



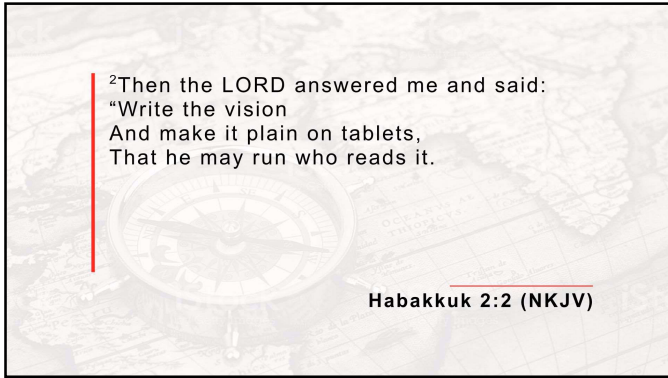
Vision 2023 – An Introduction to Vision
Habakkuk 2:2-3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the vision and its purpose?
2. How can we discern if a vision is from God?
3. What do you like most about the vision statement?
 1. How do you see yourself supporting it?
4. What is the vision God has given you for your life?

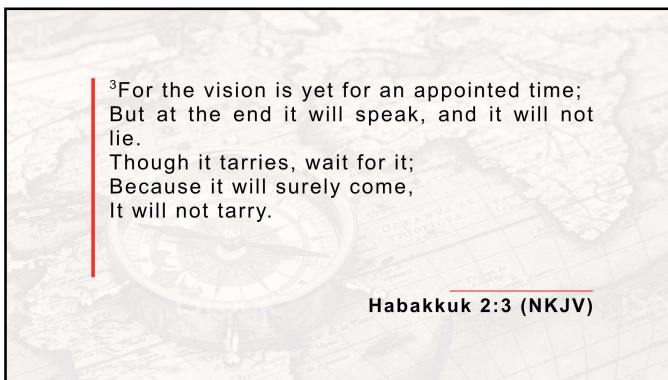
Presuppositions

1. God still speaks to His people today (Bible, word of knowledge, still small voice, etc.)
2. All spiritual gifts are still active today
3. The first two should be normative in the life of the Christian believer.



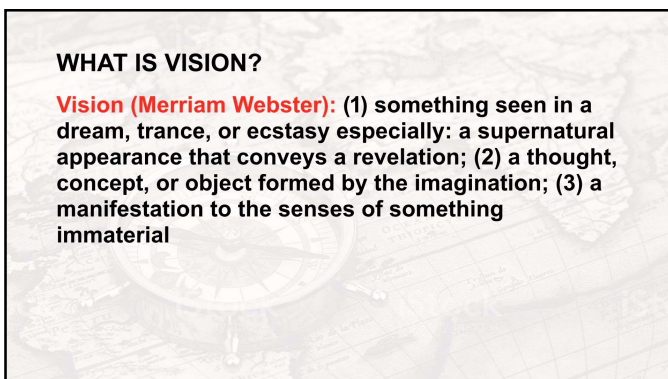
²Then the LORD answered me and said:
 "Write the vision
 And make it plain on tablets,
 That he may run who reads it.

Habakkuk 2:2 (NKJV)



³For 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.

Habakkuk 2:3 (NKJV)

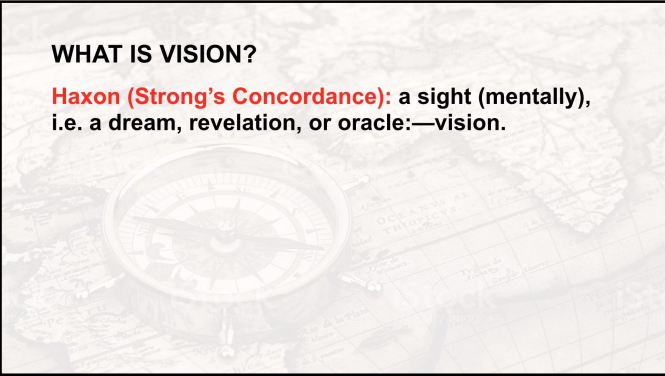


WHAT IS VISION?

Vision (Merriam Webster): (1) something seen in a dream, trance, or ecstasy especially: a supernatural appearance that conveys a revelation; (2) a thought, concept, or object formed by the imagination; (3) a manifestation to the senses of something immaterial

WHAT IS VISION?

