

## God's Vision of Hope Part 4: What's the Mission?

1. God has a vision for our world. What is it? **God's vision is that you and I might be in a love relationship with Him and allow Him to love us** as He has planned.
  - a. Why don't we experience His love? Because we have chosen our own way, and pursue our own goals. We don't want God's love unless it is on our terms. That is self-worship. And we all are guilty of it.
  - b. So HOW would we get back to the place where God could love us and we would let Him? We needed a Savior.
  - c. So God chose to send His Son Jesus to earth, to be incarnate God in the flesh, to bring us back to God. To win our hearts and pay for our sins.
2. A **mission is what is necessary to fulfill the vision of the organization.**
  - a. Lets use the illustration of a lighthouse. What is the vision or purpose of a lighthouse? To provide ships guidance and safe passage through perilous waters. So what is their mission? HOW do they accomplish this? By keeping their light lit and shining it out on the water as a beacon for mariners to see.
  - b. This ACTION God took to fulfill His VISION for humanity is called the Mission of Jesus. Jesus said a lot about his mission in the bible.
    - i. John 10:10 "*I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly.*"
    - ii. Luke 19:10 "*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*"
    - iii. Mark 2:17 "*I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.*"
    - iv. Luke 4:42-43 "*I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.*"
    - v. Luke 9:56 "*For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.*"
    - vi. 1 Timothy 1:15 "*This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."*
    - vii. So according to these verses, what was Jesus' mission? *To save sinners, to seek and to save the loss, to bring life and to preach the kingdom of God to all.*
3. **So then we get to the Disciple's Mission.** Jesus told them what their mission was, but Peter vocalizes it in the book of Acts: (Acts 10:42-44) "*And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is ordained of God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.*" *Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who had heard the message.*"
  - i. The disciples saw their mission in the Great Commission, where Jesus commanded His disciples to make disciples of all nations. These words give us an insight into exactly how Peter and the disciples interpreted Jesus' command to be His witnesses. While Peter is explaining who Jesus is and why He came that the Holy Spirit fell upon those who heard the message.
  - ii. They didn't just hear it. They were believing it and instantly, as they believed, they received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
    1. There is no other way you can receive the Holy Spirit except to believe upon Jesus Christ.
    2. This also gives us an insight into how God works.
    3. God commands us to tell others. He then does the convincing.
    4. We go and tell, and God does the miracle of rebirth.
    5. The disciples found it imperative to tell anyone who would listen about their Savior and Lord.
4. **Our church has a mission as well.** Our mission is how we fulfill God's vision for our church and world.

