



EXPANDING — THE — VISION

SEEING GOD'S PURPOSE
MORE CLEARLY

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WORD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

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Introduction

The ultimate purpose for this booklet is to take a more focused look at the Vision of Word of Life. The goal is to Expand our understanding of Word of Life's Vision. The better we can understand it, the more easily we can engage with it. The people being engaged with the Vision is paramount to this church's success. Word of Life will be most effective as more and more people become involved with what God is asking us to accomplish. To do that we need to 'Clearly Know' what we are trying to accomplish.

I've written this material from two perspectives. As I was researching and putting it together, I came to the realization that many of us may not understand how to implement the personal Vision that God has given to us. So in an effort to help that, I will begin by laying out what a Vision is and how it is built. Then we will take those principles and apply them to Word of Life.

In a concise definition, 'Vision' means 'To See'. It's when a person 'Sees' what God is trying to 'Reveal' to them.

"Where there is no vision (no redemptive revelation of God), the people perish"
Prov. 29:18a — AMP.

For people to move toward life and away from perishing, we must have the way out (redemption) revealed to us. The scripture will often put revelation in terms of 'seeing or sight'. And that's what the word 'Vision' means: 'To See'. The Holy Spirit must give us revelation before we can even be saved. We need to 'See' our need for redemption. So what does the demonic realm go after? Our ability to see the light of the gospel.

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." II Cor. 4:4 — NIV

'Vision', or the overall thought of 'seeing' the things of God is a huge element of the scripture. It will touch every area of life.

It 'Sees' the Purpose, and Sub-Purposes of our life. These are the WHAT. What am I supposed to do?

It also 'Sees' the Process, the Steps needed to be taken, the Way we should approach it, the Flow we're needing to accomplish it. (This is the 'HOW')

Vision 'Sees' it all. In an effort to make it plain and easily understood, I have broken this study down into the following three sections.

The first section of the booklet is entitled: 'Vision Outline'. In this section we will simply list the items needed and steps to building and implementing a vision.

The second section of the booklet is entitled: 'Vision Explained'. In this section of the booklet we will explain what is meant by the different steps of a Vision that were laid out in the first section. In this section, hopefully the information will become easily applicable to your personal life.

The last section is entitled: 'Word of Life's Vision Expanded'. Here we will take what we've learned in the first two sections and apply them to Word of Life and what God is asking us to do. What is the Vision of Word of Life?

In each of the three sections, we will cover five different themes:

- (1) Purpose
- (2) Core Values
- (3) Vision
- (4) Assignments and Mandates
- (5) Accomplishing the Vision

Again, the reason I did this was to try to simplify this subject so completely that it will be easily understood by everyone, and easily applied to our personal lives.

Vision Outline

1. The God-Given 'Purpose'

A. The first thing that Vision must see is Purpose. We must know our Purpose and Destiny/Reason for being on this earth. Once we understand what we're here for, then God will show us how he wants us to accomplish it. 'Vision' will reveal our 'Purpose' first. Nothing else can be built until we know the 'What' of our life. The WHAT is our Purpose.

B. We cannot see 'HOW' to do something, until we see the 'WHAT' we are to do. That's why our Purpose is the first thing we see.

Example: It's God's purpose that all men come to salvation and live Godly lives. But until they are able to 'see' their need of a Savior, they won't get into that purpose for them. So to even get saved, we need a 'Vision' from the Lord. It's the ability to 'see' our need.

C. Vision will first of all help us see a need. Those needs that stand out to us are likely part of the purpose we are on this earth to fulfill. It's WHAT we are to address in our lives.

D. Then Vision will show us HOW to meet that need. This becomes the Goal and stabilizing factor of our life. Let me work through this scripture and you may see it in a new light.

"When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." Heb. 6:18-20 — NIV

1. What was God talking to Abraham about? His Purpose. The reason he was on this earth.

2. God wanted Abraham to know he was serious so he confirmed his oath on 2 things that are unchangeable — Himself, and His Word.

3. Using these two — by which it is impossible for God to lie — Abraham (and us) can take hold of the 'HOPE' being offered to us and be encouraged. Laying hold of the reason we're here, and knowing that God is backing us up on that reason, births 'HOPE' in us. ("A Joyful, Confident Expectation of something Good")

4. That Hope, or Long-Term Goal (of our Destiny — Our WHAT) will help focus, stabilize, and steer us down the correct choices and paths for our lives.
5. It will also activate the anointing, the supernatural power of God to work on our behalf because it takes us to a different spiritual place. (“the inner sanctuary behind the curtain”)

2. Core Values

- A. What are the things that are genuinely valuable to you at the ‘Core’ of your being? Another way of saying it: what are the issues you consider valuable enough to fight and die for?
- B. Our ‘Core Values’ are what hold us steady in the face of adversity, opposition, trouble, pain, failure, success, increased influence, prosperity, praise and honor, etc. They are our ‘Inner Convictions’ that can never be compromised — No Matter What may happen in life.
- C. They keep us in alignment with our ‘Purpose’ and ‘Vision’.

3. The Vision

- A. What is it?
 1. In its most simple definition, Vision is our ability to ‘SEE’ something ‘intangible’. It lays hold to the reasons, and purposes that God has created us to accomplish, and makes them visible and understandable to us. (I Cor. 2:6–16)
- B. How do we acquire it?
 1. It must be imparted by the Spirit of God. (I Cor. 2:10–14)
- C. What information is it composed of?
 1. The reason why we’re on this earth from God’s perspective. It’s the WHAT we’re here for. Vision helps us ‘See’ our Purpose. (Eph. 1:9–12)
- D. How is it accomplished?
 1. Once we ‘SEE’ (Vision) the ‘WHAT’ (the Purpose), it is now birthed in us. As we seek God, he will give us the steps needed to begin accomplishing this Purpose. Those steps will break out into Short-Term, Intermediate-Term, and Long-Term Goals. (Gal. 5:25; Rom. 8)
- E. Does it cover a short or long period of time?
 1. In one form or another, it covers our whole life. (Eph. 1:9–12)

These are the types of questions that will be answered under this heading.

4. Assignments and Mandates

- A.** These have to do with things like Where, How & What, With Whom, Focus and Responsibility, Etc.
- B.** They can be long-term, or short-term. They can be unchangeable for a lifetime, or be very transitory.
- C.** They are the stones that become the building blocks of the structure God is building via our lives.

5. Accomplishing the Vision

- A.** Every Christian on earth has:
 - 1.** A Purpose.
 - 2.** Core Values.
 - 3.** An Assignment and Mandate.
 - 4.** A Vision.
- B.** My personal opinion is that far too many of us never understand our Vision. As a result, our full Purpose does not come to fruition.
- C.** There are steps needed to fulfill the Vision that God has given to us. In this section we will open up that information so it's understandable. My goal is to give specific instructions, steps, and examples of how to Accomplish Your Vision.

Vision Explained

1. Establishing Your God-Given 'Purpose'

A. Purpose always precedes the Vision. There must be a Purpose, or Destiny/Reason for our being on this earth before it can be revealed to us. The mind-boggling part is that God had his purpose and plan for every human being laid out before he ever re-created the world. It's the revelation of it that allows us to get into it and walk it out. Once we understand what we're here for, then God will show us how he wants us to accomplish it. That is all part of 'Vision'.

It could be illustrated this way. God's purpose for all married couples is to have children. But that doesn't tell us how many to have, how closely in time they are to be born, what time-span of life we're to have them in. All those types of details are individualized to each family as the Holy Spirit leads them. Now everyone has the same purpose, but how it's accomplished is going to be different in each family. First comes the revelation of the WHAT we're supposed to do. Then God will give us the HOW.

B. We cannot see 'HOW' to do something, until we know 'WHAT' we are to do. That's why the Purpose is always revealed to us first.

'Purpose' has been explained this way: it's the reason we are alive and on the earth. It's the mission God wants us to accomplish while we're here. It's the need he wants to meet through us. As we will find out under the 'Vision' section, Vision is always redemptive in nature. Since vision is showing us our Purpose, the Purpose revolves around some area that needs redeeming.

