

Church of the Promise

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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

4 Entering Into the Vision

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

Entering Into the Vision

Session Four

~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~ **BELONG** ~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~

Key Verse: *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams”*

(Acts 2:17 NKJV).

Key Scriptures:

- Luke 19:10
- 1 John 3:8
- John 14:12
- John 20:21
- John 17:18

Objective: The student will understand and embrace the vision of God to win souls for His kingdom.

Introduction: God has always had a vision for redeeming lost humanity back to Himself. He sent His Son to the earth to see this vision come to pass. When we become born again, this vision of restoration birthed in the heart of God becomes our vision. We become an integral part of His plan for winning the lost, but if we fail to walk in the divine vision, we fail to fulfill His plan for our lives.

I. You must understand God’s vision for your life.

A. You are called to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ.

1. The Word of God teaches that the mission of Christ Jesus was twofold: to seek and save that which is

lost (Luke 19:10) and to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

2. Jesus said that you are to do the same works that He did (John 14:12). Just as the Father sent Him, so He sends you into the world (John 17:18; 20:21).
3. Therefore, you have the same life mission that Jesus had: to seek and save that which is lost and to destroy the works of the devil.

B. You are called to fruitfulness so that you might fulfill Christ's mission.

1. God's purpose in choosing you is so that your life might be productive for Him (John 15:16). He brought you into relationship with His Son so that you would manifest in your life the same features of fruitfulness that Jesus showed in His life (John 15:5–8).
2. As you fully appreciate your standing in Christ Jesus, you will be able to live free from the world (Rom. 7:4) and will start bringing forth the fruits of righteousness, love, and power.
3. There are five areas of fruitfulness that you should be demonstrating in your life as a disciple.
 - a. You should be growing in your development of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23). More and more, these qualities should be evident in your life.
 - b. Your mind should become more and more like Christ's as you train it to dwell on right thoughts and give access to the Holy Spirit's transforming power (Phil. 4:8–10; Rom. 8:5–8; Eph. 4:22–24).

- c. Your deeds should bring honor to God and reflect a commitment to a life of service to God and His people (Col. 1:10).
- d. You should be using and developing whatever spiritual gifts you have been given (1 Pet. 4:10; Rom. 12:4–6).
- e. You should be fruitful in multiplying disciples (Acts 6:7).

C. You are called to support the “vision of the house.”

1. The term *vision of the house* refers to the specific vision that God has given the senior pastor of a particular local church. As a member of that local church body, you are to support the vision that God has given your pastor.
2. You are called to fellowship and community within the church and its vision (Acts 2:46–47).
3. You are called to walk in unity in the vision (Eph. 4:1–7).
4. You are called to walk in one accord with others, having the same mind (Phil. 2:2). In this way, there will be no discord in fulfilling the vision.
5. You are part of one body that is called to minister in unity under the anointing of Christ (Ps. 133:1–3).

II. There are three main “enemies” that will keep you from entering into the vision.

A. First is the enemy of fear and discouragement (Josh. 1:8–9).

1. God has not given you the spirit of fear and intimidation. That is very clear from Scripture: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7 NKJV). If you find yourself fearful about being able to enter into the vision, know that that thought is not from God. It comes from the devil, who would love nothing more than to keep you from being fruitful in the kingdom of God.
2. The enemy will also try to use discouragement to stop you from obtaining what God has promised. However, if you keep your focus on the fact that God is with you regardless of any circumstance you face, you can persevere.

B. Second is the enemy of passivity (Josh. 1:1–9).

1. God commanded Joshua to arise and take possession of the land. Joshua had to put feet to his faith before he could see God’s promise come to pass.
2. If you are passive in your faith, you will never experience all that God has for you. You must assert yourself and act on what God has commanded you to do. Faith without corresponding action is really no faith at all (James 2:26).

C. Third is the enemy of carnality (Rom. 8:6–7 NKJV).

1. A carnal mind is one that is set on things that are worldly. The cares and pleasures of this world are more enticing to the person with a carnal mind than are the things of God.
2. You must set both your heart and mind on things “above,” not on things “beneath” (Col. 3:1–3). In that way, you will guard yourself against carnal thinking and actions subtly infiltrating your life.

III. The vision has a divine, heavenly source.

A. The vision originates from the Father (John 3:16; 20:21).

1. The original vision to redeem the lost came from the very heart of God. He is the one who formulated and initiated the divine plan of sending His Son Jesus on behalf of the sins of all humanity.
2. His vision is your vision, and just as He sent Jesus into the world, so, too, does Jesus send you into the world. The vision to win the lost is not a manmade idea; it comes from the Father heart of God.

B. The vision grows and develops as you spend time in the Word of God (*Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:1–3; Rom. 10:17*).

1. The more you meditate on the Word of God, the more He reveals to you how to walk in a lifestyle of fruitfulness. The Word of God will inspire, correct, and challenge you. You will never be fruitful without its preeminence in your life.
2. The Word of God will cause you to be successful in carrying out God's design for your life. It will teach you right standards of conduct and keep your walk with God pure. It will keep you humble before Him and aware of your total dependence on Him.

