



Seven Steps to Fulfilling God's Vision - Session 1

Pastor Marc Estes

Introduction

1. It is great to be back in Catskill. Looking forward to our time together. Pastor Rick and I have been talking in recent months and we are going to spend next few days to discuss, "Strategies for Growth: An alignment of Ministries, Mindset and Vision."
2. This time will be an interactive time. Feel free to stop and discuss any subject at anytime.
3. Today, I want to talk about how to make a dream a reality. You have a dream and vision as a church.
4. God has created us to dream. From our earliest childhood memories, we all had dreams of becoming something great, going somewhere spectacular, or being a part of something significant.

#Me at 8 years old. Wanting to be Mr. Universe. Saved money, bought books & weights, even wrote a book.

5. Born into the heart of man is dream of dreams bigger than life, bigger than us. God placed this capacity in our lives so that we could receive dreams and visions from God. In receiving and interpreting these dreams and visions, we would then depend on Him and partner with Him in the fulfillment of what He might do through us. After all, we were created 'by Him and for Him.'
6. One of the greatest challenges we face as leaders today is how to define our vision, implement it and see it fully mature in to God's desired plan in reality. Vision shouldn't be abstract or nebulous, it should be defined, communicated, and at the forefront of all of our meetings, prayers, and plans.
7. Every person here is part of a vision and dream, birthed by God and communicated through the heart of a leader. In addition, each of you here has a personal responsibility in fulfilling this vision and dream within the context of your local church. #Refer to church's vision statement.
8. Is there evidence of it being lived out in your church? Leaders? People? Lets start by talking about vision.

Four part series today and workshop discussion tomorrow.

I. Defining Vision

#How would you define vision?

A. Scripture on Vision - Open bibles to Proverbs 29:18

1. NKJV "Without a vision, the people perish."
2. ESV "Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint"

Message "If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; (sounds like some churches)... But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed." Vision is a critical component to leading God's people and building his church.



Defining Vision

Proverbs 29:18, "Without a vision, the people perish."

Hebrew – "To gave at, mentally perceive, to contemplate with pleasure the things of the future."

Greek – "A mark on which to fix the eyes."

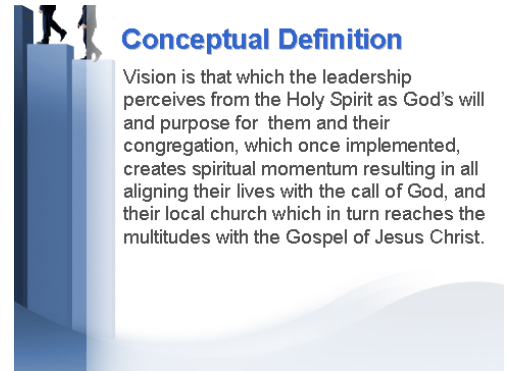
Dictionary – "To act or power of sensing with the eyes; the power of anticipation and expectation."

B. Linguistic Definition, "Vision"

1. Hebrew: To gaze at, mentally perceive, to contemplate with pleasure the things of the future.
2. Greek (skopos): A mark on which to fix the eyes, as a runner who is looking toward the goal line. (Philippians 3:13-14).
3. Dictionary: To act or power of sensing with the eyes, the power of anticipation and expectation.

C. Conceptual Definition, "Vision"

1. Vision is that which the leadership perceives from the Holy Spirit as God's will and purpose for them and their congregation, which once implemented, creates spiritual momentum resulting in all aligning their lives with the call of God, and their local church which in turn reaches the multitudes with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Vision is the product of God working in us and through us to accomplish His purposes.



D. Your Church Vision

1. God has given you as a church a specific vision. The vision is large, its specific and its attainable.
2. **INSERT CHURCH VISION SPECIFICS HERE. Discuss the 11 main components that make up the vision.**
#NOTE – You may consider simplifying and combining so people can know it and get it!
3. In order for the vision to be become a reality, each leader in this room, must walk together in all seven steps of vision fulfillment.