C. When we say this is my 'Vision', what we're saying is we now 'See' — it's been 'Revealed' to us — what to do to fulfill our 'Purpose'. To see 'HOW' to do something, we must first know 'WHAT' we're supposed to be doing. Too often we will go after the parts I call the 'Assignments, Mandates, and Accomplishing the Vision' before we have a clear view of our 'Purpose'. Assignments and Mandates are given to accomplish something. What is it that we're to accomplish? Without finding that Purpose, all the rest become very disconnected, poorly organized expenditures of time, effort, and finances which produce very little on the long term. So the first thing we're going to look at is 'Purpose'.

The best way to start is with what God has to say about it.

D. 'Purpose' in the scriptures.

1. Scriptures on Purpose. "But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Ex. 9:16 — NIV

"The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples." Ps. 33:10 — NIV

"I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his purpose for me." Ps. 57:2 — NIV

“The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever— do not abandon the works of your hands.” Ps. 138:8 — NIV

“In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.” Prov. 16:9 — NIV

“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.” Prov. 19:21 — NIV

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” Eccl. 3:1 — KJV

“I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work. Eccl. 3:17 — KJV

“The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand. This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back? Isa. 14:24, 26-27 — KJV

“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.” Isa. 46:9-11 — NIV

“So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” Isa. 55:11 — NIV

“All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus’ words, acknowledged that God’s way was right, because they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God’s purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.” Luke 7:29-30 — NIV

“This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge.” Acts 2:23 — NIV

“Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” Acts 5:38-39 — NIV

“For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed.” Acts 13:36 — NIV

“But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee” Acts 26:16-17 — KJV

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” Rom. 8:28 — KJV

“For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth; It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.” Rom. 9:11-12 — KJV

“For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared through out all the earth.” Rom. 9:17 — KJV

“Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” II Cor. 5:5 — NIV

“What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.” Gal. 3:19 — NIV

“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.” Eph. 1:11 — KJV

“His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace.” Eph. 2:15 — NIV

“According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Eph. 3:11 — KJV

“....continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” Phil. 2:12-13 — NIV

“And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle.” I Tim. 2:7 — NIV

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.” II Tim. 1:9 — KJV

“Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.” Heb. 6:17 — NIV

“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” I John 3:8 — KJV

2. There are three things that glaringly stand out in these verses:

- (1) — God is the one who comes up with the purpose.
- (2) — God will only support, bless, and perform HIS PURPOSE.
- (3) — Once he determines His Purpose, he looks for a man/woman to fulfill it.

3. Let's look at these three points a little deeper.

- (1) — God doesn't really care what we determine in our heart, head, etc. that should be done. He's not really interested in the plans we come up with. But he is very interested in His Plans and Design.

- The lesson we can learn from this: we need to make it a priority in our life to find out what God's purpose is. Once we find it, GET INTO IT. WHY?? (See point 2)

(2) — If we want the blessing, favor, promises and power of God to flow in our lives, it will only happen when we are doing HIS PURPOSE. He doesn't prosper and support our plans and purposes.

(3) — That's why he created us. He had a purpose to accomplish. He knew when he wanted it accomplished. So he backed up in time, brought you into this earth, formed you, gifted you, trained you, and matured you to be ready to fulfill His reason you're here.

As we flow in that reason/purpose — we will have the amount of God's ability, authority, blessing, and favor released in our lives needed to fulfill that reason and purpose.

4. Perfect Example: Moses.

There are so many examples of this in scripture, but let's just look at this one.

God had a prescribed time to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt. He sent Moses 'For such a time as this'. Yet he needed to have Moses ready to do the job. He couldn't be a baby or small child. So God had to back up in the time-line and pick the time Moses was to be born. Not only did Moses have to be an adult to lead this vast group of people, he had to have learned some things about how to do this.

So as God looked at this whole picture, he saw the things Moses would have to overcome, and grow enough to be able to do this job. He also saw he needed some specific expertise in organizing and leading this large a group of people. So he backed up

80 years from the time the children of Israel needed to be brought out of Egypt, and brought Moses into the world. The fact that he was birthing Moses into his death by bringing him into Egypt at that time period was not a really big obstacle to God. He simply decided to use the proclamation to kill all baby Hebrew boys to his own advantage. He'd accomplish two things with one stroke. Not only would Moses be kept alive by Pharaoh's daughter, he would be raised in the palace which would give him the knowledge and experience to later lead the Israelites.

Now back up another generation. To accomplish this with Moses he needed a set of parents who he could trust to stay true to the 'Core Values' he placed in them and carry out this birth plan. He also had God-fearing mid-wives in place to help accomplish this purpose.

So God turned to the beginnings of those who would carry out the ministry to accomplish this. A woman named Jochebed, and a man named Amram. Both of them were Levites. They were the parents of the Old Testament priesthood line — the Priests (Aaron's lineage). And they were in the lineage of the future people of ministry — the Levites. Before these two groups were ever formed in the physical, God looked to the descendants of Levi (specifically Amram and Jochebed) to bring forth the deliverer of his people — Moses.

There is a lesson here: The kings are to subdue and rule the earth. Play a vital role in establishing the kingdom. But when deliverance is needed — It comes through the Priesthood — The Ministers.

So going back to Amram and Jochebed, what 'Core Values' did God need in them to accomplish this Purpose of his? There are a number of things that come to mind:

- Be willing to defy the king's order that all baby boys be thrown into the river and killed.
- This put their own life at risk. They need to be willing to give up their own lives to see this accomplished.
- A mother who had the ability to take risks with her children.
- A mother and father who were willing to release their child as a baby.
- A mother and father who trusted God to take care of Moses, in spite of the situation he finds himself in.

So to accomplish this, God had to back up another generation and prepare a husband and wife who were capable of walking out his purpose. We have no record of the kinds of things they went through in life to prepare them for this crucial time. But I'm sure they have their own story.

That's an example of how God marches his purpose down through the generations.

E. Definitions of Purpose.

1. Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions — H5668

1) for the sake of, on account of, because of, in order to (preposition) 2) in order that (conjunction)

2. Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions — H2656

1) delight, pleasure 1a) delight 1b) desire, longing 1c) the good pleasure 1d) that in which one takes delight

3. Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions — H6098

1) counsel, advice, purpose

4. Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries — G4286

"From G4388 ; a setting forth, that is, (figuratively) proposal (intention); specifically the show bread (in the Temple) as exposed before God:—purpose, shew [-bread]."

F. What do we mean when we say "Purpose"?

The following phrases are designed to catch our attention. They are not full explanations, but they will stimulate different areas of thinking that will hopefully help reveal what is meant by 'Purpose'.

- 1. You have been created for a specific Mission to accomplish while you're on earth.**

2. The main things God is wanting you to do while you're here. They are the bulk of your reason for being on this earth.

3. If you want to know the purpose of a thing, NEVER ASK THE THING. The purpose is found IN THE MIND OF THE MAKER.

a. No one knows:

- why it exists
- how it works better than the inventor/maker.
- its potential

b. If he scheduled our days for our time on this earth, (Ps. 139) there's a good chance he knows why we're here.

4. A Good Work/Purpose will give you something to 'Live' for. The Right Work/Purpose will give you something to 'Die' for.

5. If you don't know your Purpose (Your Destination), any road will take you there.

6. Once we have reached the point of being willing to 'Die' for something, we've likely found a portion of our Purpose.

7. The 'Right Purpose' is found in phrases like:

- "I don't want to do anything else"
- "I'm miserable unless I'm....."
- "It's what brings me to life inside."
- "I feel like I might as well die if I can't....."
- "It's why I'm alive"

8. Dying to achieve our purpose is found in the realms of:

- Submission.
- Destroyed Reputation.
- Lack/Doing without.
- Aggravations and Frustrations.
- Fatigue and Exhaustion.
- Continual Opposition.
- Receiving little or no Thanks, Recognition, Reward.

