

THE VISION

We have received requests from people who desire to understand the vision that God has given us and to know what Glory to God Ministries is all about. Therefore, we want to share with you, God's people, the vision that God has put upon our hearts and how Glory to God Ministries began.

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 29:18 that without a vision people perish. Without direction, people have nowhere to go. They just wander around, not accomplishing much.

God has a plan and there is order to it as He gives vision to His people. He has different ministries accomplish different workings within His body of believers.

The Ministry of Jesus

Jesus had a vision. He was called by the Father to come and give His life on the cross for us, that we who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved. He was given twelve disciples, one of which had a devil. Eleven were to follow Him and begin the work of God's church on this earth.

Jesus was to do the Father's work in order to show God's love and to minister physical and mental healing to the people. He spent three years in that ministry, going about fulfilling the vision that God had given Him. It is important to note that He prepared Himself before He actually started out in ministry. The Spirit of God prepared His heart for the vision and purpose that God had called Him to do.

He was tempted in the wilderness after a time of preparation with the Spirit. Thousands followed Jesus until He actually began to share His vision. This is all recorded in John, Chapter 6. When He told the people what He had really come for, they left Him. He looked at the twelve disciples and asked, *"Are you too going to leave me?"* Peter at that point made a great confession of faith as he said, *"To whom shall we go? You are the one with the answers that will give life."*

All the other people had different ideas about what Jesus was to be doing. They thought He would be a worldly king and establish His kingdom here on this earth. When Jesus told them what He had really come for, they did not want to hear it. A little later, as Jesus was telling the disciples that He would have to go to the cross and give His life, Peter spoke up and said, "No Lord, You do not have to go to the cross."

Many times people do not understand the vision that God has given to others and they try to move them off of it as Peter did there. When Jesus rebuked Satan, He was looking right at Peter. He said, *"Get behind me, Satan, for thou savor (or desire) the things that are of men, not the things that are of God."*

It is important that we determine the vision that God has given to different ones and that we get behind a vision which has been given by God. Then we work in that vision and we try not to work against what God has given. This is what Peter was doing and Jesus rebuked Satan.

Note that not many could share in Jesus' ministry and in the vision that God had given Him. In addition, they did not see or understand it. They had other expectations. Nevertheless, there were twelve that did, but later one of them fell away, which Jesus knew from the beginning.

Jesus' ministry encompassed thousands of people. However, His ministry was essentially to twelve disciples, not the world. One part of His purpose or vision, as shown in John 17, was to equip those twelve (and especially the eleven) to begin the work of God. Then Jesus fulfilled His calling to die on the cross for the world and to give His blood that we might have life. He conquered sin on the cross as well as all the power of Satan, sickness, disease and works that held us in bondage...setting us free. He went down, proclaimed victory to the captives in prison and then He rose from the dead. Now He is seated at the right hand of the Father, receiving all the glory and honor in heaven and in earth. We are looking forward to His soon return.

In John 17:4, Jesus equipped the disciples and in verse 20, He prayed for those who were to receive the Word of God through His disciples' mouths. This is continuing today as it has been passed down into the ministry of the church. We are doing the same works that Jesus did and even greater works by the power of God's Spirit. People are coming to know the Lord Jesus as Savior and as Lord. People are getting filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. People are being set free by the power of God. The broken hearted are being healed.

Other Ministries

God had given a vision to the disciples also, which is recorded in Matthew 28:19 & 20. He told them to go out and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them all things which the Lord Jesus had taught. They spread out to all parts of the world to share the good news about Jesus and the resurrection from the dead. They also taught that God reigns and is able to meet every need in behalf of His people because God is Love. He cares about His people -- you and me.

There are many different visions that have been given since that time to various individuals. God calls them up and He gives them a vision. He gives them a purpose and a plan of attack. For example, Paul was called to minister to the Gentiles and that was the main emphasis of his ministry. In the same way, God calls up people to work together in the visions that He has given.

A vision will motivate people. It will give them something to run with, as expressed in Habakkuk 2:2. It will give direction. It will give them something that needs to be accomplished. How to do it will come as people spend time before the Lord.

The vision is for an appointed time. (Habakkuk 2:3) Many people get discouraged when they get a vision but do not seem to see it happening. Stick with it and you will see the results. If God has given the vision as the passage says, it will happen. Wait for it because it will surely come and it will not delay. In other words, it has to happen — if God gave it.

As stated earlier, the Lord tells us there that without a vision people will perish. (Proverbs 29:18)

We want to note that pressure will come on the people who have a vision as well as those who are called to follow it. The reason is that the enemy, Satan, does not want people carrying out what God has given. The pressure is intended to move the person off the vision and to stop the work or to scatter the laborers so that nothing can happen.

People are called to follow a particular vision. Those who do not follow it and do not do what God has given them to do will fail in everything else. Ones who are not called to follow the vision will fail as they try to work in it.

