

# How Big is your Vision. (How Great is your God)

## Introduction:

I would like to thank everyone here tonight for the opportunity to preach the word of God to you. It is an awesome responsibility to stand behind the pulpit of an apostolic church, one that is surely anointed of God. It is never something to be taken lightly, or taken for granted. It is an honor and a privilege which only the minority of the church will ever participate in.

What I would like to talk to you about, Lord willing, is your vision for this church, and for your life in Christ. This church will live or die by the vision the Pastor has for this church. If he has no vision, the church will die. If his vision is small, the church will be small. If his vision is large, the church will be large. Our vision for the ministry God has called each one of us to; will determine the life, or death of that portion of ministry which we as individuals are involved in.

You may say to me that you're not a minister; I would say that you're wrong. But that's something we'll discuss that later in this message. If we would all stand in honor of the reading of the word.

**Proverbs 29:18** Where there is no vision, the people perish: .....

**You may be seated.**

## 1. Leadership

**Romans 13:1-5** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

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God has dictated throughout the scriptures that we are to have authorities over us. These authorities are in place for good reasons. Without leaders and authorities in our lives, there would be chaos in the church. God does not want confusion in the church as he has proclaimed in:

**1Corinthians 14:33** For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

There are reasons why God has placed leaders and authorities in our lives. God has placed these people in our lives for the purpose of spiritual guidance and discipline. We don't like the "D" word. But it's important that we have it. Without it we will cease to be a Holy church before God.

You may say what does discipline have to do with a vision for the church? It has very much to do with the vision of a church. Churches that have no discipline lose their vision, their true reason for being.

- They become social gatherings instead of soul filling stations.
- They become way stations to hell instead of boarding stations to heaven.
- They quit preaching the truth and start preaching social activism for perversion.
- They lose all value as a church.
- They bring condemnation on the true church as those outside the church see their hypocrisy.

Prove to me that I'm wrong, I dare you! Look at the major denominations that have turned away from God. Not only are they ordaining homosexuals in defiance of God's word. They are consecrating them as Bishops, high-level leaders in their denominations. They are outraged that anyone would dare tell them they are wrong to do so. The General Superintendent of one has said that if his choices were heresy or schism, he would always prefer heresy.

I ask you in the Holy Ghost. What kind of a church is that? I'll tell you what it's not, it's not a true church, it's a false church, it's a church that makes people think they're saved and yet leads them straight to hell.

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In the Apostolic church we have pastors in order to help us stick to the doctrine of the full gospel of Jesus Christ. Of burial in baptism by full immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ as preached all through the book of Acts. Baptism in the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking in other tongues as the spirit gives the utterance, the doctrine of separation from the world in thoughts, dress, words and actions.

We have men who have consecrated themselves to God in order to find the will of God, study the word of God and preach the word of God to a lost generation, a generation upon whom the ends of the world have come.

Men who will deny the flesh and the lusts thereof in order to hear God when He speaks to them. Men of prayer and fasting. Men of great moral character. Men who are not afraid to be men, and especially men of God. Men who know how great their God is! How great is your God tonight?????

Discipline in the church is much more than a spiritual spanking for wrongdoing. Discipline is also known as discipleship. We need to disciple those who are new to Original Christianity, AKA Apostolic Doctrine, in the word of God and we need to do it by example, not just through bible study.

- Discipline is making yourself get up early enough in the morning to pray when you would much rather be sleeping.
- Discipline is going to service even when you are dog tired from working all day or taking care of children that work you to death.
- Discipline is reading the word of God before you go to bed even though you have to fight to keep your eyes open. Even though your body desperately needs those few extra minutes of sleep.
- Discipline is preparing for a family altar so that your children get the word of God more than just at church.
- Discipline is holding yourself and your children accountable to spend time in prayer together at some point during the day so that your

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children understand that it's a priority in your lives, and should be in theirs.

- Discipline is turning off and tuning out the world when it comes to your entertainment choices.
- These things are the personal disciplines that will help grow a greater church, and a better family life.

### **Vision:**

We who are in leadership have a great responsibility before God and man. For it says in:

**James 3:1** My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

As a pastor, I have a great responsibility before God as to how I lead the flock of God. A pastor must have a vision for the church. He must have a vision from God and not just his own decision as to what the church should do. Too many men have their own idea about what the church should look like, how big it should grow, and they never take the time to ask God what His opinion is on the matter. They never ask God to give them a vision of what the church should look like, what it should be like.