C. The vision is imparted by the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6–9; 26:19).

1. Paul acted according to the revelation of vision that the Holy Spirit gave. His own plans were set aside when the Holy Spirit revealed different plans. This is what you must do, too. No idea that you can come up with is better than the Holy Spirit's idea.

Ask Him to give you His plan and vision, and then yield to it.

2. Paul was careful to obey the vision as given by the Holy Spirit. He embraced it and then fulfilled it. When you first embrace the vision in your heart and then begin moving in obedience to it, you soon find yourself actually fulfilling it!

IV. You must actually enter into the vision!

A. Enter into the vision through the cross (Luke 9:23; 2 Cor. 5:14–16).

1. The cross is the crux of the Christian message and God's vision for the lost. At the cross, Jesus paid the ultimate price for sin when He willingly gave Himself as a sacrifice. The love that compelled Him to such action becomes yours as you embrace the cross and its message.
2. As a disciple, you are challenged to pick up your cross and follow Jesus. As you live daily in the shadow of the cross, surrendering your own plans to His, you will come to see God's vision for the lost. His vision will become your vision, and His heart will be your heart.

B. Enter into the vision through prayer (Matt. 6:6; 9:37–38).

1. Prayer is two-way communication with God. What God has to say to you is always more important than what you have to say to Him! As you spend time alone with Him, He will begin speaking His vision to your heart. Listen for it, and seek it in prayer until it becomes a reality to you.
2. Jesus knew the importance of prayer and thus directed His disciples to pray for workers in the harvest.

Unless you are willing to be one of the workers in the harvest field, you will never receive the vision. Ask the Lord to send laborers into the harvest, and be willing to be one of them!

C. Enter into the vision through obedience (Mark 1:17, Luke 5:27; Heb. 11:6).

1. Jesus issued the call to follow Him to specific men He wanted to use in His work. Each one, however, had to make a personal decision to respond. Those who left all and followed Him were transformed into vessels for the Lord's service.
2. Faith and obedience go hand-in-hand. If you trust God, you will obey Him. Your obedience is simply a reflection of the faith that is already within you. Grow in faith and obedience to God, and you will grow in His vision.

D. Enter into the vision through unity (Phil. 2:1–2).

1. When you walk in unity and fellowship with others, you will accomplish greater things for God than you could ever accomplish alone. Your effectiveness is multiplied many times over. You need others, and they need you, too.
2. By walking in unity, you walk in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will bring you into a life of fruitfulness and anointing.

Summary: What a glorious vision God has given us! There is no greater honor than being allowed to be a part of His vision to redeem the souls of men. Jesus, of course, paid the price that made redemption possible, but we have a part to play in the process of winning the lost to Him. We must first embrace the vision within our hearts and then move in faith and obedience to walking out the

vision on a daily basis. We cannot afford to get distracted with worldly pursuits or to be crippled with fear and discouragement. We are called to be active, bold participants in the divine plan of redemption.

Questions and Discussion Points

Note: Class 8b - Listen to and write a summary on “The Samson Syndrome” by Apostle Dale Yerton, go to ChurchofthePromise.net go PLUG IN, Getting More, then to the Infusion Downloads then scroll under the Belong Sessions. The Speaker Icon on the right next to Entering the Vision to hear the audio.

1. What is the vision of God, and how does it relate to you and your life?
2. In what five areas do you need to be fruitful? Which area are you strongest in? Weakest?
3. Discuss how passivity hinders fruitfulness in the vision. What excuses do people sometimes give for not doing the things that God has commanded them to do? Why are these not valid?
4. Why is the cross so central to God’s vision of winning souls and making disciples? Have you had a personal revelation of the cross? If so, how has it affected you?
5. Discuss the relationship between faith and obedience. Why can you not have one without the other?

THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Malachi

*Use the **Bible Study tool** as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:*

Please use NAS, ESV, KJV or NKJV to read Malachi. It is the last book in the Old Testament so you will find it right before the 1st New Testament Gospel of Matthew.

Malachi Opens with a declaration of God's Love for Israel as He refers them back to Jacob & Essau. There are many things to know about Jacob & Essau. This epic Battle between these two brothers is displayed in the writing of Malachi as God issues complaint with Jacobs descendants who are behaving like "Uncle Essau" rather than their father Jacob (Israel).

He describes to them their loveless, dead religious activity. But its not all gloom and doom. There is great hope of the Spirit in this book even though it is before the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. He says, 'take heed to your spirit, that you not deal treacherously'.

Also, The Bible is foretold as "the book of remembrance" and those who believe it are also embraced as the future for God's people. The book finalizes the last words of the Old Testament before the famed 400 years of silence with these words "the curse". Then the next book begins the New Testament Hope of the Gospel and Jesus comes to seek and save that which was LOST!

After you study Malachi, you may want to go back and read about Abraham Isaac & Jacob in the book of Genesis.