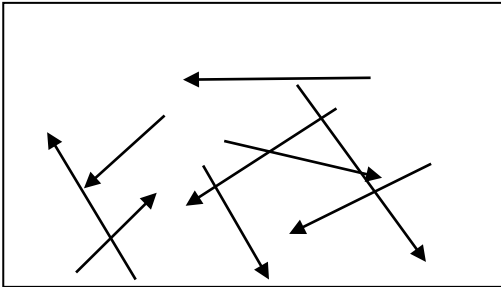
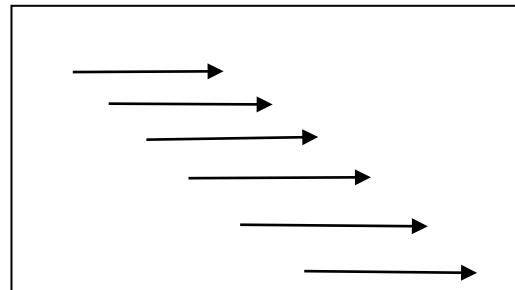


# WHAT “VISION” WILL DO

(Characteristics of a God Honoring Vision)



**Church Without Vision**



**Church With Vision**

- ◆ Where Have We Been?
- ◆ Where Are We Now?
- ◆ Where Are We Going?
- ◆ How Are We Going To Get There?

***“Record the vision and write it down, so that all who read it may run with purpose.” (Habakkuk 2:2)***

**Bill Kirk**

# “The Leader’s Vision”

1. Vision is a picture of the future that produces passion in us today.
2. Vision is seeing where God wants to take us.
3. Vision is a spiritual assessment of what God wants to do.
4. Vision is going in the direction that God wants us to go in.
5. Vision is taking steps of faith that God will honor.
6. Vision is the fuel that provides the energy to act.
7. Vision is believing that what we do not presently see will become a reality before us.
8. Vision is the propelling force that leads the church to reach a higher plane.
9. Vision is looking beyond where we are to a better tomorrow.
10. Vision is direction and purpose from God!
11. Vision is what God puts in your heart to carry out His will on earth.
12. Vision is fleshing out God’s revealed will and pleasure through your own individual life and church.

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“Vision refers to a picture of the future with some implicit or explicit commentary on why people should strive to create that future.”  
(John P. Kotter, Professor of Leadership at Harvard Business School).

## **WHAT WILL VISION DO FOR A CHURCH?**

1. Vision creates energy in those who long to serve God.
2. Vision motivates and mobilizes different people to act as one.
3. Vision causes us to be intentional in our plans and activities.
4. Vision charts the course so that people know where we are going.
5. Vision accepts responsibility for the mission of the church.
6. Vision encourages people to invest their talents for eternity.
7. Vision enables us to keep our priorities and focus in order.
8. Vision forces us to make plans to move from ideas to reality.
9. Vision demands that we train and equip everyone willing to serve.
10. Vision helps us coordinate people and resources towards a goal.
11. Vision breeds enthusiasm that is contagious.
12. Vision breathes life into the hopes and dreams of others.
13. Vision creates a church culture of responsibility and purpose.
14. Vision inspires people to get on board for His cause.
15. Vision brings shared values together for a common objective.
16. Vision fosters community when people serve in meaningful ways.
17. Vision protects us from coldness of heart and drifting backwards.
18. Vision sustains us through difficult times that come to us all.
19. Vision stretches us to reach forward to greater possibilities.
20. Vision channels the burden for what people really care about.
21. Vision raises the level of expectation in everyone on the team.
22. Vision spares us from tunnel vision to see the bigger picture.
23. Vision searches for ways to exceed previous levels of accomplishment.
24. Vision looks for new ways to meet the needs of people
25. Vision connects everyone toward the goal with a single heart.

26. Vision instills in people that they can make a difference.
27. Vision builds camaraderie in the community of believers.
28. Vision brings out the potential that lies dormant in so many people.
29. Vision makes us ask, "Are we doing the right things right?"
30. Vision builds fire in people not under people.
31. Vision leads people to venture beyond their self-imposed limitations.
32. Vision creates ownership as people become responsible for the vision.
33. Vision enlists the perspectives of new people who have good ideas.
34. Vision stimulates a person beyond normally accepted behavior.
35. Vision will not allow us to go from Sunday to Sunday without a long range plan.
36. Vision will not allow us to waste time, flounder around, lose energy, get distracted or become demoralized.
37. Vision will not allow us to lose the passion to see God's will completed where we are.
38. Vision will not allow the work of God to die with us in our generation.
39. Vision will not allow us to fulfill the functions of the church each week (sing, pray, visit, hear sermons, etc.) but fail in the mission of the church (to win lost people to Christ).

