

LIVING WITH A VISION (II)

+ HOW VISION IGNITES PASSION

¹⁸ Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]--blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he. (Proverbs 29:18, Amplified)

- Vision is revelation from God. Without vision, the people will perish, which means to grow old and corrupt. In other words, even if someone attends church regularly and participates in all of the activities, if he does not receive God's vision for his life then he will age quickly.
- Paul encountered many adversities, e.g. he was flogged, beaten, and stranded in a shipwreck, but he was still full of passion for Jesus, because he had received a vision from God. Even when he was under the world's judgment, he had peace from God. He knew that God was right beside him.
- **Testimony 1:** Tim Tebow is a NFL quarterback on the Broncos football team. Tebow has a vision from God. He is willing to pray on the football field where everyone can see. He doesn't care that people will make fun of him.
 - When Tim Tebow honors God faithfully in front of all the people on the field, God honors him in front of the entire world. Tebow became famous at the age of 23, all around the world, among the princes and the presidents. As God promises in the Bible, ***“He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor” (1 Samuel 2:8).***
- Receive vision from God so that your life's passion will be ignited. You will have strength not to wander around in the ways of the world.
- **Testimony 2:** Six years after she received Christ, Pastor Grace was filled by the Holy Spirit. Jesus became her vision, which enabled her to leave everything else behind to serve God. She was able to see the truth rather than the lies that the world gave. When she attended a fellowship meeting in San Jose, God healed her of a tumor and revealed to her His desire to send her here to do His work. Over the past few years, God has done an amazing work through Pastor Grace. This is a testimony that God has a beautiful plan for everyone.
- God has a beautiful plan for you.
- Do you have vision? WHY do you want to get married? WHY do you want to have children? You need to have a vision from God for everything, e.g. your job and marriage, so that you will have strength to carry on.

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)

- Christ is our vision. This mystery is no longer hidden from the world.

I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me. (Song of Solomon 7:10)

- This verse reveals God’s love for you. He adores you, and He enjoys you.
- This is your identity: you are the lover of Jesus. You belong to Him, and He will protect you.
- Pastor Grace encourages us to proclaim this verse over ourselves daily, especially when we feel horrible.

Our church’s vision is based on the follow four focuses: 1) **Health**, 2) **Passion**, 3) **Authority**, and 4) **Mission**.

+ **HEALTH**

- We must be healthy in order enter into our eternal destiny. We need to know that we are the lover of Jesus.
- We are unhealthy because we were mislabeled and mistreated while growing up, which caused us to have low self-esteem, insecurity, fear of failure and shame. But once we receive revelation of who we are then we begin the process and healing and these things won’t hurt us anymore.
- It is especially important for us to be healthy as the world gets darker and the times become more difficult.
- **Testimony 3:** On his 50th birthday, Brother David said to everyone in his office, “Don’t you think I am just an elderly old man?” He was overcome by the feeling of old age and frustration over his shortcomings; he wasn’t able to accept his weaknesses. However, during the past two years, many sons of God have been raised up in the church after the conference “The Day of the Lord’s Favor,” and Brother David was one of them. He began to realize his worth in Christ.
 - He has begun to pay more attention to his relationships with others, to love and accept himself and others. His change is very evident to those around him. This is because Brother David realized that in order to be healthy, one must first recognize the unhealthy things inside of oneself.
- God wants us to get rid of our slave mentalities that always feel unhappy and wronged by others so that we may inherit God’s inheritance.