9. We've found true Purpose when our ministry (service of others) means more than anything in life or even life itself.

10. Purpose gives us:

- The reason to 'Stay Alive'. Not simply 'Live'.
- Fulfillment.

- A strong relationship with our God.
- Long, healthy lives.
- Health, life, protection, and prosperity.
- Focus.
- Goals.
- Confidence.
- Humility. We've been asked to and are doing the impossible.

11. Outside of our purpose, we can be killed. (Likely out of God's timing) In our purpose, we can only come to our 'time to die'. (In God's timing) Satan can't touch us when we remain in our purpose because our days are ordained by God. (Ps. 139:16b) Outside of our purpose, we become an easy target. We're outside of his leading and deliverance. (Matt. 6:13)

G. How does God determine our purpose and establish the reasons we're on this earth?

1. Since the fall of man into sin, most everything on earth is 'Need' driven. It will be a whole new realm of existence when our objective is not primarily to fill a need. In fact the whole concept of Covenant is need based. The whole concept of Salvation and God giving his son for us was need based. The human race had a need. We were doomed for eternity. God loved us enough to meet that need. Hence all the events that brought and continue to bring salvation to us.

2. God is omniscient. That means he is all knowing. The only things that God doesn't know are the things he chooses to forget. (What an awesome ability) Since he knows everything, including the future, God already knows what is coming and what will be needed to bring hope, preservation, change, his kingdom, etc. That's where we come in.

3. God looks down the road of time and establishes a purpose. It's established on the basis of a need. (Example: Moses given above) He then backs up and forms a person who will meet that need. The filling or meeting of a need becomes the purpose for someone's existence. That is their purpose or mission.

- a.** Your purpose won't happen until the time God has already set.
- b.** Your birth is a sign that there is a need that God wants to meet. A problem that God wants to fix. You are born to confront and deal with a problem on this earth.
- c.** Your birth is a sign something is already finished (by faith) in God's mind. You are to start it, work in it, and finish it. (Rom. 4:17b)
- d.** He has the purpose, then made you to fulfill it.
- e.** We're not born to find an assignment. We're born to fulfill one.

- f.** God already saw what he wanted in the end. Now he needs you so he can begin, work it, and complete it. (That's our side of the Covenant)
 - g.** You weren't born in the 20th, or 21st century. Ephesians chapter 1 says you were born before the foundation of the re-created world.
 - H.** Before our purpose will truly manifest and mature — We will have to die to us.
 - 1.** God places a dream/purpose in a person's heart and then let's it die so that when he resurrects it, we can't take any credit for it. (Story of Abraham and Isaac)
 - 2.** Because of Pride, the human being desires to take credit for anything that is good. Yet Jesus said all good comes down from the Father. God's purpose for us is good, (Jer. 29:11) but until we lay down our life (Matt. 10:38-39) we won't find it. Why?
- We wouldn't give all the glory to God for what is done. We'd take some of the credit for ourselves. God won't share his Glory.
- 3.** We must lay our goals, desires, ambitions, talents, gifts, education, training, expertise, etc. at the cross and let them die. Until it's dead, it can't be resurrected. (John 12:23-28) God will strip us clean before he builds us into the thing he has planned for us. Otherwise it would be us and not him.
 - 4.** In this 'still dying' phase of life, it is much easier to do a 'Good' thing than standing solid for the 'Right' thing.

Finding Our Purpose (God's Purpose for us)

When God designed us in the womb, not only did he know the purpose he was needing us to fulfill, but he also gifted us with everything we need to accomplish it. (Ps. 139) This is the time he also places in us the seeds of the desires that will lead us to our destiny. (Ps. 100:4-6; Eph. 2:10) That's why as children we will naturally gravitate to specific areas of life. As we remain 'soft and pliable' before the Lord, he fans to flame, or gives to us the 'desires' that will lead us into our purpose. (Ps. 100:4) Remember, when we were created, he knew the purpose for which he had created us. (Ps. 139:13-16; Eph. 1:1-14) And we also know that the works he has for us to do were prepared for us in advance. (Eph. 2:10)

Our job is to remain 'soft and pliable' so he can mold us, and follow the Godly, righteous desires that come out of our heart. Without a doubt we will find our purpose and mission.

WARNING: The biggest trick the Devil will use on us while we are waiting to see **WHAT** we're here for — is Distraction. The core of the Distraction will come via the enticements of the world. Pleasure. Self. Fun. Competitiveness. Jealousy. Anger. Hatred. Etc.

The Bottom Line is to get you off of the things of God on to the things of you. Stop putting so much emphasis on serving God and what he wants, and get more

emphasis on what You want. Get more attention on your Needs, Desires, Thinking, Plans, Goals, Etc.

If he can counterfeit God's principle, and cause us to become 'Soft and Pliable' in his hands (via our old nature and sin) — HE HAS US. He'll be able to effectively side track us for years. And depending upon how much sin he can get us into, he may be able to stack up consequences of sin that could de-rail us for a lifetime.

BE ON GUARD. ESPECIALLY TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS.

We're not born to find an assignment. We're born to fulfill one.

These next questions will probably become more clear to you as you work through this book. But let me give them to you so you can begin meditating on them.

Finding our Purpose is not a difficult thing to do. If God can put instinct into birds and animals so they find what they're to do, can't he direct us also? The major way he directs us is by his Word. Next in line would be the Holy Spirit. But there is something he's built into us from birth that is often ignored. It's DESIRE. If we meet the qualifications of Ps. 37:1-4, those desires will surface. We'll see them and God will start working with them. Don't make it more difficult than it is.

So to find your purpose, put it in this context:

- 1.** What are the desires that God has put into your heart? (Ps. 37:4) Godly desires are not based on self-gratification. They're focused on ultimately helping others.
- 2.** If money were not an issue, what desires are in me that I would love to do that revolve around (a) Eternal Values, and (b) People/Relationships and helping others?
- 3.** In what areas do my natural Giftings and Abilities lie?

Find those, and you'll find the playing field, the realm of your purpose and destiny. You will have located the general area. Now you can begin working toward specifics.

Let me elaborate on those for a bit.

- 4.** During the messages on Vision we're going to develop more fully on desire. (Ps. 37:1-4) However, for now let me simply say these few things.
 - a.** Desire, more than any other single factor dictates our behavior. The intensity of desire dictates the level of effort. It's where behavior originates.
 - b.** The things we want dictate what we're going to do today, tomorrow and the next day.
 - c.** The things we really want, will dictate where we spend the best portion of our effort.
 - d.** The things we do simply reflect the desires of our heart. Strongest desires get the most effort.
- 5.** Sorting Your Desires (returning to question 2 above).

The reason it is worded that way is because many of the desires we have are not of God. They're of the old nature/flesh. These bad desires must be sorted away from the good/Godly ones. There are a few ways to do that.

a. Let me touch Money first.

There are very few things in scripture that are spoken of as being as directly opposed to God as money.

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." Matt. 6:24 — NIV

Money appeals to the fallen nature side of us. The sin force behind it will make it seem like it has a life of its own. It will try to become the major factor on which we make all decisions. (That's called serving it) It will try to tell us what we can and cannot do. (That's called serving it) It will try to become the major component of where we live and what we do. (That's called serving it) It will separate out friendships for us. (That's called serving it) It often determines where we go to church. (That's called serving it) It can even try to determine who we marry. (That's called serving it)

It will cause us to desire it and wish we had more of it. (That's called the Love of Money — I Tim. 6:10) It will cause us to make certain decisions and do things (without regard for God) that will help us get more of it. (That's called Loving it) The more we try to embrace it, the more evil it brings into our lives. (I Tim. 6:10)

So to find God and our Purpose, we must eliminate money from the equation. That does not mean we're taking a vow of poverty. Quite the opposite, it sets us up to be very Blessed Financially. But it does mean we will not make any decisions based upon it.