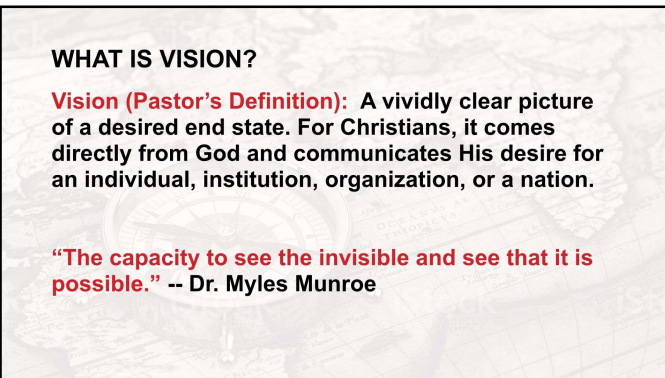
Haxton (Strong's Concordance): a sight (mentally), i.e. a dream, revelation, or oracle:—vision.



WHAT IS VISION?

Vision (Pastor's Definition): A vividly clear picture of a desired end state. For Christians, it comes directly from God and communicates His desire for an individual, institution, organization, or a nation.

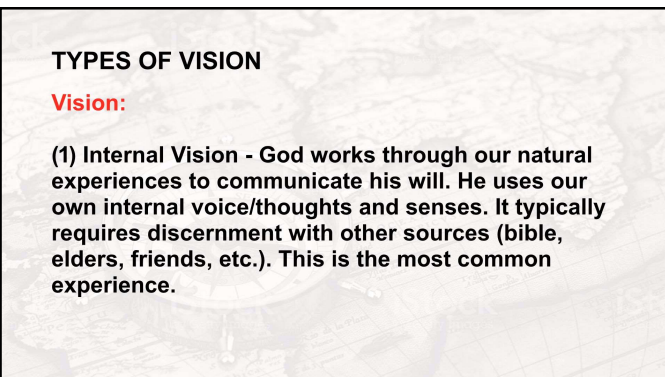
"The capacity to see the invisible and see that it is possible." -- Dr. Myles Munroe



TYPES OF VISION

Vision:

(1) Internal Vision - God works through our natural experiences to communicate his will. He uses our own internal voice/thoughts and senses. It typically requires discernment with other sources (bible, elders, friends, etc.). This is the most common experience.



TYPES OF VISION

Vision:

(2) Trance or “In the Spirit” — Out of body, supernatural experience.

- Rev. 1:10, 4:2 (John in the Spirit);
- 2 Cor. 12:2 (A man in the 3rd heaven)

TYPES OF VISION

Vision:

(3) Open Vision - Comes from God and shown as pictures or a movie. A voice may or may not accompany it. The visual and the voice are distinctly separate from our own internal voice.

- Isaiah 6 (The prophet Isaiah sees God)

VISION & THE 5-FOLD MINISTRY

Vision, seeing God’s desired end state, is a prophetic gift. **Foresight**, seeing how to achieve God’s end state, is an apostolic or prophetic gift.

Vision is not a pastoral gift. Yet, pastors are expected to lead and operate with vision. This is why most churches are person-centered (personality-driven) rather than God-centered (prophecy-driven).

⁶But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. ⁷And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

1 Samuel 8:6-7 (NIV)

HOW DOES VISION WORK FOR THE CHURCH?

The vision comes from God, and usually to one person (prophet, apostle, etc.). Typically in a church, it is the person God given the spiritual charge of a congregation. This is normally the (lead/senior) pastor.

Vision can be achieved through delegation to another person with the prophetic or visionary gift; or as a corporate body (less common).

VISION CHECKS & BALANCES

The vision, when possible, should be validated by other trusted leaders and/or spiritually mature congregants based on the church's governance. However, agreement or disagreement does not prove if a vision (or leadership direction) is or is not from God. Test the spirit (1 John 4:1).

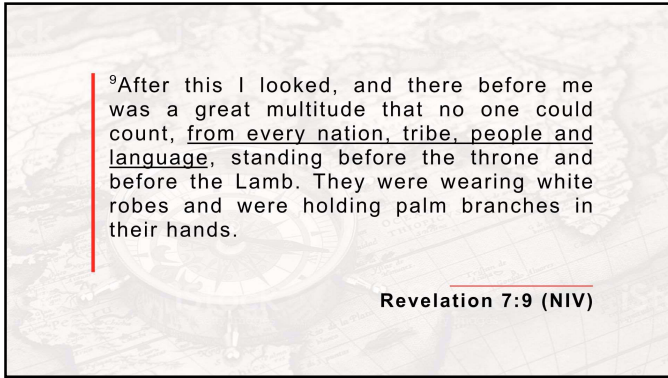
RIGHT APPLICATION OF VISION VALIDATION

²⁸For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: ²⁹that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

Acts 15:28-29 (NKJV)

What is the vision?