Seven Steps To Fulfilling God's Vision

Foundation to the Vision

II. Foundation of your Vision - (step 1)

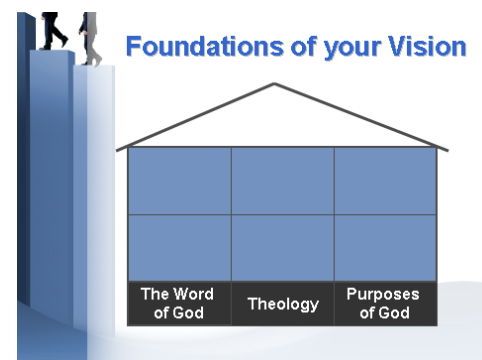
#Recently, I built a brand new home. There was a great deal of planning that took place from an architectural and design standpoint. The drawings and engineering were critical to both the longevity and quality of the finished project. Church is the same.

Matthew 7, "He who builds his house... build on rock (foundation)"

We are building a house; God's House, His Church.

A. The Word of God

The Bible is the inspired, infallible, Word of God. It is absolute and 100% truth. We base our entire existence on His Word. We must preach it, apply it, live it, protect it, defend it and spread it. It is the core of vision, the reason for vision, the goal of vision.



B. Theology

1. Theology is defined as, “the study of religious faith, practice and experience.” Our theology is determined by our hermeneutics. How we interpret scripture defines our theology, which dictates everything in which we build our spiritual house.

#Ecclesiology, Pneumatology, Covenants, Dispensationalism, etc.

2. Your destiny is determined by your theology. We must strive for sound theology!
3. Doctrine → Determines Beliefs → Determines Actions → Determines Destiny.

C. Purposes of God

1. Our theology determines how we define God’s purpose, which defines our purpose. The purposes of God sees God’s plan as a continuous, progress plan throughout the entire human history.
2. God’s purpose is the Kingdom of God and His Church is THE divine instrument. The church precedes, transcends and succeeds natural Israel. The church is God’s final and only instrument.
 - a. Church found in Old Testament- Some believe the Church is nowhere to be found in the OT. Yet it was both prophesied (Gen. 22:18; 26:4; Psalms 22:27,28; Isaiah 2:2-3; 11:10; 52:15; Zechariah 2:11; Malachi 1:11) and typified (Adam and Eve – Gen. 1-2 w/Eph. 5:23-33; Israel Nation – Exodus 1-19 w/Acts 7:38; and The Tabernacle and Temple – Exodus 25-40; 2 Chronicles 1-5; Eph. 2:20-22; 1 cor. 3:16; 6:19).
 - b. Church in the New Testament – Acts 2 (entire chapter) is God’s blueprint. It is His idea. It is His vision. He has a definite plan as to why we should build it, how it should be built and who we are building it for. His pattern continues throughout the New Testament Epistles. The church is mentioned 114 times in the NT and 95 times it refers to the LOCAL church!

#QUESTION - Why is this so important to understand and embrace?

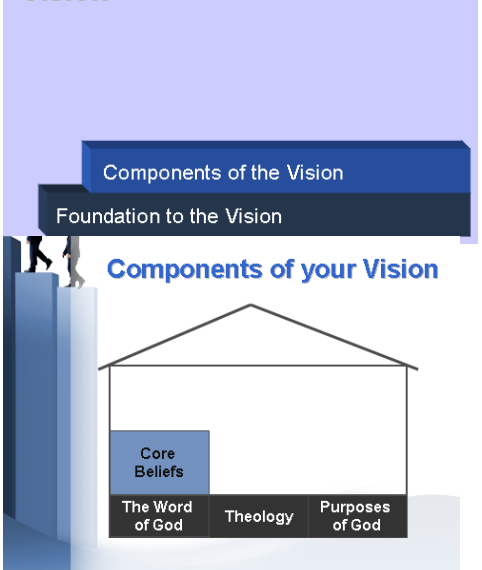
III. Components of Vision – Components for the workers