From God's perspective, your Purpose in life is never tied to money in any way. Find Your Purpose. He's Promised to Supply the Money!!! So to separate the old nature away from this process of finding your Purpose in life, you must exclude money from the equation.

b. Eternal Values.

The Flesh is very temporal minded. It would make sense. It's created from this fallen temporal realm. What I mean by temporal minded is that the old nature is very concerned about Now, Today, Tomorrow, Soon. It doesn't like to wait, persevere, have patience.

The Purpose God has for us is not Temporal. It's Eternal. The things you are valuing the most — is it for Eternal Reasons?? Or are the things that are most dear to us — Temporal??

What is motivating us to Value them? Do you come up with Eternal answers, or Temporal ones?

God's Purpose for your life will always revolve around the Eternal. Which takes us to the next point.

c. People and Relationships.

Those two words state the heart of the only Eternal things on this earth. To find your Purpose — the focus will be on People and Relationships.

The People portion is easy. Doing whatever we can to help people get their life right with Jesus and ultimately make heaven.

The Relationship portion will divide out according to how God wants to use you. Let me give you two good examples of this:

Billy Graham — He had a far reaching ministry. Touched many, many people's lives. Yet he didn't have a personal relationship with hardly any of them.

Mother Teresa — She had a far reaching ministry. Touched many, many people's lives. But she had a personal relationship with virtually all of them.

Depending on how God wants to use you, he will have you relate with people and help them accordingly. Your Purpose will always relate with and help people somehow. But don't put it into a box as to what that is supposed to look like. Allow your purpose to decide that.

6. Gifts and Abilities.

Everything you need is built into you. It was put there from birth. (Ps. 139) It may need to be honed, but it will come naturally.

If you don't have the natural savvy to do what you think might be your Purpose. It probably isn't your Purpose.

One thing to remember here is that our enemy has one basic purpose.

"To Kill, Steal, and Destroy." (John 10:10)

So realize that whatever your God-given Gifts and Abilities are, will be attacked for the purpose of either Killing, Stealing, or Destroying them.

Remember this: Many, many times our present weaknesses, fears, and temperament and personality issues were designed by God to be our strengths. To flow in our Purpose, we will need to take them back and develop them for God.

One note of Caution. If you are still in your early teens, or you haven't been allowed to develop who you are, the answers you come up with to those questions may be somewhat skewed. Your answers are directly proportional to how well you've been able to develop yourself spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. The more we mature and develop, the more easy it is to see our purpose and destiny. The more immature we are, the more we will measure against immature standards.

J. Encouragement in your Purpose.

1. As you are locating and moving deeper into your purpose — remember: No step in our Christian life is insignificant.

Every time we:

- open our Bible

- get on our knees
- perform our ministry
- overcome an attack
- step out in faith
- die to the flesh, etc.

— we move one step closer to fulfilling our destiny.

• Examples: Abraham taking Isaac up the mountain. In his mind, every step brought him one step closer to offering his son. In God's mind, every step brought him one step closer to the Ram that was prepared to meet him.

• Example: Jesus going to Calvary. In his mind every step brought him one step closer to the curse and shame of crucifixion. In the Father's mind, every step brought him one step closer to being the sacrificial lamb that would live forevermore, and be the source of life for mankind.

• Example: Joseph and Egypt. In his mind, every step toward Egypt brought him one step closer to total complete abandonment, betrayal, and a life of servitude. In God's mind every step brought him one step closer to a great ruler and preserver of the nation of Israel.

• Examples: Paul going to Rome. David being chased by Saul. Jeremiah and NO Results. John the Baptist and Rejection/Death. Disciples and Martyrdom.

2. Sometimes things we're needing to do may seem very mundane and profitless. Are these things on the road to fulfilling your purpose? If they are, they're not mundane and profitless. If they're not, you might be wasting your time on them. (Re-evaluate)

3. Please notice: Comfort and Ease do not come with Purpose/Destiny. So if you feel like your life is really difficult and a struggle, you might be right — it could be. That in itself does not mean you're out of God's will. You might be right where you're supposed to be. I think the people listed above may agree.

K. The need to have Purpose in our Lives.

1. Without knowing our purpose, we'll abuse why we're alive. We won't redeem the time.

2. Our full potential will never be realized.

3. God is not obligated to Bless what we offer to him. He's obligated to Bless what he's offered to us. (He'll Bless the Purpose he's given to you. Not more. Not less.)

4. True fulfillment is found in our purpose. It gives the sense of accomplishment at the end of the day.

5. It becomes the compass of our lives. Keeping us on course and stabilizing our focus.

6. It sets up mile-markers on our road of life. It reveals progress.

7. It helps to keep us from comparing ourselves with others. We're not living their life, and they aren't living ours.

8. When God's purpose in us confronts the Devil, signs and wonders are produced. When God's purpose in us confronts impossibilities, miracles are produced.

9. Purpose gives confidence. (Faith)

10. Purpose provides a place of protection.

L. The Time of Waiting and Preparation.

Sometimes we get discouraged because we don't know the season of life we are currently in. Remember, God backed up in time and brought us into the earth so we'd be ready at the right time. Examples of this: Joseph, Moses, Joshua, John the Baptist, Jesus.

Once you find your main purpose, it is relatively easy for the Holy Spirit to reveal the season you are currently living in.

1. Two realms we must guard.

a. Impatience and getting ahead of God.

b. Lethargy and Complacency and getting behind God.

2. Hab. 2:2-3 — There is an appointed time for your ministry. Which means there is an appointed time for every stage of your ministry. It won't happen until the time.

a. Remain Faithful.

b. Remain Constant and Steadfast. Persevere.

c. Don't compromise on 'Right' for something 'Good'.

d. What was it that God put in your heart? What did he tell you? Stay true to your deepest convictions.

e. When God shows you your purpose/vision, he's actually showing you the end you are to accomplish. This is a lifetime event.

3. Eccl. 3:1-8 — Solomon's Wisdom on Timing and Purpose. Eccl. 3:9-10 — A Backslider Talking. We can talk that same negative, foolish, unbelieving talk on those rough days if we don't guard our heart.

4. Get to Know God's:

- Ways
- Mind

God and the establishing of purpose and the works will follow. The children of Israel could recognize God's hands/work. Joshua and Caleb could recognize God's ways/thinking. Who Fulfilled their Destiny? Who had the signs/wonders follow them? Who was always looking for signs and wonders to follow?

M. General Purposes for all Mankind.

Here is a list of purposes that apply to all human beings. God wants everyone on earth to do these things while we're on earth. As we find the specific reasons God has for us, we are all supposed to be doing these.

This is not a complete list, there are many, many more. But will give you some thoughts to get started.

- 1. Be Saved.** (I Tim. 2:3-5)
- 2. Be Baptized in the Spirit.** (Acts 2:38-39)
- 3. Do his will.** (Matt. 6:9-13; 7:21)
- 4. Have signs following us as believers.** (Mark 16:15-18)
- 5. Live at Peace with everyone.** (II Cor. 13:11; I Thess. 5:13; Heb. 12:14)
- 6. Be Married and Raise Godly Children.** (Gen. 1; Eph. 6:4) — Unless specifically called to be a Eunuch. (Matt. 19:11-12)
- 7. Live in Faith.** (Heb. 11:6)
- 8. Live in the Fear of God.** (Rom. 3:18; II Cor. 7:1; Rev. 14:17)
- 9. Live with the goal of pleasing him.** (John 8:29; I Thess. 4:1)
- 10. Love God with All.** (Matt. 22:37-38)
- 11. Love our neighbor as ourselves.** (Matt. 22:39-40)
- 12. Live a long and fulfilling life.** (Ps. 91:16)
- 13. Live in Health.** (III John 2)
- 14. Live in Holiness.** (Heb. 12:14)
- 15. Don't get into bitterness.** (Heb. 12:15)
- 16. Forgive others.** (Matt. 6:9-15)
- 17. Believe on Jesus and Love one another.** (I John 3:23)
- 18. Go and make disciples.** (Matt. 28:18-20)
- 19. Receive the hidden wisdom of the Spirit.** (I Cor. 2:6-16)
- 20. Bear Fruit.** (John 15:1-8, 16)

N. Specific Purposes for People.

1. Specific Purpose is something that is unique to the person. We can be a Christian who is living in and fulfilling all the General Purposes for mankind. We're saved, baptized in the Holy Spirit, we're growing and maturing, etc. etc. — and yet having a totally different life focus than someone sitting right beside us in church. Why? Because there are different needs that must be met. God will use a different emphasis in each person to meet them.

