

“Vital Vision”

AFCM Workshop Presentation

June 22, 2011

Introduction – Pastor Roger Langworthy

- ✿ Pastor Praise Fellowship Church, in a rural community of Dodge Center, MN
- ✿ Started the church in 1986 – 25 years
- ✿ Church of about 100 – frame of reference for things I share
- ✿ Why I am doing this workshop
 - ◆ Desi Wright downloaded my message on-line on “Recording the Vision” and asked if I would do something similar for family reunion
- ✿ Notes available at pfc-of-dc.org

Habakkuk 2:2 - 3 (NASB) ²Then the LORD answered me and said, “Record the vision And inscribe *it* on tablets, That the one who reads it may run. ³“For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

- ✿ Interpretation and Application
 - ◆ Vision from God – direction for your ministry
 - ◆ Record the Vision - to communicate it so people can follow
 - ◆ Wait for it - God’s timing
 - ◆ Obtaining Success – it will not fail

Direction from the Lord

- ✿ Obtaining the Vision – various perspectives
 - ◆ Personal – what has God given me vision for
 - ◆ Corporate – what is God’s direction for this group of people that I am leading
 - ◆ Our part of God’s kingdom – what will increase our effectiveness
 - ◆ The whole of God’s Kingdom – what will advance God’s kingdom
 - ◆ What we establish faith to receive completed
- ✿ Balance of Tensions to keep us in tune
 - ◆ Tension of guitar strings for perfect tune
 - ◆ Tension of physical laws for balance of nature
 - ◆ Tension of Biblical truth for balance (example of Sovereignty of God and Man’s Choice)
 - ◆ Why there is sometimes conflict
 - ◆ Tension of vision between personal and corporate, between our part and the whole of God’s kingdom
- ✿ Pressing Through The Process
 - ◆ Proverbs 16:9 (NASB) The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.
 - ◆ Proverbs 16:3 (NASB) Commit your works to the LORD And your plans will be established.

Guarding Against False Visions

- ☀ Not Faddish Vision – keep it Biblical – like the examples below
 - ◆ Serve the best specialty coffee in town
 - ◆ Most socially networked community ever – facebook, tweets,
 - ◆ This is how we are different from everyone else – you are not in competition
- ☀ Not Vain Vision - Ezekiel 13:1 - 7 (NLT) ¹Then this message came to me from the LORD: ²“Son of man, prophesy against the false prophets of Israel who are inventing their own prophecies. Say to them, ‘Listen to the word of the LORD. ³This is what the Sovereign LORD says: What sorrow awaits the false prophets who are following their own imaginations and have seen nothing at all!’ ⁴“O people of Israel, these prophets of yours are like jackals digging in the ruins. ⁵They have done nothing to repair the breaks in the walls around the nation. They have not helped it to stand firm in battle on the day of the LORD. ⁶Instead, they have told lies and made false predictions. They say, ‘This message is from the LORD,’ even though the LORD never sent them. And yet they expect him to fulfill their prophecies! ⁷Can your visions be anything but false if you claim, ‘This message is from the LORD,’ when I have not even spoken to you?”
- ☀ Be very careful with “God told me” or “Thus sayeth the Lord”
 - ◆ No place for people to question – maybe you like it that way
 - ◆ I want them discerning and adding to
 - ◆ “I perceive, or I sense, or it seems good to the Holy Spirit”
 - ◆ Worst place you can put yourself is in unquestioned position
 - ◆ Teaching appropriate appeal to authority – what more information do I need?
- ☀ Not About Buildings – they just facilitate the needs of people
 - ◆ Like toilet paper - It is there to be used
 - ◆ Keep it up – don’t let the roll run out
 - ◆ Don’t let it become a distraction from ministry – like the Sudoku roll
 - ◆ But the Lord put such emphasis on the tabernacle and the temple – why not the buildings we meet in now? – what (who) is the temple now?
 - ◆ Keep focused on missions and ministry – the Lord will supply the facilities
- ☀ Vision through eyes that are not perceiving truth
Matthew 6:22 - 23 (NLT) ²²“Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. ²³But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!
 - ◆ Example – Peter Matthew 16:23 (NLT) ²³Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

Communicated so People Can Follow

- ✿ Proverbs 29:18 (NASB) Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained...

- ✿ Short sighted?

- ◆ Proverbs 10:13 (TMSG) ¹³You'll find wisdom on the lips of a person of insight, but the shortsighted needs a slap in the face.

"This is the way that I see it"

- ✿ See through our own lenses

- ◆ Personality
- ◆ Motivational gifts
- ◆ Teaching that we have received
- ◆ Life experience
- ◆ Sometimes need corrective lenses

- ✿ (Balance) Important to listen to others

- ◆ See through a glass dimly
- ◆ Know in part
- ◆ A place for making adjustments

- ✿ Giving people the freedom to function in their variety of gifts, but with the "restraint" of the vision of your ministry

- ✿ Keep it Simple Clear communication

Mission and Vision

- ✿ Mission – the main aim or purpose

- ✿ Vision – specific of how to obtain the mission

- ◆ Specific without being comprehensive
- ◆ Adjusted as the Lord directs the steps and establishes the plans
- ◆ Incorporates your personal vision as a leader
- ◆ Incorporates the gifting of the people called to follow – you are there to serve them
- ◆ Brings unity in your purpose

- ✿ Example of AFCM Mission and Vision

- ◆ AFCM's mission is to evangelize and disciple the nations.
- ◆ To reach the nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- ✿ Praise Fellowship Church Mission and Purpose – "Loving God and People too and Making Followers of Jesus"

- ◆ From the great commandment and the great commission

- ✿ Loving God

- ◆ Through worship and praise
- ◆ Through practice of the scriptures

- ✿ Loving people too

- ◆ Through sharing the gospel
- ◆ Through small-group meetings

- ✿ Making followers of Jesus

- ◆ By discipling others
- ◆ By training and equipping

It Will Not Fail - Success

- ✿ God's Perspectives on Success –and understanding the reality gap
- ✿ The reality gap – the difference between the IDEAL and the REAL and learning to DEAL
- ✿ Not just a faith thing – if I have enough faith I will obtain the ideal – even God deals with the reality gap
- ✿ Not a fatalistic view of all I will get is the real
- ✿ Examples of Gap
 - ◆ Entering Promised Land – we can't
 - ◆ Fields white unto harvest – laborers few
 - ◆ Sower sows the seed – some produce harvest
 - ◆ God's will that all be saved – blinded minds – God holds to the greater ideal of man's choice
 - ◆ The vision will come to pass – wait for it
 - ◆ Record the vision – the reader may run AWAY – not resort to manipulation to see it come to pass
- ✿ Dealing with those that leave
 - ◆ Failure?
 - ◆ Not building your kingdom
 - ◆ Still building God's kingdom
 - ◆ John the Baptist – he must increase, I must decrease
- ✿ Not attempting to be a 5 talent ministry if you have only been entrusted with 2 talents
- ✿ Stay faithful to your mission and purpose – faithful to your vision
- ✿ Always Faithful – Semper Fi