#### **And Finally #40**

- Vision will create the environment where everyone will see and feel the need to contribute to something bigger than ourselves!!!

# “THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND VISION CASTING”

## Management is...

- ◆ A set of processes that keeps a system running smoothly.
  1. It becomes inward and predictable.
  2. It simply monitors what already exists.
  3. It can only focus on short-term results.
  4. It wants to “just survive” one more week or month.

## Leadership is...

- ◆ The defining of what God wants to do; aligning people with that vision; and inspiring them to see it become a reality.
  1. It refuses to accept the “status quo”.
  2. It communicates direction to move forward.
  3. It motivates and inspires to reach new potential.
  4. It is willing to “step out” of the comfort zone.

## In other words:

- ◆ **Managers** maintain the present level of achievement (they are content with the way things are going).
- ◆ **Leaders** motivate others to stretch, grow, reach higher and move forward in God (they refuse to stifle initiative, creativity, innovation and the ability of God to do the supernatural.)

## Fact:

- ◆ A vision birthed in prayer will ignite the heart and stir us to move forward.
- ◆ A vision **maintained** in prayer will fuel the passion to persevere until that vision becomes into being.

# **“BASIC CORE VALUES OF A VISION”**

## **1. Worship God in Spirit and in Truth**

- ◆ By exalting God as the only one worthy of our praise.
- ◆ By totally submitting to God in word, thought and deed.
- ◆ By living in obedience to His will revealed in Scripture.

## **2. Disciple and Train Those Already Saved**

- ◆ Build spiritual disciplines into the lives of those already attending.
- ◆ Deploy believers into meaningful service where they are gifted.
- ◆ Equip through Sunday school or Wednesday electives.
- ◆ Encourage all Christians towards spiritual maturity.

## **3. Build Relationships Through Community**

- ◆ Through the various life groups established.
- ◆ Through serving in small group ministry.
- ◆ Through incorporating new people with those already established.

## **4. Care-Giving to the Poor and Needy**

- ◆ Helping those who need food, clothing, etc.
- ◆ Visitation to jails, nursing homes, hospitals, homes, etc.
- ◆ Counseling those in crisis (family, finances, emotions).

## **5. Evangelize the Lost Within Reach**

- ◆ This should flow out of a healthy body that is full of vision and purpose.
- ◆ This will be intentional as well in special outreach services and events.
- ◆ This should be the biblical way of God giving increase to a healthy church.
- ◆ We just flat out believe that every person is precious and valuable to God.

### **Why Does Your Church Exist?**

- “For the son of man is come to seek and to save those who are lost.” (Luke 19:10)
- “But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (Matthew 10:6)
- “The Lord is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (II Peter 3:9)
- “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15)
- “He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life.” (I John 5:12)

### **And this non-optional command:**

- “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

# **“CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOD HONORING VISION”**

## **I. The Vision Aligns With The Pure Word Of God:**

- ◆ Our motivation must be God honoring, Christ centered and people oriented.
- ◆ Our core values must come from God’s word alone.
- ◆ The kingdom of God (not ours) must be seen in all we do.

## **II. The Vision Focuses on Reaching Lost People:**

- ◆ The great commission will be the purpose in all of our labor.
- ◆ We will never get caught up in the “numbers game”.
- ◆ We will serve the 99 but go after the one lost sheep.

## **III. The Vision is Processed for Our Specific Church:**

- ◆ We will not copy what has worked in some other location
- ◆ We will get input from our people to take ownership of the vision.
- ◆ We will, in prayer, discover God’s will for our church.

## **IV. The Vision Guides All Other Church Activities:**

- ◆ There must be a redemptive purpose to events on the calendar.
- ◆ We cannot fulfill the functions of the church and neglect the mission.
- ◆ People must feel the need to be “outward” in their focus.