2. These various types of emphasis we will call 'Sub-Purposes'.

- a.** A Sub-Purpose does not contradict their main or General Purposes.
 - b.** A Sub-Purpose does not become a substitute for doing the General Purposes.
 - c.** It does not splinter or separate people in the body of Christ.
 - d.** Sub-Purposes simply give a different emphasis in their life.
 - e.** It's a sub-category to the main purpose.
- 3.** The Sub-purpose is very closely related to the Vision. Often they can be exchanged for each other. And that's OK. We're not trying to get too picky here. But technically, when God shows us our Sub-Purpose in the Body of Christ, he will also show us a way to accomplish it. SEEING HOW to accomplish it is technically the Vision. KNOWING WHAT we're supposed to do is the Sub-Purpose.
- 4.** Examples of Sub-Purposes.
 - a.** Financially Fund a Ministry.
 - b.** Build a Ministry Facility.
 - c.** Be a Nurse, Doctor, Plumber, Electrician, Contractor, Secretary, Business Owner, etc.
 - d.** Give to the Poor. (Be a Giver)
 - e.** Serve in the Military.
 - f.** Operate a Christian Daycare.
 - g.** Be a School Teacher.
 - h.** Be a support to a business owner. A laborer. (Joseph)
 - i. Be a minister.
 - j.** Be in secular government. (Any level)
 - k.** Work in Law Enforcement.
 - l.** Christian Lawyer.
 - m.** Christian Judge.
 - n.** Work in Construction.
 - o.** Any form of work/service/occupation that helps people.

*** Purpose is not about making money. (Matt. 6:24) *** Purpose is filling a service for, and/or finding a solution to a need of mankind. Sub-Purpose focuses us to a specific way of doing that.

O. Purpose Flows in Family Lines.

- 1.** Purpose should flow in family. (Ex. — Abraham → Nation of Israel) The Promise given to Abraham of Salvation coming to this earth via Israel. Who's

Israel? Abraham's family. They're to fulfill what was born in Abraham's heart and fulfill the promise given to him.

2. Moses and Aaron. Through their lineage came the priests and levites.

3. Noah and his family. Replenishing the earth.

4. Adam, Eve, and Seth. The family line through which the seed of the 'Messiah' came.

5. Jacob and 12 sons. The promises given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob played out in the sons of Jacob. (The family line) Hence the 12 tribes of Israel.

6. Priests of the Old Testament. Aaron's Family. You had to be in the family to carry that anointing.

7. Lineage of Judah were the praisers. You had to be in the family to be in the praisers.

8. Jesus and John the Baptist. They were cousins. The anointing of preparing for the Messiah and being the Messiah ran in the same family.

9. New Testament Covenant. We're born into God's Family — the N.T. church is considered family. All of us carry the same general anointing. You don't have it unless you are in the family.

God Works in Family. God wants to establish a flow to your family. THERE IS A FLOW TO YOUR FAMILY in God's Perspective. The reason the flow via family is so spontaneous is because of the spiritual, soulish and genetic cohesiveness that already exists there. All three areas work to form the successive generations.

No one will guard over a vision (life-style, belief system, habits, perspectives, etc.) like family. It's called Family Loyalty, Commitment, and Faithfulness. It is formed in us from birth and is extremely difficult to break. This perpetuates both Good and Bad family traits. Obviously we want more of the Blessings (Good) passing on, and less of the Sins (Bad). (Deut. 5:9-10)

God made a statement to Mary many years ago: "Set it up like Abraham." This was a direct reference to the anointing and flow God has placed on us. He is saying that we should make provision for that flow to continue on in our family line. Let it multiply by believing for it to spread out through them. The reference is to the patriarchs and how they kept their family near them and how the family was engaged in the same activities. This happened from Abraham down through Joseph.

The ones who have and always should be the first to give their lives for your families spiritual flow should be your family. How God operates through and uses your family should be very obvious to your children and should be held as a holy thing. This is how God works through the generations. It should be viewed as such.

No one else will (1) pick it up and guard it to the extent of giving their lives for it. (2) Be as focused on making sure it succeeds. (John 10:10-15) This is the shepherding quality at its best. To support something to ensure its success. And to protect it to the point of personal harm or death. That is a pure description of Family Loyalty, Commitment, and Faithfulness. That's God's design. The family will take ownership

of it like they are the only ones who can perpetuate it. Because it's something that God has woven into the fabric of each person over their lifetime. They've lived it by being raised in that family. And everyone wants to believe and feel they (and their family) have somehow made a difference in life and society.

Now I'm going to share something that informationally is more correctly plugged in under 'Word of Life's Vision Expanded' — Section 4 — I & J. But because it will make more sense with what I am saying here, I'll put it here.

At Word of Life, Pastor's family flow will involve church/priestly type of ministry. I expect the vision and ministry to stay in the family. If that ever falters, and stops — the challenge will be to find another pastor who carries a vision that is close to what is already established. God establishes specific flows in this world to accomplish specific goals. Word of Life has been established for a specific purpose. When the purpose of the body is changed, it ripples all the way back to its original creation. There is a realm of anointing, blessing, and supernatural that will follow the reason this organization exists. When the vision is changed, the anointing, blessing and supernatural to accomplish that vision must also change. This is why many churches struggle and flounder. The original purpose for which they were created no longer exists. It's been changed and/or is dead. Unless it returns to its original vision, or a new GOD-GIVEN VISION (PURPOSE) is birthed in that church, it will become and remain spiritually dead.

God designed it so that the body will follow the head. There must be a God-given, God-birthed Vision in the person who is the head. Otherwise it will become laity driven in focus, and that always destroys the anointing, and supernatural touch of God. (Examples: Moses and the 10 spies; Old Testament Kings and Prophets; Corinthian Church; Galatian Church; Church of Pergamos; Church of Thyatira)

In other families the flow may be entrepreneurs, farmers, bankers, construction, medical field, financial prosperity to fund the Kingdom, teachers, large Godly families, adoption, foster parenting, faithful supporters of churches, faithful willing ministers in churches in the music realm, nursery or children's realm, etc., etc.

When some of the children want nothing to do with the vision/flow of their family, it's most likely because the presentation of the vision, or the living out of the vision was done incorrectly. If this takes place, God will approach this from a couple of angles. (1) He will try to re-establish what is already there. (Ex. — David and his sons) (2) He will try to establish a new vision. (Ex. — Saul and Jonathan)

All families will be a little different from each other even if they are part of the same church, and may even do the same basic realm of lifetime ministry. God always creates uniqueness in everything he makes. To be clones is to be in bondage, religion, tradition, etc. It will bring death. Again in nature there are no two things exactly alike.

There are groupings of creation. (Birds, Trees, Mammals, Fish, Flowers, Grass, Man, Reptiles, etc.) Each one lives, reproduces, and functions within specific boundaries. (Like a fence) Yet none of them are exactly alike. None of them do everything

exactly the same way. Yet in the big picture of purpose of life they always accomplish the same basic thing.

Each child will be a little different in thinking, approach, desires, etc. Each subsequent family will function, think, etc. a little different. As the generations increase, so does the diversity in the family flow and function. However, if it is kept Godly — it will always have a flavor of the original person. That particular strain of vision it began with.