Once we have the (1) proper plans and architecture in place which gives us a SURE foundation, we must have the (2) proper components (**materials**) to build the infrastructure. The quality of the components determines the strength and potential of the house. There are six key components that make up your house:

A. Core Beliefs

These beliefs are also derived from your theology. We don’t have the privilege to add or exclude any of the components. As a spirit-filled, apostolic, reformation movement, we believe Acts 2 gives us a list of twelve core beliefs that should be vibrant and flowing in our churches. They should create a culture, be actively visible, not just be on a sign in our buildings:

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CBC
1997=#8
2000-#10
Now=#3
Next=#4,9

1. Repentance (2:38)
 2. Water Baptism (2:38)
 3. Holy Spirit Baptism (2:39)
 4. Evangelism (2:40)
 5. Doctrine (2:42)
 7. Breaking of Bread (2:42)
 8. Prayer (2:42)
 9. Signs and Wonders (2:43)
 10. Community (2:45)
 11. Unity (2:46)
 12. Worship (2:47)
- #Where are you strong/ weak?

B. Core Distinctives

Our distinctive are rooted in our theology and are defined through our beliefs. (1) We believe in the restoration of the church, (2) the Covenants, (3) World evangelism and missions, (4) holistic approach to building disciples, (5) Presence driven worship, (6) church planting, etc.

#QUESTION - What are your distinctives?

C. Core Values

Core values are Biblical convictions that are non-negotiables. They too, come from our beliefs, and should be evident in our lifestyle, speech, services, programs, budgets, etc. We have leadership values, team values, church values, family values, and personal values.

#QUESTION – What is the difference between a belief and value?

#List Church Values - You should know them, live them, and preach them.

D. Ministry Philosophy

Our ministry philosophy defines, “WHY” we do ministry the way we do. You have to understand the “WHY” before you can talk about the “HOW.” Too many leaders are looking for the “HOW” and have never really understood the “WHY.” #How to books, conferences, but no one is talking about ‘why?’

1. Why do you run services the way you do?
2. Why do you worship the way you do? (Acts 15. Presence already here, and also for Gentile).
3. Why do you build leaders the way you do? (Team ministry philosophy or autocratic?)
4. The answer to these questions determine you ministry philosophy.
5. THE FIRST FOUR POINTS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLES IN BUILDING GOD’S HOUSE! REMAINING SHOULD BE NEGOTIABLE AND CHANGE OFTEN.

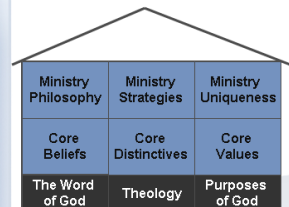
E. Ministry Strategies

Our strategies are the “How’s” to ministry. They must be built on our beliefs, represent our values, reflect our distinctives and be consistent with our philosophy. Many church leaders start with strategy and build based on fads, trends and popularity, without ever understanding that they are diluting their core.

Components of Vision

Core Beliefs – Acts 2 Church
-Repentance (2:38)
-Water Baptism (2:38)
-Holy Spirit Baptism (2:39)
-Evangelism (2:40)
-Doctrine (2:42)
-Fellowship (2:42)
-Breaking of Bread (2:42)
-Prayer (2:42)
-Signs and Wonders (2:38)
-Community (2:43)
-Unity (2:1, 42, 44)
-Worship (2:46)

Components of your Vision



F. Ministry Uniqueness (great affect on building house/vision)

1. Theological background (already mentioned)
2. Spiritual Genes and heritage **#Me with LTCF and CBC**
3. Level of Character –Reputation
4. Personality of Senior Leader and leaders
5. Education
6. Mentoring influences **#Conner, Damazio, Anfuso, Edwards**
7. Ministry Exposure
8. Ministry Experiences **#Hurts, successes, failures, positions**



G. The combination of all six components

1. The quality of the components
2. The clarity of the components
3. The implementation of the components
4. Are all critical to building a strong, lasting, healthy house.



#QUESTIONS – ANSWERS – DISCUSSION ITEMS - BREAK