him. When the message is preached with passion, people are bound to listen. Passion is contagious.
- 2) Passion for prayer and fasting.** In Africa, people take spiritual warfare seriously and are open to the reality of miracles. When they see God move in power, they will sit and listen to the gospel.
- 3) Openness to the Holy Spirit.** We must not programme out the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Personal evangelism.** The African Church has a passion for lost souls and the cultural context helps. The extended family provides African believers with a great opportunity for personal evangelism.
- 5) Passionate worship.** The essence of worship is to encounter God and African worship services are filled with joy because you can feel the presence of God.
- 6) Strong faith in God's word.** God must be taken at His word. The word of God is not negotiable.

Questions

- (1) Thinking about what we've just heard from Pastor Kingsley and our own experience of African expressions of Christianity, what aspects do we think are most pertinent for us? For these areas, what can be learnt from the African context and how could we apply this learning to our church?**
- (2) *This question may not be relevant.* Recognising that the African context is vastly different from the UK cultural context, what would increased recognition and demonstration of passion, fire from the Holy Spirit and the presence of God look like for us?**
- (3) The global 'centre' of Christianity is shifting from the north and the west to the south and the east. What impact do you think this will have on Christianity in the UK? What do you find exciting about this change? What do you find concerning? As a church, how can we ensure that we embrace and make the most of these changes?**
- (4) *This question may not be relevant.* As a church, we are involved in mission opportunities in other parts of the world. How do we view these opportunities? For example, is it about us teaching, or is it as much about us learning? Do we need to change how we approach the global Church?**