+ **PASSION**

- God wants us to be passionate disciples. If you have passion, you won't burn out. People burn out not because they serve a lot, but rather, it's because their love has grown cold.
- **Testimony 4:** There is a brother in the video team, who after realizing how many people watch our online services, began to have a burden for the video team. He started taking cinematography classes after work and even attended conferences to learn about the camera and filming.
 - Every single ministry is very important no matter how big or small it is. It requires a group of passionate people who seek excellence.
- In the end times, if we don't love or serve God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, then we will burnt out. Darkness is covering the earth, and darkness will tire us out with busyness. Our counterattack is our passion for God.
 - God wants His children to be filled with passion. He would rather have be cold or hot instead of lukewarm. Passion is a sign of spiritual health.
- **Testimony 5:** When Heidi Baker went to Africa to serve the orphans there, she was overwhelmed by all the need. Then she called upon God and He told her to hug one child at a time. Whenever she saw a child, she would hug them and love them with all of her heart. Now hundreds of thousands of African children call her Mama Heidi.
- Since our identity is that we belong to God, we must be like God. It's impossible that my Beloved is so full of passion but I am still tired and indifferent. We must know our eternal identity so we'll live passionately. If we begin to passionately love God or actively desire to face the challenge or be changed by Him, God will then expand our ability and capacity.
- **Testimony 6:** Sister Wei was originally coordinating both Worship Team Ministry and Harp and Bowl Ministry. Starting last year, she decided to also take charge of the entire adult caring ministry. Even with these overwhelming tasks and her busy schedule, she doesn't feel tired at all and is always filled with joy, due to her strong passion for God and for people.

+ AUTHORITY/POWER

- After we become healthy and are filled with passionate, then we will have authority and power.
- **Testimony 7:** After realizing that God's salvation for us includes healing, the founder of Vineyard ministry John Wimber began praying for the sick year after year. For years, no one was healed, but because he continued and never gave up praying for the sick, God's authority and power gradually fell upon him and his ministry team. Eventually their healing anointing become so great that it affected the entire world.

- We possess authority and power in our passion for God’s words and His success, not our own success and benefits. It is our passion to see God’s words fulfilled among His people that releases authority and power.
- **Testimony 8:** When FRCC church was being built, we met mountains of difficulties. Everyone was praying very diligently. God told many intercessors to fast and pray for the construction of this church, because this place is a place of revival. This vision filled the intercessors with passion to intercede.
- In 2004, when Mike Bickle visited our church, he prophesied that this church is going to be a place of open heaven, where God’s angels ascend and descend between heaven and earth. Many spiritual leaders will arise from this place. God will also bring His servants and missionaries to this place to be healed, renewed, equipped, and then sent forth again. Signs and wonders will break out here, but all of them will come at the cost of spiritual warfare.

+ **MISSION**

- Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the people around you. Let those around you know He wants to reign in us, and reveal the power of the Kingdom to the world.
- **Testimony 9:** A brother in our church had an unhealthy relationship with his parents as a child living in Asia. When he came to the U.S. as a teenager, he tried to forsake his nationality and to pick on his new identity as American instead. But after being picked on by the American kids at school, he became separated from people. This brother then came to our church, and in the beginning he was insecure with the authority here in the church. He felt rejected by others whenever he received correction. This made him unhealthy. However, after years of practicing inner life, this brother has become healthy, and he can now gladly accept correction from authority, because he knows that his pastors and mentors are there to help fulfill his calling. Now, he carries a lot of authority and power when he leads worship, and he has the anointing for open heaven.
 - Becoming healthy should be the first priority. No matter how many gifts God has given you, if you’re not healthy and not able to face you’re problem, then God can never fulfilled His calling in you. Then, you will be able to carry the authority and power that God wants to give you.

+ **ACTION PLAN**

1. Take some time to think about it and ask God: "What is my vision this year in the areas of study, work, spiritual pursuit and ministry?" Write it down, and then come up with an action plan.
2. a) Practice declaring Song of Songs 7:10 over yourself "I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for

me."

b) Pray that God will help make loving Jesus become your vision.

3. Pray that God will reveal to you: Are there any other unhealthy areas in my life? How do you plan to have breakthrough in these areas?

+ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did you feel this week from practicing “actions of blessing” #1? What is your action plan?
2. What was the vision that God gave Pastor Grace? Has this vision become yours too? How did you feel when practicing “actions of blessing” #2?
3. Share the areas that God highlighted to you that are still unhealthy, e.g. easily offended, jealousy, suspicion, etc. How do you plan to have breakthrough in these areas over the next two months?
4. Last year, what things did you live passionately for? This year, what things do you want to live passionately for God?