Can God ever move someone in the family to a different emphasis? (Priestly to Kingly, etc.) Absolutely. King David was a perfect example of that. He didn't come from a family of kings. Yet, God chose to interrupt that family line and make him a king. However, even in David's case, elements of the original vision are meant to stay intact and continue to flow down through the generations. (Blessings of the ancestors/fathers) We don't know a lot about David's father — Jesse. But even if we simply look at the meaning of his name: Jesse — "Gift, Wealthy" — I would say some of his dad transferred on to David, even though David started a new line of purpose and vision in Jesse's family line.

No two visions will be exactly alike. (It contradicts what we see of God in nature) No two churches or families will be exactly alike. That includes those children who grow up and become families of their own. It's a mistake to try to clone them.

No two families within a church will be exactly alike. It's a mistake to try to clone churches into something where everybody is the same. (Dress, goals, personality, worship style, etc.) Strength comes from diversity within the same group or classification. Let's not mix classifications together (families, music ministers, dancers, teachers, prayers, etc.) and try to make everyone the same. Each different purpose and anointing will be a little different from the others. That's good. As well as each person within a group, classification, or family will be a little different from the others in the same anointing or flow. That's good. We need to follow God's example and allow for uniqueness within the group. We cannot become rigid on conformity. That's tradition and religion.

When other's are brought into a particular Vision, they will usually be taking on an armor-bearer role and mentality. That's an entire study in itself. But let me summarize by saying it is a support role to the vision.

There are many ministries that will flow through different people within Word of Life. They will each carry the uniqueness of the person who is leading each ministry. The key to unity is not mandated conformity. It's oneness in heart and vision. This church carries a specific Sub-Purpose. All ministries need to 'Re-Present' that Sub-Purpose. This can and will be done uniquely by different individuals and classifications of anointing. But the basic Sub-Purpose needs to stay intact. If that starts to become divided, now you will have a crack of disunity that begins to flow right up through the foundation of the church. That will be trouble.

P. Hindrances to Purpose.

- 1.** Giving up.
- 2.** Settling for 'Good', rather than pressing on for what is 'Right'.

- a.** The devil doesn't like 'Good'. But he despises 'Right'. Your warfare will escalate accordingly.
 - b.** Becoming 'successfully' a 'failure'. Successful at doing good. But failing to do what is right.
 - c.** Do what's right in God's eyes, even if it's not what looks good in man's opinion.
- 3.** If we're not sure where we're going, any road will take us there.
 - a.** If you don't run your life, people or circumstances will do it for you.
 - b.** Who's making your choices? You, Others, or Circumstances.
- 4.** Seeking His Works, Not His Ways. Seeking the Fruit before the tree is Grown. Seeking the Result without the Work of getting there. Expecting the seed in us to produce a harvest before it has died.
- 5.** Confusing — Right with Good.
 - Right with Success in man's opinion.
 - Right with Famous or Well-Known.
 - Right with Big.
 - Right with Easy. (If there's no resistance we need to ask.....Why....)
 - Right with Acceptable to people.
 - Right with Good enough.
 - Right with your Past.
- 6.** Comparing to someone else's Vision/Purpose.
- 7.** Adopting someone else's Vision/Purpose.
- 8.** Waiting for God to do it for us.
- 9.** Fear of Failing.
- 10.** Refusing to take a risk.
- 11.** Lots of Plans, little or no action.
- 12.** Despising small beginnings.
- 13.** Stepping away from our 'comfortable' lives.
- 14.** Inconveniencing Ourselves.
- 15.** Waiting for someone to help us do it.
- 16.** Etc., Etc.

2. Core Values

A. What is really valuable to you at the 'Core' of your being? Another way of saying it is: what are the issues you consider valuable enough to give your life for?

B. Our 'Core Values' are what hold us steady in the face of adversity, opposition, trouble, pain, failure, success, increased influence, prosperity, praise and honor, etc. They are our 'Inner Convictions' that can never be compromised — No Matter What may happen in life.

C. They keep us in alignment with our 'Purpose'.

D. You will need to establish the 'Core Values' that will govern your life. (Obviously, keeping within scriptural values is Vital.)

1. The Lord points out to each individual what values are necessary to guide them through life. We know all scripture is 'God-breathed and is profitable' for us in life. But God will emphasize certain ones to you. Values that become very dear to your heart and are necessary for the fulfillment of your Sub-Purpose on this earth.

2. They will be like guide-posts that you will find yourself looking for when making decisions. They can also be like foundational pillars you retreat to when life becomes overwhelming and confusion (etc.) tries to set in.

E. Examples of Core Values.

- Honesty in every situation. (No lying or deceiving)
- Must hear from God before any significant decision is made.
- Staying in Love at all times.
- Staying in Faith at all times.
- No negative talk or disunity is allowed.
- The tithe is the first bill to be paid.
- God must be pleased, no matter what man may think.
- Sin is never an option.
- Activities that will have value 100 years from now are of first priority.
- No matter the cost, I will Know God and have Intimacy with him.
- Never Denying Jesus as Lord.
- Never Denying the Anointing and the Power of God.
- My First Earthly Relationship is with my Spouse.
- My Second Earthly Relationship is with my Children.
- I will Obey my Lord, no matter the cost.
- Ministering to others.
- Being Quick to Obey God.

3. The Vision

A succinct description of the 'Vision' would be:

'To see our Purpose and the process God will use to bring it to pass in your life. The end goal that is to be reached is literally visible to your spirit. You can 'see it' and the next steps needed to move toward it.'

Here is where we have to take off our religious colored glasses and purely look at what the scripture says. If we don't, we will find religion and traditional thinking will limit how much Vision we will get.

Vision can be quite simply explained as a person's ability to 'SEE WHAT' needs to be done, and HOW to do it. It is God given 'INSIGHT' and understanding. It flows from the core/heart of the person. (The spirit man) We see it in our spirit. The methods God uses to 'Reveal' it to our spirit can be many. But most of the time it's not what religion thinks a Vision is.

From my limited understanding with various religions, my definition of what religion would be willing to accept as a vision needs to be 'spectacular'. Something in the realm of an open vision of some type. As we study this, we'll find that scripture doesn't say anything near that definition.

Visions flow through the God-like side of the human being where we are designed to operate in pictures. The human mind conceives, understands, remembers, creates, etc. via pictures. An inventor 'Sees' the invention that God has placed inside of him or her. It becomes their 'Vision' of what they are trying to accomplish. But it's not necessarily a literal physical thing we see with our physical eyes. It will come up and out of our spirit into our mental and emotional understanding and comprehension. We'll see it in our mind. (Our soul) But it started in our spirit.

It's just the opposite of how sin and the demonic work. The pictures we get in our mind (soul) from that kingdom don't originate in a born-again spirit. They come in through the 5 senses of the fallen flesh. There they take root and produce pictures/visions of what our flesh would like.

So if we're really going to understand this, we need to lose our preconceived religious ideas.

A person's vision is what guides, directs, energizes, motivates, and drives them. It is the life-giving source that moves the person forward toward a goal in life. Without a 'Vision' to do or accomplish something, we will simply wander aimlessly through life.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Prov. 29:18 — KJV

"Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]--blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he." Prov. 29:18 — AMP.

"Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law." Prov. 29:18 — NIV

All three versions bring out a different aspect of the Hebrew concerning the word 'Vision'.

A. The Word "Vision" (#2377) in the above verse is defined as:

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries — H2377 From H2372 ; a sight (mentally), that is, a dream, revelation, or oracle:—vision.

Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions — H2377 1) vision 1a) vision (in ecstatic state) 1b) vision (in night) 1c) vision, oracle, prophecy (divine communication)

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries — H2372 (Root Word) A primitive root; to gaze at; mentally to perceive, contemplate (with pleasure); specifically to have a vision of:—behold, look, prophesy, provide, see.

