

2020 Vision GFC – 2-9-2020

Welcome to Vision Sunday!

We are beginning a new sermon series called 2020 Vision – Seeing God’s Plan For Your Life.

But before I talk about vision for your life, I want to share a few of our accomplishments from last year and vision for 2020.

We have an overall vision for our church – which is Touching Heaven- Changing Earth.

To accomplish our vision we do 4 things: experience God’s presence, equip God’s people, extend God’s kingdom and empower the next generation for Jesus Christ.

When we do this – we touch heaven and change earth.

We started this church in 2001 with nothing: no people, no money, no denominational support, no sending church.

We had absolutely nothing in the physical realm.

What we did have was a big vision and a big faith in a big God who does big things through people with big vision and big faith in a big God!

Because of that, we have an exciting future ahead of us.

Here’s just a few statistics about how we accomplished that in 2019.

- **We had 494 first-time guests**
- **We had 218 people volunteer to serve in some capacity.**
- **Hundreds of people were reached through our outreaches – Easter, Christmas Eve, Football Sunday, VBS, Back to Church & Light the Night**
- **Hundreds of people were disciplined through Grace Journey, Bible classes, FPU, children’s, youth, men’s and women’s ministries.**
- **We supported 12 missionaries and mission’s organizations**
- **Supported mission’s trips to Kenya, Liberia and Guinea**
- **Donated \$2300 to help start building a church for the Bheel people in Pakistan**
- **In benevolence – we gave money, food and gifts to over 100 people.**
- **Here’s the main one: 127 people made professions of faith in Jesus!**
- **Dozens more rededicated their lives to Christ, got water baptized and baptized in the Holy Spirit!**

Thank you for helping to make this happen by **praying, giving and serving.**

Even though we have an **overall vision** to guide us, there is always the need for **fresh vision** in our church.

Last year we focused on structure and relationships in our church.

Our major areas of focus this year will be:

1- Structuring our church around the 5-fold ministry

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers
We have started this with an apostolic team

2- Discipleship and Equipping

3- Grace Groups

We see the need to **reestablish the importance** of small groups in the life of our church. They are vital to **discipleship, equipping,** raising up leaders and building relationships.

4- Freedom Ministry

Michael and Shannon **Dooley** will be starting a ministry called Life Keys – which is designed to **help people get free and stay free** from addictions and life-controlling problems like anger, depression and past wounds.

5- Family Ministry

We are feeling the need for **more ministries for marriages and families.** This includes **small groups, biblical counseling and marriage mentors.** Some of this is **long-term vision** because it requires equipping people first.

This is what we are **seeing for GFC** this year.

What do you see for **your area** of ministry?

What is **your vision for your life and your family?**

The most **common answer** given when people are asked what their vision for their life is this: **“I don’t know.”**

It’s sad that most people live their lives **not knowing** their purpose.

I don’t believe God **wants us to live** that way.

God wants us to live **lives of purpose** and vision.

I would rather **dream big** and believe big and **accomplish part** of my dream than dream nothing and **accomplish all** of that.

So - Dare to dream. Dare to get a **vision** for your future.

Vision has power.

I know that because of the results of a **lack of vision.**

Proverbs 29:18 says:

Where there is no vision, the people perish.

The literal definition of vision is **“the power to see.”**

When I speak of vision today, I mean the power to **see your future.**

So what do you see for **your future?**

Without a dream you **will perish.**

That’s true in **every area of life.**

- Where there is no vision to have a growing **personal relationship** with your Creator, your **inner man** perishes.
- Where there is no vision for a **godly family**, you have a big chance of ending up divorced and your **family perishes.**
- Where you have no **vision for your calling**, destiny and purpose, you will flounder around going from **job to job** with no real accomplishment.
- Where there is no vision that your **body is the temple** of God’s Spirit—your physical **health perishes.**
- Where there is no vision for a **financially wise lifestyle**, you can live in the richest country on earth and still be **financially perishing.**

Get the point? **Without vision** in any area of life, people perish.

Without a vision you will end your **life in regret** wondering:

“Why didn’t I **accomplish** more? Why didn’t I **get somewhere?**

Why didn’t I **make something** of my life?”

That’s **not how God wants** us to end up in life.

The Apostle **Paul** got a vision from God, and at the **end of his life**, he was able to say in Acts 26:19

I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision...

