

# Funding the Great Commission

## Lesson 16: Models of Missions Funding

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And my God shall supply all your need according  
to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.  
— Philippians 4:19

# Biblical Precedents: The Sending Church & The Tentmaker



## The Sending Church Model (Acts 13, Phil 4)

The local church takes direct financial responsibility for the missionaries it sends.

**Key Insight:** Paul relied on the Philippian church as his exclusive financial partner during specific campaigns.



## The Tentmaking Model (Acts 18, 1 Cor 9)

The missionary works a secular profession to self-fund their ministry.

**Key Insight:** Paul used this to present the gospel “without charge” and to access new regions without burdening new believers.



# The Harvest Principle: Sowing and Sustaining



**Application:** Full-time missionaries are financially sustained by the very churches that benefit from their ongoing ministry.

# Contemporary Approaches: Faith & Denomination



## The Faith Mission Model

**Pioneer:** Hudson Taylor (China Inland Mission).

**Concept:** Missionaries go without guaranteed salary, trusting God to supply needs through voluntary gifts.

**Motto:** “God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.”



## Denominational Support

**Structure:** Centralized funding pools where churches contribute a percentage of income.

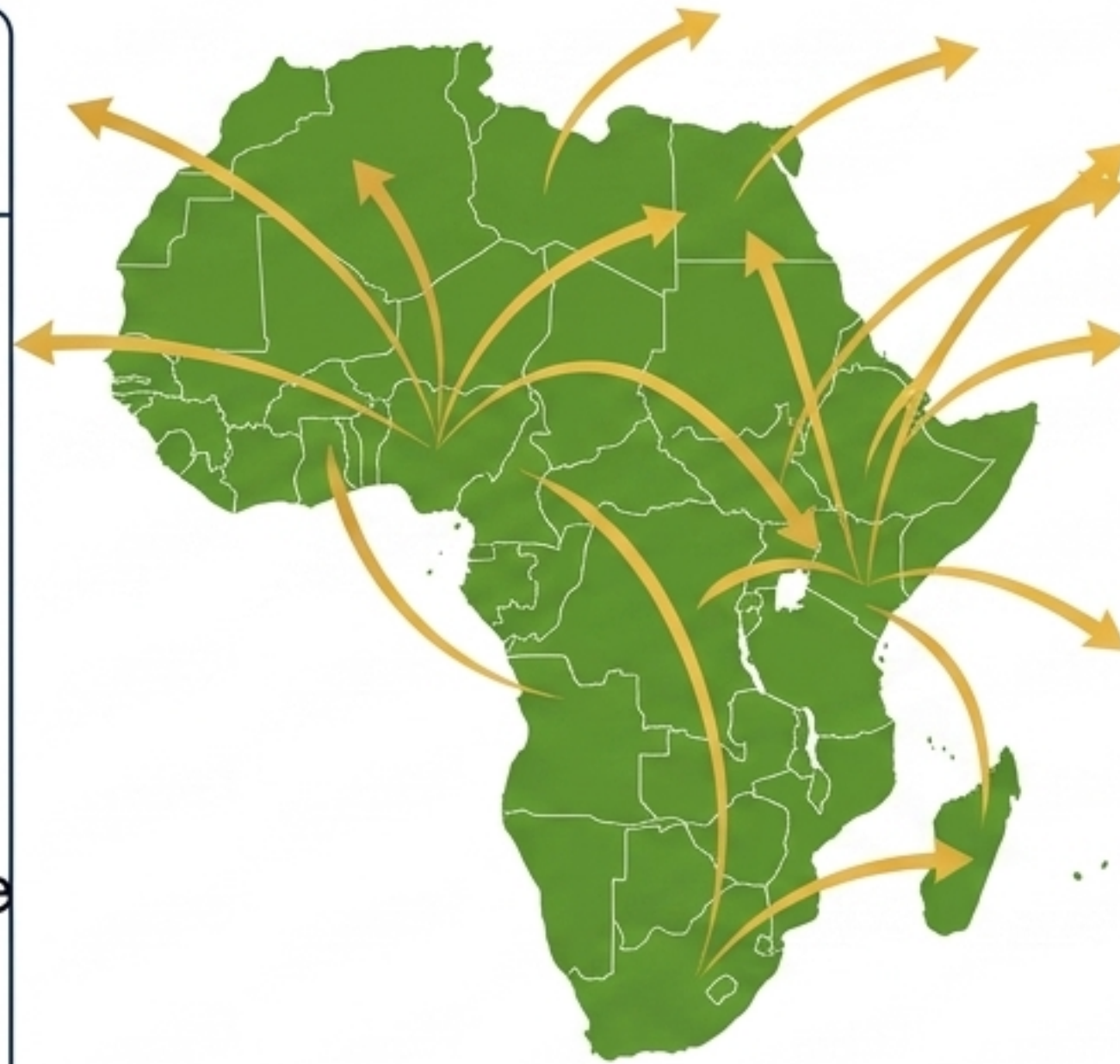
**Concept:** Provides high stability and accountability, though sometimes slower to respond to agile missionary opportunities.