B. According to this definition, Vision here means 'to see something mentally'. That can happen to us in different ways, but it means the same thing. How we can come to see a vision:

1. Strong's Dictionary:

"A sight" (mentally) — "a thing that one sees or that can be seen"

"Dream" — "A series of thoughts, images, and sensations occurring in a person's mind during sleep"

- "A state of mind in which someone is or seems to be unaware of their immediate surroundings"
- "A cherished aspiration, ambition, or ideal"
- "An unrealistic or self-deluding fantasy" (This one we don't want)

"Revelation" — "A surprising and previously unknown fact, esp. one that is made known in a dramatic way"

- "The making known of something that was previously secret or unknown"
- "The divine or supernatural disclosure to humans of something relating to human existence or the world"

"Oracle" — (See below)

2. Brown-Driver's-Briggs:

(1a) "an ecstatic state" — "Feeling or expressing overwhelming happiness or joyful excitement : ecstatic fans filled the stadium".

(1b) "vision in the night" — Seeing something at night. (Doesn't say how it was seen)

(1c) "oracle, prophecy, (divine communication)"

Oracle — "A priest or priestess acting as a medium through whom advice or prophecy was sought from the gods in classical antiquity. A place at which such advice or prophecy was sought. A person or thing regarded as an infallible authority or guide on something".

Prophecy — “a prediction, the faculty, function, or practice of prophesying : the gift of prophecy.”

C. With those definitions in mind, we need to expand our traditional view of how a ‘Vision’ comes to be realized in our lives. Most often we think of an open vision, but it goes much deeper than that. Pay close attention to the Old and New Testament definitions of ‘Vision’ below. Try to drop off the religious ideas concerning the word so you can see the full meaning and possibilities of the word. Before we list the definitions below, notice in Prov. 29:18 above, it sets up the guidelines and boundaries of how the people who become a part of it are going to operate. Without it, people lose restraint and the ability to refrain. This results in ‘perishing’, and/or loss of ‘restraint’. Interestingly, in this Proverb it is saying that a ‘Vision’ is to bring order similar to the order brought about by keeping the law. Notice the AMP. version expands it to more than just the law of God, but includes the law of man. Is it inferring that a vision will bring rules and guidelines that need to be followed just like what we consider to be ‘a law’.
(Interesting)

Those will become part of our ‘Core Values’. We will hold our lives to a standard or beliefs, conduct, and values for one purpose — deep inside we know we must do it that way to accomplish the Vision.

Old Testament

1. “Machazeh” — “A Vision”

- Strong’s #4236
- Gen. 15:1; Num. 24:4, 16.
- From the root word “Chazah” (Strong’s #2372)
- “To Gaze at; Perceive, Contemplate, To have a Vision of”
- “To See, Behold, Select for Oneself”

2. “Mareh” — “A view; an Appearance; Whether a (real) shape, or (mental) a vision”

- “Refers more to External Appearance; Can also connote Sight as in a range of vision, and Sight in the sense of a Supernatural Sight or Manifestation”
- Strong’s #4758
- Num. 12:6; I Sam. 3:15; Ezek. 8:4, 11:24, 43:3; Dan. 8:16, 17, 26, 27, 10:1, 16.
- From the root word “Raah” (Strong’s #7200)
- “To see Literally or Figuratively”
- “Seeing with ones eyes; To Perceive or be Consciously Aware of; To Enjoy; To Realize, or to get Acquainted with; To Experience; Perceiving or Ascertaining apart from seeing it with one’s eyes; Mentally Recognizing that something is true; To Distinguish; To Examine; To Discover.”

3. “Marah” — “A Vision, Mirror, Looking Glasses”

- “Visionary Appearance, or Prophetic Vision”
- Strong’s #4759
- Gen. 46:2; Ezek. 1:1, 8:3, 40:2, 3; Dan. 10:7, 8.
- 4. “Chazown” — “A Sight (Mentally like a dream), Revelation, or Oracle”**
- “A Vision; Means of Divine Revelation”
- Strong’s #2377
- I Sam. 3:1; I Chron. 17:15; II Chron. 32:32; Ps. 89:19; Prov. 29:18; Isa. 1:1, 29:7; Jer. 14:14, 23:16; Lam. 2:9; Ezek. 7:13, 26, 12:22, 23, 24, 27, 13:16; Dan. 1:17, 8:1, 2, 13, 15, 26, 9:21, 23, 24, 10:14, 11:14; Hos. 12:10; Obad. 1; Mic. 3:6; Nah. 1:1; Hab. 2:2, 3.
- From the root word “Chazah” (Strong’s #2372 — Def. in #1 Above)
- 5. “Chizzayown” — “A Revelation, Especially by a Dream”**
- “A Prophetic Vision; Divine Communication; An Ordinary Dream”
- Strong’s #2384
- II Sam. 7:17; Job 4:13, 7:14, 20:8, 33:15; Isa. 22:1, 5; Zech. 13:4; Joel 2:28.
- From the root word “Chazah” (Strong’s #2372 — Def. in #1 Above)
- 6. “Chazuwth” — “A Look; Striking Appearance, Revelation”**
- Strong’s #2380
- Isa. 21:2, 29:11.
- From the root word “Chazah” (Strong’s #2372 — Def. in #1 Above)
- 7. “Raah” — Def. in 2 Above.**
- II Chron. 26:5.
- 8. “Roeh” — “A Seer; A Vision.”**
- Strong’s #7203
- Isa. 28:7
- 9. “Chezev” — “A Sight”**
- Strong’s #2376
- Dan. 2:19, 28, 4:5, 9, 10, 13, 7:1, 2, 7, 13, 15.
- From the root word “Chaza” (Strong’s #2370)
- “To Gaze Upon, To Dream”
- 10. “Chazowth” — “A Revelation”**
- Strong’s #2378
- From the root “Chazah” (Strong’s #2372 — Def. in #1 Above)

New Testament

1. "Optasia" — "Visuality, An Apparition"

- "To See, A Coming Into View; A Vision"
- Strong's #3701
- Luke 1:22, 24:23; I Cor. 12:1.

2. "Horama" — "Something Gazed At, A Spectacle, (Especially a Supernatural Sight)"

- "That which is Seen: A Spectacle, Sight, Appearance, Vision"
- Strong's #3705
- Acts 9:10, 12, 10:3, 17, 19, 11:5, 12:9, 16:9, 10, 18:9, 26:19.
- From the root word "Horao" (Strong's #3708)
- "To Stare; To Discern Clearly (Physically or Mentally)"
- "To Attend To; To Experience; To Appear"
- "Of Bodily Vision; Of Mental Perception; Of Taking Heed; Of Experience; Of Caring For"

3. "Horasis" — "The Act of Gazing, i.e. (external) an aspect or (internal) an inspired appearance; Sight, Look Upon, Vision."

- Strong's #3706
- Acts 2:17; Rev. 9:17.

D. I want to make sure we don't miss this part. (We will discuss this in the messages) 'Vision' includes what we would refer to as imagination, possibly even a type of day-dreams. (Daydreaming) They can be external or internal. They can be physically, mentally, or supernaturally (spiritually) seen. These definitions totally kick the walls down on what we Christians normally consider falling under the guidelines of 'Visions'. Once a person catches, sees, takes hold of a Vision, that Vision will become a part of them. They will never forget it, shake it, or get away from it. It will literally flow out of their heart. It is conceived and developed in the deepest part of the person via the Holy Spirit. A Vision is an individual substance that flows in agreement with how they were created. (Ps. 139:13-18)

E. Look at how God operates. God sees a need coming in the future, so he backs up a few years in time and creates someone for the 'Purpose' of meeting that need. In the womb he endows them with the gifts and abilities needed to confront and deal with that need. It would seem the 'Vision' of how to meet that need is initially formed in the womb via the creational structure he gave to that person. From little on they are instinctively pulled toward their 'Purpose' and as they mature, they can see ('Vision') how they would go about meeting that need. A number of good examples of that are: Abraham (Josephus & secular historians), Samuel, Joseph, Josiah (the Boy King), John the Baptist, Jesus.

F. As that all comes into clarity and focus in the person's life, God gives them 'Assignments and Mandates'. They are specific instructions on the next steps to take.

Mike Murdoch says it this way:

"Your Assignment is any problem you were created to solve on earth."