A CHURCH FOR EVERYONE

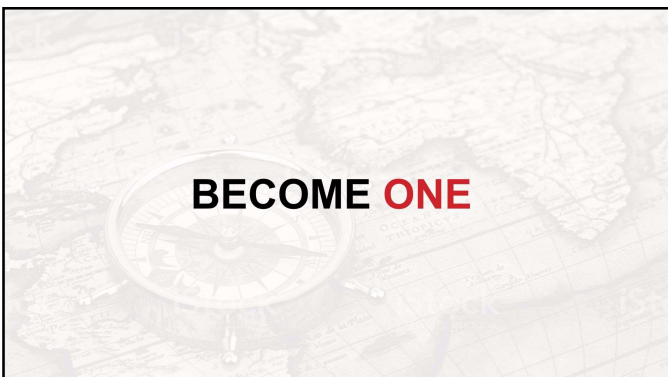












THE POWER OF ONE

Deuteronomy 6:4

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Acts 2:1-2

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

THE POWER OF ONE

Ephesians 4:3-6

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

THE POWER OF ONE

Genesis 11:5-6

But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

To create a growing church for everyone requires:

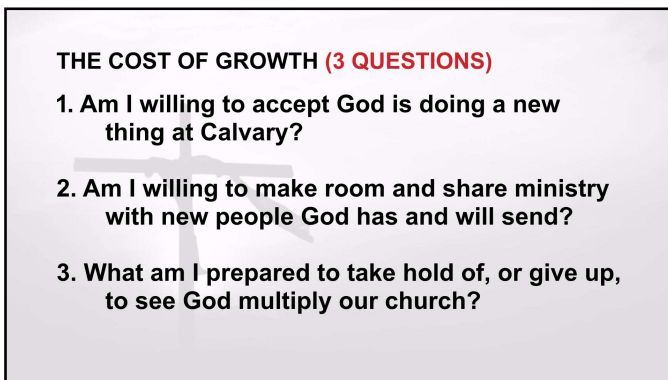
GOSPEL without limits.

LOVE beyond differences.



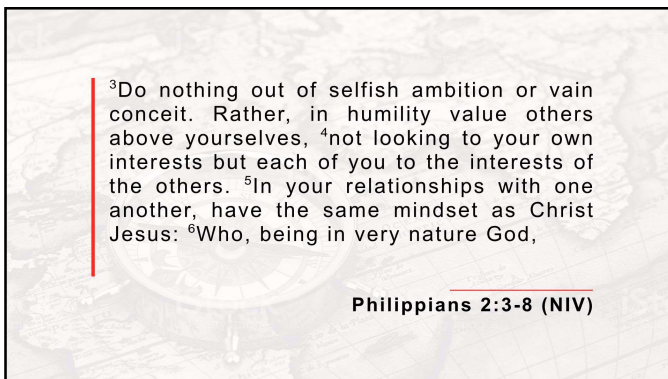
THE COST OF GROWTH (3 QUESTIONS)

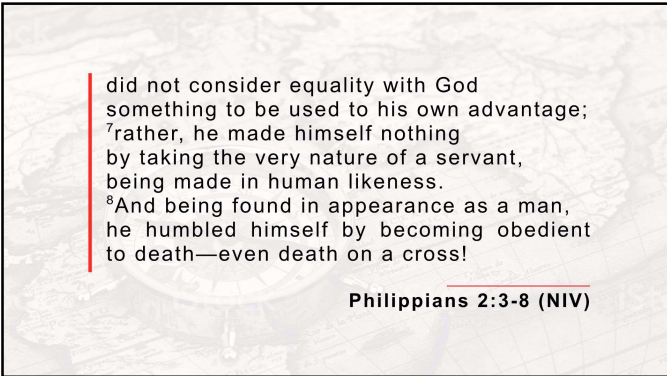
1. Am I willing to accept God is doing a new thing at Calvary?
2. Am I willing to make room and share ministry with new people God has and will send?
3. What am I prepared to take hold of, or give up, to see God multiply our church?



³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God,

Philippians 2:3-8 (NIV)





did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:3-8 (NIV)



Are You All-In?



VISION 2023