# African Innovations: Self-Determination & Enterprise

## Innovation 1: Business as Mission (BAM)

- Establishing genuine, profitable businesses in target communities.
- Dual Purpose: Funds the ministry locally AND provides visa access to 'closed' countries that welcome entrepreneurs but reject traditional missionaries.



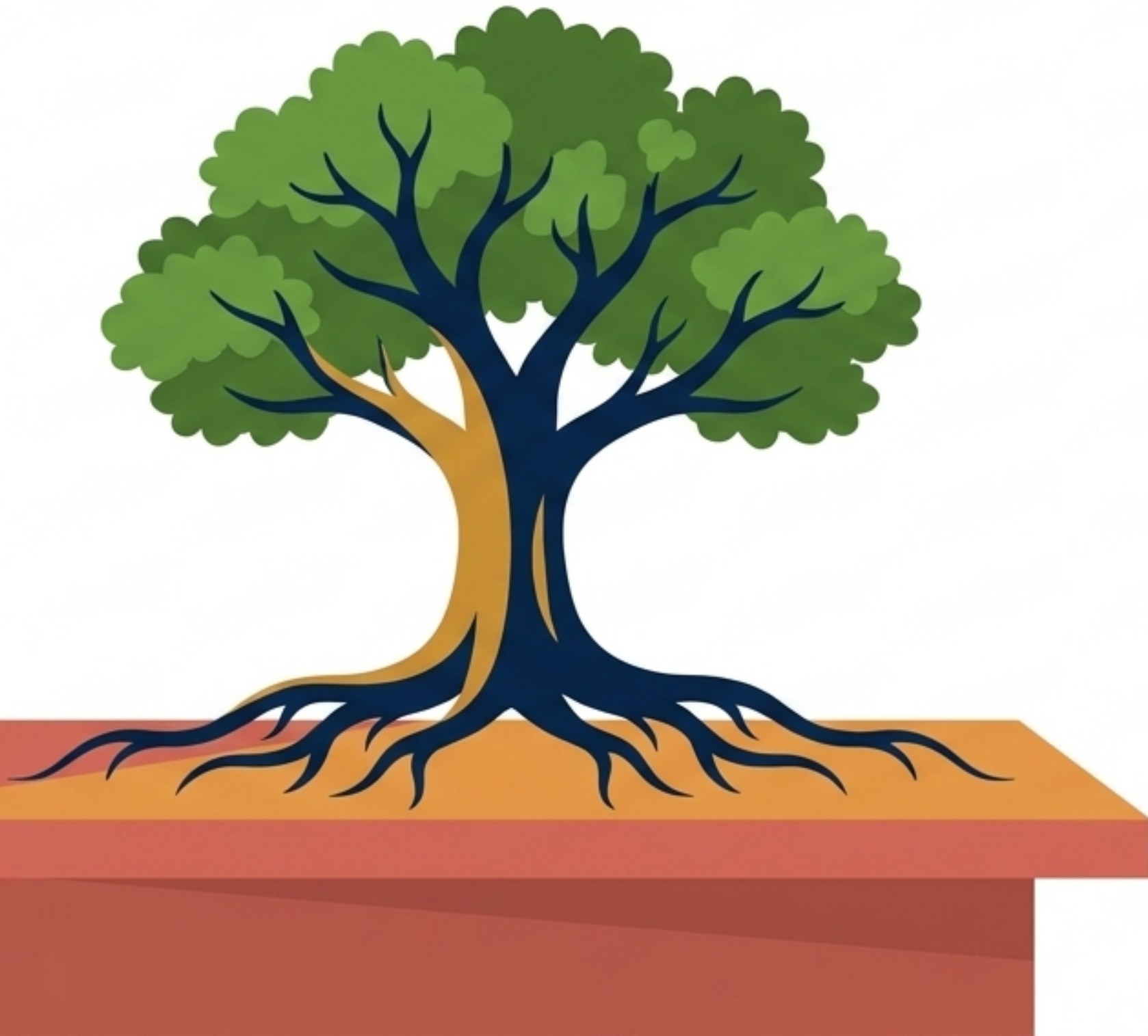
## Innovation 2: African Church Self-Funding

- African congregations funding their own global outreach entirely independent of Western agencies.
- Examples: RCCG, Living Faith Church.
- Impact: Ensures long-term health, strategic independence, and true self-determination.