## **V. The Vision Will Be Clear and Understood by Everyone:**

- ◆ Everyone must know our vision statement (purpose for being).
- ◆ Everyone must know the plan and strategy to realize the vision
- ◆ Everyone must know their own responsibility in fulfilling the vision.

**“The Lord said, record the vision and write it down so that all who read it may run with purpose.” (Habakkuk 2:2)**

# “THE WHY AND HOW OF THE VISION”

## Why Do We Need A Vision? Because...

- ◆ Before you build a house – you need a blueprint.
- ◆ Before you fly an airplane – you need a flight plan.
- ◆ Before you lead an orchestra – you need a score sheet.
- ◆ Before you travel cross country – you need a road map.

“Count the cost and plan ahead before you begin something.” (Luke 14:28)

## How Does The Vision Come Into Being?

### I. Exploration of the many needs around us:

- ◆ Brainstorm and discover the various needs for us to meet.
- ◆ Ask God to reveal to us the needs He wants us to meet.
- ◆ Get feedback and input from those in (and outside) the church.

### II. Preparation with all the team leaders:

- ◆ Broaden the base by including all department heads.
- ◆ Give all leaders opportunity to take ownership of the vision.
- ◆ Train the congregation to be purposeful, visionary and optimistic.

### III. Communication to everyone within the congregation:

- ◆ Publicly address the body with the heart of God to move forward.
- ◆ Special letter sent to everyone on the mailing list.
- ◆ Weekly bulletins to advertise all classes and ministry opportunities.

### IV. Implementation by all who are serving:

- ◆ Put arms and legs to the vision with specific strategy.
- ◆ Choose who will do what (and when).
- ◆ Begin where we are to gain ground incrementally.
- ◆ Assimilate everyone into meaningful service somewhere.
- ◆ Take steps of action to intentionally reach your goals and objectives.

### Remember:

- ◆ Without a plan to begin to implement specific ministry, we are no better off than before we started.



# **“A LEADER AND CHURCH WITH VISION”**

(Will continually ask these four questions)

**#1. Where have we been?**

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**#2. Where are we now?**

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**#3. Where are we going?**

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**#4. How are we going to get there?**

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# DEFINITION OF A VISION

A vision is a clear, challenging picture of the future of the ministry as you believe that it can and must be.

## Why so important? Because vision...

1. **Clarifies Direction**
  - ◆ As people answer the question “Where are we going?”
  
2. **Fosters Unity**
  - ◆ As creatively different people band together in purpose.
  
3. **Enhances Leadership**
  - ◆ As leaders influence people for the greater good.
  
4. **Encourages Participation**
  - ◆ As room is made for everyone’s spiritual gift.
  
5. **Creates Energy**
  - ◆ As fuel is supplied to light the fire in a congregation.
  
6. **Prompts Risk Taking**
  - ◆ As people venture out into uncharted territory.
  
7. **Motivates Giving**
  - ◆ As people are moved to give to something dynamic, not static.

**Remember:**

***Vision signals to all where the ministry is going!***

**“VISION PROVOKES US”**  
**TO ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING MISSIONS STATEMENT**

1. Our (His) church will be “**city wide**” (void of classes and stereotypes so that everyone will feel welcome and find warmth in a loving community of people).
2. Our (His) church will be a **congregation of prayer**, where (in our midst) we will literally sense and see enemy strongholds pulled down because of corporate prayer.
3. Our (His) church will be a **healing center** for those who have been hurt, bruised and are in need of the Great Physician.
4. Our (His) church will be **evangelistic** at all times (expanding our Sunday school and Wednesday electives to meet people where they live).
5. Our (His) church will have a strong **missions** emphasis, never failing to support those whom God calls to home and foreign fields.
6. Our (His) church will curb the “**fatality rate**” of new converts through visitation and follow up of all new believers.
7. Our (His) church will have a **positive input** in our community, both spiritually and financially by paying all bills on time).
8. Our (His) church will provide **training** and **encouragement** to everyone within our church who serves and gives of themselves to serve in ministry.
9. Our (His) church will remain “**Christ centered**” and refuse, #1 to compromise with sin, #2, to chase after man, #3 to follow new fads or #4, to be sidetracked by “other” distractions.
10. Our (His) church will pray, seek God and believe for a Pentecostal outpouring of God’s Spirit, resulting in **genuine revival** that bears the fruit of lasting conversions, changed lives, sacrificial giving, travailing prayer and Holy living.