

Eastview Seventh-day Adventist Church,
January 04, 2014

THE NEED FOR VISION

Introduction

- VISION :

Literally means the ability to see things that are visible .

Also means,

Unusual competence in discernment or perception

Intelligent foresight

Vision is the art of seeing things invisible

Men and Women of Vision

- Countries need leaders that inspire
- Companies require CEO's to have vision
- Churches need a clear vision
- Families need vision to develop
- Individuals need vision

JESUS HAD VISION

Matthew 9:36-38 (NIV)

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, **“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”**

Jesus vision continued

John 4:35

New International Version (NIV) (red text added).

³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, **open your eyes (have vision) and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.**

WE NEED A VISION WORTHY

of the "King of kings and Lord of lords"

Examples of Inadequate Vision

VISION STATEMENT:

Making as much money as possible.

PROBLEMS:

- What is a lot of money
- Vague notion because there is a loophole. “as Possible”
- Too general and without a action plan
- Get rich quick people with limited success

Inadequate Vision Continued

VISION STATEMENT:

Teaching as many people the gospel as possible.

PROBLEMS:

- Not measureable. How many is enough?
- What is possible with God?
- The vision sounds good, but there is no clear goals.
- “as possible” loophole

Inadequate Vision Continued

VISION STATEMENT:

To go to heaven

To serve the Lord faithfully

To do the work of evangelism

PROBLEMS: TOO GENERAL

- By what means do we get those results?
- What specific, measurable actions will take us where we want to go?
- How much time, effort, and money will it take?

Inadequate Vision Continued

VISION STATEMENT:

Keep our “Saints” until Jesus comes

PROBLEMS: TOO LITTLE

- Shaded by passed experience
- Not Biblical, Self-absorbed
- Occasional conversions, usually kids or spouses
- Churches lack the living power of the Holy Spirit

God wants to “open doors”

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸ “I know your works. See, I have set before you an **open door**, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸ But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. ⁹ For a great and **effective door has opened to me**, and *there are* many adversaries.

God wants GROWTH

Matthew 13:31-33 New King James Version (NKJV)

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³¹ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, ³² which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

The Parable of the Leaven

³³ Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures^[a] of meal till it was all leavened.”

What our Vision Needs:

❖ **TO BE GREAT...**

❖ **SPECIFIC ACTION-STEPS**

❖ **FAITH**

❖ **BOLDNESS**

❖ **PERSISTENCE**

Eastview Vision for 2014

❖ **DOUBLE ATTENDANCE (40 Adults)**

❖ **1000** EVANGELISTIC CONTACTS

❖ **5** BAPTISM

SPECIFIC ACTION-STEPS

Double Attendance:

- ❖ Invite people to church – Don't assume they will ask to come.
- ❖ Provide transportation
- ❖ Step out of your “Comfort zone”
- ❖ **Pray every week for a harvest**

SPECIFIC ACTION-STEPS

1000 Evangelistic contacts:

Break it down to actionable steps –
50 weeks per year, therefore 20 per week.

20 Adults in the church: therefore 1
contact per week.

Pray for your contact to happen.

SPECIFIC ACTION-STEPS

5 Baptism per year:

Conduct at least 20 bible studies per year.

Or one study per adult for the year.

Pray for the “right” study person for you. The one God wants for your harvest.

Pray for our children (2 are nearly ready)

Our Vision Needs FAITH

Romans 1:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

Romans 1:16-17 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. ¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”[[]

More FAITH by PRAY

Ephesians 3:16-21 (NKJV)

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and **grounded in love**, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Vision Needs BOLDNESS

Acts 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Ephesians 6:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

BOLDNESS even in Adversity

1 Thessalonians 2:2 (NKJV)

2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

Vision needs Persistence

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Vision needs Persistence

Many visions are never realized
because people give up too
soon.

(think of personal example)

What our Vision Needs:

❖ **TO BE GREAT...**

❖ **SPECIFIC ACTION-STEPS**

❖ **FAITH**

❖ **BOLDNESS**

❖ **PERSISTENCE**



Not all Visions are Good for the Church

Tunnel Vision – Trying to perfect the doctrine.

Vision of Despair – Seeing only the negative, never positive.

CONCLUSION of the VISION

John 4:35 (NKJV) last part

Behold, I say to you, lift up
your eyes and look at the
fields, for they are already
white for harvest!