Paul knew he **accomplished God's vision** for his life.
 He **heard from God and did** what God told him to do.
 Have you **heard from God**? Are you **doing** what He wants you to do?

Do you know how do you **discern your vision** from God?
 God speaks in **different ways** to different people, but these **6 things** will usually be involved:

V- Values

Values are the things that are **important to you**.
 One way to discover you values is to **pay attention to what angers you**.
 I mean, what stirs up **righteous anger** in you? What is it that causes you to say, "Someone ought to **do something** about that"?

I- Inner Desires & Passion

Inner desires are the **dreams in your heart**. If values are discovered by knowing what makes you angry, inner desires are discovered by knowing **what makes you happy**. What brings you joy and fulfillment?

S- Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are **supernatural abilities** imparted by God.

I- Impartation from Past Life Experiences

Past experiences show you what things you **like or dislike**, what you're **good at** and what you're **not good at**.

O- Other People

Other people are those in your life you **care about you and your future**.

N- Natural Talents and Abilities

Talents are natural abilities **imparted by God**.

The church plays a vital role as we help each other **discover our dream** and encourage each other to **pursue that dream**.

Here are **10 questions** you can ask yourself about your dream:

1- Is this dream **from God** or from other people?

Sometimes the dream is our **parent's** dream for us, or a **teacher's** dream for us - not our own dream from **God**.

2- Can I **clearly see** this dream or is it vague?

To advance you must have vision and that **vision must be clear** to you.

Habakkuk 2:2 says:

Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.

Notice that your vision must be **plain enough** for you to write it down. Your vision must be plain so you can **run with it.**

3- Is this dream **realistic** or is it a fantasy?

I talked a couple of weeks ago about the **difference between** a fantasy and a dream from God.

A fantasy is something **you make up** – it's not from God.

A dream **from God** will be based in reality, even though it will **stretch** you.

4- Do I have the talents, skills and spiritual gifts to accomplish this dream?

Romans 11:29 says **The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**

This isn't the **main interpretation** of this verse – but I want you to understand that God's calling and God's gifts always **go together.**

God won't call you to be a **worship leader** if you can't sing.

God won't call you to **teach** if you don't have the gift of teaching.

5- Does my dream **motivate me** or overwhelm me?

6- Do trustworthy people **validate my dream**?

If one person tells you you're a horse – they're crazy.

If 3 people tell you you're a horse – that's a conspiracy.

If 10 people tell you you're a horse – buy a saddle!

7- Have I **counted the cost** of my dream and am I willing to pay the price?

8- Does my dream **fulfill me**?

9- Does my dream **benefit others**? It won't be just about you!

10- Does my dream **glorify God**? If not – it's not from God!

I felt led today to warn you about **Dreambusters**.

Dream-Busters are **anyone or anything** that prompts us to **abandon God's dreams** for us or to settle for less than God intended.

Dream-Busters are **obstacles that block our way**, causing us to give up on our dreams.

They **blur our vision** – or they mislead us, guiding us in directions away from our dreams.

They can also **drain our inspiration**, causing us to **become discouraged**.

DREAMBUSTER 1 – Other people

Just as people can **confirm** prophetic words, they can **try to talk you out of** it. Some people will **mock you** for thinking you've heard from God.

Some people have a **hard time** with other people's dreams.

Think of **Joseph's brothers**.

DREAMBUSTER 2 – False expectations

I'm sure many of us have dreamed about how **God's promises** would be fulfilled in our lives.

Some of us have **given up** because it did not **happen like we thought** it would.

DREAMBUSTER 3 – Adding to a prophetic word

This is a major way we can get off track in pursuing our prophetic destiny. We **add to God's message**.

Sometimes, the word from God will be **kind of general** at first.

It may have lots of **blank spaces**.

The problem is we try to **fill in the blanks**.

DREAMBUSTER 4 – Ordinary Life

Do you feel as if you're **on a shelf**, living an ordinary life?

Are you changing diapers, cooking dinner, or working a dead-end job, while crying out in your heart, Lord, **have you forgotten me?**

Many times **in the Bible** – people who received a **prophetic word** from God had many **years of ordinary life** before their word was fulfilled.

DREAMBUSTER 5 – Giving Up Too Soon

Where **we miss it most often is in the when** – the timing.

We're usually **way ahead** of God's timetable.