It is time that God's people get it settled in their hearts before God as to what they are supposed to be doing. This is not a time to be running around, getting blessed here and getting blessed there; time is short and we need to get to work. To get to work, we need to get behind a vision that God has given. God is calling up visions and ministries right now to do the work which has to be done. He is also calling up people to work in those visions. It is impossible for one person to do it alone. We do not find God wanting people to work alone anywhere in the Bible. You will see this clearly as you read on.

People who do not have a vision will get dissatisfied. In other words, if they do not have the same vision as those they work together with, they will become dissatisfied. This is when the grumbling, complaining and griping starts. However, people who have the same vision will go somewhere together and things will get done.

We want to encourage you today. Many Christians are frustrated in the ministries they are following. We want to encourage you to pray to God and ask Him what He wants you to do. Do not try to change a ministry. Do not try to change a pastor. It would be better if you went somewhere else and got behind a vision and a ministry that God has put in your heart to do.

Many times people are trying to change a ministry, not realizing they are being led in a different direction. Out there somewhere is a ministry God has given that has the same vision you have. Get behind it. Find it. God will lead you to it. Get the vision, or move on! If you find you do not fit in anywhere, then you should consider asking God's forgiveness for your pride.

Discipline is involved in following a vision. Many different ministries exist right now in the world which are called and anointed of God. They are teaching the Word in truth and God is confirming His Word with signs and wonders following. We want you to note that none of them are any better than any other. God is using all of these ministries to His glory.

People who fail in faith usually do not have goals or a vision. Satan wants people floating around. He wants people not having any roots down. He wants people not getting established. They are running here and there, "Bless me, bless me, bless me," and there is a shallowness in their walk. People are not really getting equipped for the work of the ministry. As a result, the work of the ministry is not getting accomplished. Because the people who are going here and there (getting blessed in all different kinds of places) do not get behind a vision, much of the work of God is hindered. The workers are too busy running around getting blessed and not working.

Sometimes people puff up one teacher over another. Paul called this carnal. In 1st Corinthians 3 he said, "I cannot feed you meat because you are still only able to accept milk. Because of jealousy, envy and strife, you are preferring one man over another." He continued, "Who are these men but co-laborers working with God and with one another?" No man or ministry has any priority over another man or ministry in God's eyes. That should be the same attitude among God's people. There are different ministries, different workings, yet the same Spirit, as we see in 1st Corinthians 12.

When God gives a vision, He calls up people to fulfill it. (Exodus 17:12) Moses was called by God and then God gave him helpers. There are many ways in which people can support ministries. Time and time again God will send people into ministries to encourage, in some cases to give, in other cases to work with the ministry. Others are called to pray. We know from God's Word that He calls up people to work in the ministries and to support them in order to take the load off of the ministers and/or the people with the vision. Then things can happen. They can do what they are called to do and God orders out all the other affairs of the ministries.

For a vision to be accomplished, there must be a knitting together -- one mind, one heart, one purpose, one goal. (Judges 20:11) In other words, there has to be a unity in the vision for a vision to be accomplished. People have to come together with one purpose and they have to have the same goals.

Again, there are many different ministries with many different goals. Get behind and support a ministry that you have the same vision with.

I know for a fact that God puts similar visions on different people's hearts. Some are to lead in the vision; others are to follow. There is nothing wrong with following a vision that God has given to someone else as long as it is God's vision.

Often an anointing is on one person and then it goes to his followers. This is what happened with Elijah and Elisha. Elijah was taken up with the flaming chariots and horses and as he went up before God, his mantle was passed on to Elisha. Many times similar things happen with the followers who are supporting a vision. Elisha traveled everywhere that Elijah went and the next thing you know, he received an anointing that was very similar to the one that was on Elijah. In this case, God gave Elisha a double anointing of the Holy Spirit that was on Elijah.

Different Working in Different Ministries

Even though we have the same Holy Spirit, there is a special anointing for ministry. It accompanies the person who is given a vision. The purpose of this anointing of the Holy Spirit is to accomplish the vision. This is why we see different works happening in different ministries.

In some ministries you might see people coming to the Lord Jesus because their whole emphasis is on evangelism. Everywhere they go people get saved. In another ministry you might see people getting filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 8 Philip, the evangelist, did mighty signs and wonders; demons came screaming out of people, healings happened, people received the Lord Jesus and were baptized. They were born again. Then the apostles specifically sent Peter and John for the purpose of laying hands on the people that they might be filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

Philip did not fill them with the Holy Spirit. Peter and John went down for that purpose; yet Philip did his part. He led the people to the Lord and by the Spirit of God many people were saved, delivered and healed.

We are co-laborers with God in a vision and God has given to each one a different task to perform. (1st Corinthians 3:9, and 2nd Corinthians 6:1.)