Just as bad is when the pastor gets a vision from God as to what the church is to look like, a timetable to reach those goals and he never vocalizes that vision to the congregation. The man of God must have a vision from God as to how he wants the church to grow, the methods to getting there, and he must tell the church about the vision that God has given him for the church if he expects them to get on board.

A congregation needs to get on board with the program once the pastor gives them the vision which God has given him. Just as Moses told the children of Israel what God's plan was for them, they still had to follow their leader if they wanted to keep from being slain in the wilderness. Those who followed the leader's plan, but didn't catch the vision died just as dead as those who murmured about the man of God. Only the two spies, Caleb and Joshua, caught the vision and lived to enter into the Promised Land.

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We don't want this church to die; we don't want any church to die! We want all true churches of the Lord Jesus Christ to have a vision from God and to grow to meet that vision.

- We need to ask our Pastor what his vision is for the church
- We need to be faithful to pray for the man of God that leads the church.
- We need to seek the Lord in fasting and prayer for a vision of our part in the growth of the church.
- We need to be faithful to fulfill the vision that God has given us.
- We need to be faithful to pray for the congregation to get the big picture of what God has in store for this church.
- We need to have faith that God knows what he's doing.
- We need to have faith that God will fulfill what his vision calls for if we'll just believe and trust in him.

## 2. Drive

Another thing a church and its Pastor must have is drive!

**Philippians 3:13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **14:** I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- Regardless of past life experiences.
- Regardless of past failures.
- Regardless of what people say or do.
- You must believe what God has given the church!

We may not have had success in other endeavors in life. God may be the only one to know why they didn't prosper. It may have been because it wasn't what God wanted us to do. It may have been because God wanted to work on our character, something that happens a lot when you are failing at something.

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You either grow from it or you turn into a quitter. God doesn't like quitters, he calls them cowards, and they have their place in the lake of fire.

Failure in a previous endeavor can make us smarter on how to do it the next time. It can make us more determined to be successful. It can give us wisdom in how to prepare for the next time. It can make us realize that we can do nothing without God, but all things through God! It says in:

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.  
Another thing that we need is:

## 3. Determination

We refuse to yield to a spirit of futility

**Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

We refuse to listen to the devil tell us what we can and cannot do! God is in control and not the devil. God will perform what He has planned for this assembly if we will only seek His will for the assembly.

We are the bride of Christ! I don't think that God has brought us to the altar just to dump us. He's prepared a place for us and I don't think it's called Motel 6! God is preparing a mansion for us. He's preparing a place for us that we will be most pleased with. If God is doing that for us eternally, don't you think He's capable of doing it for us in this present world?

I don't believe for a minute that God built his church in order to let it fail. I believe that God built His church on a rock so that the foundation would be sure and strong! God is building this church so that it may produce strong Christians, anchored to the rock of ages!

As the old song says, "I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back". It says in:

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**Luke 9:62** And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

When God shows us the way, we don't look back at what the world had to offer, we press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus! If the world were that great, why did we come to church in the first place?

**Isaiah 50:7** For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

Isaiah set his face like a flint. A flint is a hard stone that works well for starting fires, igniting cigarette lighters, or the flash pan of a flintlock rifle in the revolutionary war era. Isaiah wasn't moving from his position in God. He was setting his face so that he would not be moved, and if the enemy came against him, he would start a fire through God that would destroy any enemy! We need to be like Isaiah this morning.

## 4. Humility

Humility is giving God the glory when the goal has been reached.

**Luke 14:11** For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

The vision that God has given me for this church is His vision. I want to fulfill what God has called me to do as the Pastor of this church. I would hope that everyone in here this morning would get a vision of what God can do; through you to fulfill His vision for this church.

In a few moments, I will share with you what God wants for this church. I would hope that what God wants is what we as a church want to accomplish as well. I don't want to be using the word "I" from this point on. I want to use the word "Our" from this point forward.

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If you will direct your attention to the wall behind the platform, I will bring up our mission vision statements so that you can see what God wants us to do as a church! **(Bring them up and explain them.)**