# The Danger of Western Dependency



**External Funding Dependence:** Relying heavily on Western mission agencies.

**Loss of Local Initiative:** African creativity and strategic priority are suppressed to fit external funding mandates.

**Disproportionate Influence:** Decision-making power shifts away from the local context.

**Ministry Collapse:** When external funds are inevitably withdrawn, the ministry cannot survive locally.



# Building Financial Integrity: The Three-Self Formula

## Sustainable Missions

**Self-Governing:**  
Local leadership  
making local  
decisions.

**Self-Supporting:**  
Funded entirely by  
local resources.

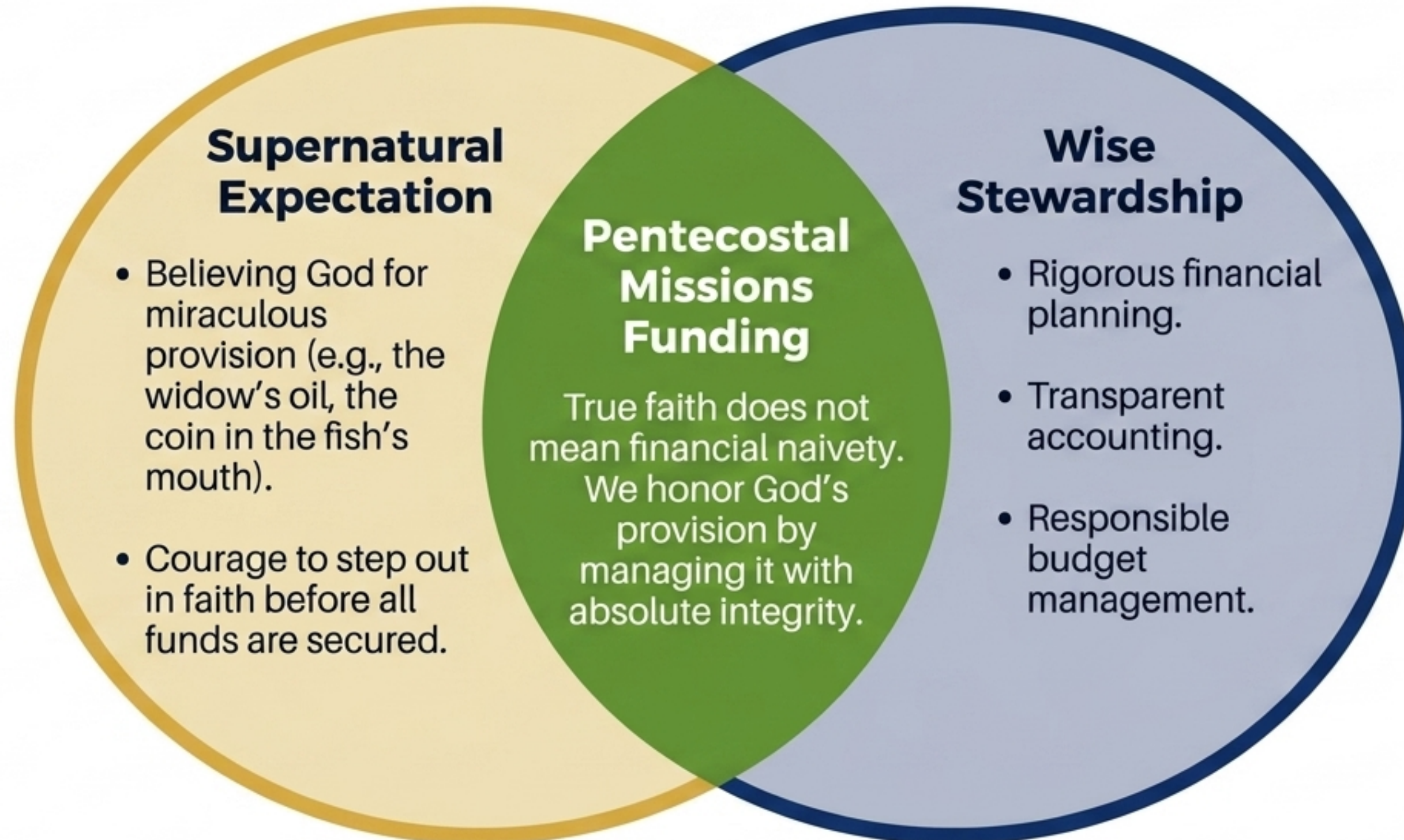
**Self-Propagating:**  
Capable of planting  
new churches  
independently.

## Absolute Transparency

For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man. — 2 Cor. 8:21



# Pentecostal Faith Meets Wise Stewardship





# Reflection & Contextual Application

# 1

## **Biblical Fit**

Which of the biblical models of missionary support best fits your church's current capacity and context?

# 2

## **Overcoming Dependency**

What are the specific dangers of financial dependency in your context, and how can your church develop self-sufficiency?

# 3

## **BAM Opportunities**

How could the Business as Mission (BAM) model open doors in your region that traditional approaches cannot?

# 4

## **Integrity Check**

What financial accountability structures does your church currently have for missionary funds, and what improvements are needed?



# Prayer Focus: Provision & Independence



## **Supernatural Provision**

Ask God for miraculous supply for the missionaries sent from your church and nation.

## **Wisdom in Stewardship**

Pray for the grace to manage ministry finances with impeccable integrity and careful planning.

## **Courageous Faith**

Ask for the boldness to step out into cross-cultural missions even when the complete budget is not yet visible.

## **Continental Independence**

Declare and pray for the absolute financial self-sufficiency and independence of African missionary movements.



# Action Step: The 90-Day Financial Plan

Develop a simple, one-page missionary financial plan for your church.