- a. Remember our vision? It explains why we exist...*we exist to be a safe harbor of God's love where people are transformed into devoted followers of Christ who change their world by the power, love and grace of God.*
  - b. Our Church's Mission for this upcoming year: *"In 2009, every member will have the opportunity to experience the power of God flowing through them. We will be challenged, equipped and trained to minister and care for lost and broken people, resulting in a doubling of our church's impact upon our community and world."*
5. There are a few key points that I want you to pay attention to.
- a. This mission statement is how we have interpreted what God has told us to do in the year ahead.
  - b. That means that everyone here in this room and who is a member or attender or even a visitor to this church will be affected by our mission.
  - c. There is no place to sit back and be a spectator in the year ahead. Every one of us is being called to be a participant.
  - d. **Every one of us will have the OPPORTUNITY to experience the power of God flowing through them.**
    - i. Does that scare you? Or does that excite you?
    - ii. Maybe you are wondering how I can make such a bold statement...that God wants to work His power through your life?
    - iii. Does it sound presumptuous to say that God would work His power through you?
    - iv. NO! The entire bible is filled with God using people like you and me, ordinary people to do supernatural things by His power and might to accomplish His purposes in this world and in people's lives.
    - v. We have a testimony time in our services so that you can testify to how God is working in a supernatural way in and through your life! So you can testify to how God has worked, provided, intervened, healed, restored, delivered, made whole, or saved you or someone you know.
    - vi. That is the power of God at work!
    - vii. In the year ahead, you will have opportunities to let God use you. To let God pour His love through you, to speak through you, to minister through you, to answer prayers through you. Do you want to know God that way? Say Amen if you do.
  - e. **We will be challenged, equipped and trained to minister and care for lost and broken people.**
    - i. It is the mission of the church, just as it was the mission of Jesus to SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST. Jesus' mission including binding up the broken hearted, setting captives free, proclaiming good news to the poor and restoring sight to the blind.
    - ii. His mission is our mission. Our mission is YOUR mission.
    - iii. Now you might say, "Pastor, I know how to pray for my needs, but there is NO way I could pray for a blind person and expect them to see."
      1. You want to know what? I struggle with that too.
      2. We are going to a place of God's working...feeding and ministering to people who are hurting and alone without God's Hope...where we have never been before.
      3. We will do everything we can to equip one another, to train one another, in practical, tangible hands on ways so that we can fulfill this mission.
        - a. Altar counselors, Seeds of Hope prayer training – Jan 10, 9-12
        - b. Seeds of Hope (Stephen Ministry) – Jan 24<sup>th</sup> – See Laura. Daytrip.
        - c. Praying the Heart of God – Tentative March 20<sup>th</sup>.
      4. God sends broken people to us and we are called to minister hope in His name to them. Simple as that!
    - iv. Finally, , **resulting in a doubling of our church's impact upon our community and world.**

- i. We aren't going to focus upon church growth in the year ahead. We are going to focus upon Jesus Christ and advancing His kingdom. We have had a limited but growing impact upon our community in the past several years. We want to multiply our impact in the year ahead.
  - ii. You might have noticed few posters around the church today..."**Each one reach one ...to reach our world.**"
    1. Jesus reached people one person at a time. He still does. He wins one heart at a time.
    2. To reach our world each one of us is called to reach the people God has placed in our path. We are to reach them with the love of God.
    - 3. Ushers are passing out "business cards" with prayer blanks on the back.**
    4. We are asking you, as your commitment to Christ and the mission of our church, to take one of these, and write the names of several people who do not know Jesus Christ (other than immediate family for whom you should already be praying).
    5. We ask that you commit to pray for these people who don't know Christ every day for the year ahead. Place this card on your bathroom or bedroom mirror, or use it as a marker in your bible where you read everyday. Pray for these folks that God has placed in your life. We will join you in praying for them as well.
  - iii. In just the past few months, we have seen nearly a dozen people for whom members of our church have been praying to meet Christ, be saved. Imagine if we were all praying!
    1. For that reason, there will be another poster going up after the first of the year.
    2. It will have a number of blanks on it...100 of them to be exact. Every time someone you have been praying for makes a decision to follow Jesus Christ as their Savior, we will ask you to write their initials in the blank on the poster on the wall.
    3. We are believing that God will lead 100 people that our church is praying for to become His children in the year ahead!
6. Praise Team, please come on up. I am going to ask everyone to remain seated as we sing our first song, and allow God to speak to you about the people's names you need to write down and pray for in the year ahead. Keep in mind, if you pray for someone, you are giving God permission to use you in a supernatural way to be an answer for the prayer as well.
  7. Prayer: Lord Jesus, You love these folks that you have laid upon our hearts even more that we do. Help us to love them like You do. Help us to pray for their eternal destiny and the possibility of them encountering You by grace. Lord, in committing to pray for these, we acknowledge that we are giving You permission to awaken us in the middle of the night to pray for, or to answer a phone call from one of these people. We give You permission to inconvenience us, to make us uncomfortable, to cause us to spend our talents, treasure or time on these people who we are praying for. We give you permission to use us, and most of all, we ask that your Divine Power, the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, inhabit and empower us to do Your will on earth just as it is in Heaven. In Jesus Name. Amen.