Habakkuk 2:2-3 says:

Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

Seeing a vision come to pass is a **marathon, not a sprint!**

The **longer your race**, the longer the time of **training**.

DREAMBUSTER 6 – The Devil

The devil is the **ultimate dreambuster**.

Don't think fulfilling your prophetic destiny will happen **without a fight**.

Just as God wants us to **fulfill that destiny** – the devil would like nothing more than to **get us off track**.

Just because you have a **word from God** does not mean it will automatically happen. You have to **war over it**. Why?

The enemy wants to **steal your dream and destroy your destiny**.

You must be prepared to **fight the fight of faith**.

DREAMBUSTER 7 – Dry Times

Many great men and women of God spent **time in a dry desert** before their vision came to pass.

Moses spent 40 years on the backside of the desert before fulfilling the vision to free the children of Israel.

Maybe you've had incredible, **dramatic encounters** with God.

You've had **multiple prophetic words** recorded on tape and transcribed into notebooks.

You're sure that **at any moment** your **prophetic destiny** will come to pass.

Think about this - when it came time for **Jesus to fulfill** His prophetic destiny – He was **baptized** in water, filled with the **Holy Spirit** and He heard the **audible voice** of the Father saying He was pleased in Him.

Then Mark 1:12-13 says:

Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

Immediately after hearing from God, Jesus was **sent into a lonesome, desolate, solitary desert.**

You, too, will spend time in the **wilderness of barrenness.**

You will have times when you are **alone**, times when you are **dry**, times when it seems God isn't **hearing you** and you aren't hearing Him.

But God uses dry times to teach us and prepare us.

For some it is **3 years**, for some it is **30 years.**

But **seasons of preparation** are important.

We all want to be **rooted and grounded** in faith.

For roots to **go deep**, there must be **dry times.**

Constant rain leads to **shallow roots.**

DREAMBUSTER 8 – Death of a vision

Think of the **disciples** when Jesus was **being crucified.**

Their vision of the Messiah was a **powerful king** who **overthrew the Roman oppression.**

I'm sure they thought, **"But God, He was supposed to deliver us. He was our salvation, and now He's gone. If You really love us, why have You allowed this to happen? Everything You promised and everything we believed is dying right in front of our eyes."**

Have you ever felt that way or asked those questions?

If so, you've experienced the **death of a vision.**

You want to believe the Lord will **rescue you at the last moment**, but often **His plan is to crucify you.**

Everything dies at the cross: relationships, ministries, agendas, reputations, finances...it's **painful, but it's necessary.**

God wants to kill all the **selfish part of our dream** until all that is left is what is **truly from Him.**

Everyone who **had a vision** in the Bible had to go through **the death of that vision.**

Abraham had to die to his vision of having a **son.**

Moses had to die to his vision of being a **deliverer**.
David had to die to his vision of being a **king**.

But what's on the other side of death? **Resurrection life and power!**
 Out of great **death comes great life**.

At the cross, God crucifies our **limited view** concerning the fulfillment of our prophetic destiny and **resurrects it** to His **eternal view**.

The Lord **revives our broken dreams** -- and when they come to pass, they **rarely look** as we thought they would.

In order to carry God's glory, you must **understand the seasons** in your **prophetic journey**.

Even after God gives you a dream, there are **seasons of spiritual warfare**, obscurity, preparation and dry times.

Deb and I had a **vision for a church** that loved God and loved people.

We had a **previous church** that died a long slow **painful death**.

We **gave up** on ministry for a while.

But God **crucified some things** in us and then worked **resurrection life** in us. Out of those **ashes came GFC**.

Jesus said in John 12:24:

I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies it produces many seeds.

If we had **not died to our dream** and ourselves, we would still be alone.

But now we have you sharing our dream.

Are you willing to **die to your vision** and let **God resurrect** it His way?

Ephesians 3:20 says that:

God is able to (carry out His purpose) and do superabundantly, far over and above all that we (dare) ask or think (infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams).

God has a dream for you that is **beyond** your wildest dream!

God wants to do **bigger things** through you than you've ever dared to dream of, think of or ask for!

God is **daring you** to dream big today!

And I'm calling you out of **small-minded** thinking – **small-faith** praying – **small-dream** living!

And I'm encouraging you to **dream big dreams**, **think** big thoughts, **pray** big prayers, and have **big faith** in a big God who does **big things** through people with **big faith** in a big God!!