"Now I beseech you brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you all speak the same thing and that there be no division among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1st Corinthians 1:10)

Again, this is the importance of unity. We can have many different ministries, which we do in the body of Christ and they are not to be competing with one another. They are to be complementing and supporting one another. As we saw in the example in Acts 8, Philip led the people to the Lord and the apostles Peter and John went there to lay hands on the people so that they could be filled with the

Holy Spirit. The different ministries should complement one another as they go about doing what they are supposed to do. Again, no ministry is any greater or any less than another in God's eyes. It should be the same in our eyes.

Matthew 10:41-42 is a promise of God to whoever follows in a ministry or follows the vision which was given by God to an individual. *"He that receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward; and whosoever shall give to drink to one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, truly I say to you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."*

God's reward will come to those who are supporting His ministries and the same blessing or reward that is going to the person with the vision, God will give to those who follow.

John 4:34 says that God gets the glory as the vision is fulfilled.

How the Vision Came

I want to share how the vision came to us. In time past as I was upon a hill ministering to the Lord, praying in tongues, the Spirit of God began to speak to me in a word of prophecy and a word of wisdom. The Lord told me several things. He told me:

1. That He would call up supportive laborers. Some would be givers, some would be pray-ers and some would go out and work with us. These people would come from all over the place and God would sort out who would be with us and who would not.

2. We would be "a servant to the servants." As He put it, "A minister to the ministers." He was showing me how many of God's ministries and ministers do not really have anybody to encourage them, so that is what He was calling us up to do. We were to work with equipping people for the work of the ministry and work with people who are already in ministry. We were to encourage, correct, motivate and work with people coming up in the Body and we were to help them grow to take the place that God had for them.

Even before the word was given, God was doing just that. He was sending us ministers and people who were in ministry or coming up in the ranks who were later going to be ministering. Many of them are now ministering, but God gave them what they needed at that time. Teaching ministers to minister in a "school of the prophets" is also part of the vision.

3. We are to minister to the entire body of Christ, not just certain segments in the world. Rather, we are to encourage and motivate believers and enable groups and people to have the fullness of the Spirit to teach and to work. Thus we work with all denominations. We work with all God's people wherever they may be. We share the love of God and the fullness of the Spirit with them, teaching people to move in the gifts of the Spirit and the fullness of God's operation. We teach them to lift up Jesus, not individual groups and not to promote individuals, groups, or particular denominations or non-denominations. As Jesus has promised, He will draw all men unto Himself.

The Lord ministered to me that, similar to the relationship between Jesus and the disciples, I was to pastor those whom God sent to work with us. However, like Jesus, the ministry is to the Body beyond a local setting. Jesus was not called to pastor the multitudes. He operated in a prophet's office ministering to the multitudes.

4. We are able to be like a hospital. As God moves in power in the ministry, He sets people free. We see people healed and delivered spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically and delivered from the power of Satan. Just like in the Bible, the demons come out. This is why the Spirit of the Lord is upon us to mend the broken-hearted, to heal marriages, to draw people to the Lord and to heal their minds and bodies. (Luke 4:18, 19) God put the anointing upon us to do that work. He showed that we would be a hospital in the ministry and that sick people (whether spiritually, mentally, emotionally, or physically) would be coming. They would be coming from all over (as they are doing now). God, by His power, is setting the people free to rejoice in Him.

He said that there are also many healthy people in a hospital who do various functions so that the hospital might operate properly. We are praising God that the workers are increasing so that more work can be accomplished.

5. The Lord said that many people would not understand, but He would give the increase. He said we would lift up Jesus and sow the Word of God through all the medias. Several years after that word was given, the radio ministry had expanded internationally. Television, books, newspaper columns, tapes and every form of media that we know of were happening and are now expanding. These things are all happening to God's glory as He promised in His Word.

6. Several years after the first word was given, the Lord spoke again, telling us that we would be a part of a major move of His Spirit in the last days, in leading His people into true worship. The Everlasting Gospel book came as a result of that word.

7. There is discipline involved in a vision:

- a) We are not to rely on people or look to people for praise or criticism.
- b) We are not ever to solicit any funds, which we never do. We are to look to God as our source. He places it on people's hearts to give and they ask us what our needs are.
- c) We are to seek glory from God, not from people. He said that our lives are no longer our own and that it is a responsibility to be faithful in proclaiming the Word and in the use of God's gifts. Everything was to be done to His glory.

When we asked the Lord for a name, what we were to call this work, the Lord told us, "You shall call it 'Glory to God Ministries,' for the work I will do shall bring glory to My name."

We of Glory to God Ministries desire to simply be faithful to God to do what He has given us to do to His glory in His body. We thank the Lord for His faithful support through you, encouraging us through your prayers, time and giving for the furtherance of God's Word.