"What you Love is a clue to the Gifts and Wisdom you contain to complete your Assignment."

"What you hate is a clue to something you are Assigned to Correct."

"What Grieves you is a clue to something you are Assigned to Heal."

G. 'Vision' is where — in one way or another, God transfers to us the ability to 'see' what needs to be done. The steps that need to be taken to get there. These will light us up on the inside. It's a more focused revelation of why they were created. It will cause excitement, motivation, desire, and literally a reason to live life. It's the revelation of HOW to accomplish the reason they are alive.

Vision begins in the heart of one person and will spread to others from that one. A Vision is not born in a group of people. It's born in one person. (In a marriage, it must now be born in the heart's of two people)

The Vision is literally an impartation of the Heart of God. Something that God is longing to see accomplished. That is all stirred together in the person like a giant mixing pot, and out of that will come a Unique, One of a Kind, Individual Vision or Burning Desire to see something accomplished for God in a specific manner.

H. 'Vision' is the most fundamental thing we need to produce God's will.

1. It's needed before we can have Faith. Heb. 11:1 says we must have Hope before we can have Faith. Hope is: "The Joyful, Confident Expectation of Something Good".

Where does that come from? I Cor. 2 says it must be revealed to us in our spirit by the Holy Spirit. We Must See It In Our Spirit!!!

2. We must first acquire God's Vision for our life, and then Pursue it.

Make sure your Vision aligns with the parameters of the Word

1. In an effort to grow, we can start into activities that aren't scriptural.

2. Every Vision must include 'us' living Victoriously, and reaching 'others'. (1st and 2nd Commandments) Acts 1:8 — That's what the "Power" is for. If that focus isn't there, it will produce a 'Power Vacuum'.

J. Dream Big Dreams.

1. God gives us the desires of our heart if we delight (Heb. — "Stay soft and Pliable") ourselves in him. (Ps. 37:4)

2. The desires that start in our spirit will be from God.

3. God will work with you to bring those desires to pass.

4. We need to allow ourselves to Dream. (Get a deeper revelation of the Vision) If we shut that off we're stopping a primary way he uses to speak to us.

5. I Cor. 2:9-13 — AMP. — The Holy Spirit is paramount in this.

6. It won't come from natural (5 earthly sense) origin. It will come from the Spirit.

K. Hab. 2:2-3.

1. Everyone who is included in the accomplishment of the Vision should know it as well as you do.

L. The Vision must be reduced to Dollars and Cents.

1. We live in a physical world. That must be reckoned into the Goals.

2. What is needed? What do you need to believe for? What means will God use to get the first increments of it to you?

3. What are your first goals? (Short-Term)

4. What steps will be needed, what mile-markers need to be reached (Intermediate Goals) before the end-product (Long-Term Goals) will begin to take shape?

M. Break down the Vision to something that is reasonable to understand. If it's not firmly understood, Hope will not well up. Without Hope we won't 'See' anything. We won't have Faith.

N. Developing on scriptures about Vision.

1. The word 'Vision' is used 73 times in the KJV. All of the original Hebrew and Greek words refer to some form of 'Revelation' or 'Sight; Seeing something'.

2. Many times in scripture it is referring to specific visions that people had. All of them gave direction of some type. But there are a couple of scriptures that stand out in giving guidelines to this seeing ability.

3. "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law." Prov. 29:18 — NIV

"Where there is no vision (no redemptive revelation of God), the people perish; but he who keeps the law (of God, which includes that of man) blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he." Prov. 29:18 — AMP.

a. This scripture points out a few things. (I know I'm repeating a few things here, but I think they need repeating)

(1) A vision is 'Redemptive' in nature. Its purpose is to bring people back to the things of God.

(2) It is a 'Revelation'. This is new information, new insight, new understanding, to the person.

(3) Without a vision, people lose sight of what to focus upon. As a result, we at the very least will simply wander aimlessly. At the other end of the spectrum, we will find ourselves becoming undisciplined and unrestrained. Since there is no real goal to focus on and move toward, there is nothing to hold ourselves accountable to. Now the old nature steps up to take advantage of this situation and the outcome of this will move toward lawlessness. Anything is good enough, and anything goes.

(4) This unrestrained approach to life will cause people to 'perish'.

(5) Interestingly, the vision is now compared to the law. The law told man what he could do and what he couldn't do. The same is true of a 'Vision'. It will give the guidelines and perimeters to what is acceptable and what is not. Then we hold ourselves accountable to that.

(6) That restores the things we saw in point 3. Focus and a Goal is restored. Self-discipline comes back to restrain us from doing things that would compromise the vision.

4. "And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." Hab. 2:2-3 — KJV

"Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay." Hab. 2:2-3 — NIV

a. Again there are a few things we need to notice here.

(1) For people to get involved with a vision, it needs to be made plain. It should be written. This is so we can always keep it in front of us. For the person who births the vision, it's easy to remember. For others who want to get involved with it, the finer details can be easily lost.

(2) Make it plain and easily understood.

(3) There is an appointed time for all of it to come together. Remember the concept we shared in 'purpose'. God has a need, backs up in time and creates the person who will meet that need, and forms the purpose for their lives. Then as they move through life, they will work in that purpose, and move closer to the fulfillment of it. There is a timing to our lives. That is what this verse is saying. Our visions deal with 'appointed times'.

(4) When God shows us a vision, he's showing us the 'End' of it. What it is supposed to look like when it's fulfilled. This can cause frustration to us. We get impatient because we want to see it happen just like we saw it in our spirits. The Lord just gave you the 'Long-Term' vision. Realize that. It may take your entire lifetime to see it come to full fruition.

(5) Don't become impatient and quit. Thinking it's not true or won't happen. Wait for it. It may linger and take a while, but it will prove true. God is not delaying it. It just has to all work together in the appointed time.

VISION IS SEEING THE PROCESS/STEPS NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR PURPOSE.

O. Vision also sees/recognizes your SUB-PURPOSE. Remember, Sub-Purpose is the unique emphasis God is giving to you. It is the way He'll use you to accomplish his General Purpose.

Example:

My purpose in life was to be a full-time five-fold minister. (Yours may be to be a mechanic, doctor, lawyer, secretary, nurse, railroad engineer, etc.) Five-fold ministry (or any general area of occupation) is a very large, general area. We know the General Purposes of a five-fold minister. (Eph. 4:11-16) But that is still a large area. What kind of minister am I supposed to be? What am I to do as a minister? How will I minister? What am I to accomplish? What is the goal? Where do I minister? Etc.

As the Sub-Purposes of my ministry begin to surface, a lot of those questions are answered.

Examples of my Sub-Purposes: Pastor With an added Teacher/Prophet gifting. Specific Gifts of the Spirit surface.

Show people 'How To' live their Christian life. Marry and raise a family. Be a pioneer pastor. Main focus is the Word and the Spirit. Deliver a very specific focus — Full Gospel.

Now things are starting to come into focus. As I add Assignments and Mandates to the Purpose and Sub-Purpose God has called me to fulfill in life, the Vision of How To Do this will start becoming very clear. Then all I need to do is follow the Spirit. He will lead me into the timing, physical steps, etc. that I will need to pay attention to. Then it's step out in Faith and Do It.

Remember: He won't give you all the information for the whole journey to the end of the Vision. (Fulfillment of your Purpose) The biggest reason: 'We don't walk by sight, we walk by Faith'. A strong second reason: It would scare us to death to know what we're supposed to be doing 10-20 years from now. The Faith that will be needed. The Decisions that will need to be made. The Responsibility we're going to be carrying. The Obstacles and Struggles we will face and need to Overcome to get there. He loves us too much to do that to us.

P. ASSIGNMENTS and MANDATES help bring clarity to the big picture of what God is wanting to accomplish in someone's life.

Very often people will never accomplish what God has them on earth for. The reason: Lack of Knowledge. What and How should I do it?

Purpose, Vision, Assignment and Mandate all work together to help us KNOW what, where, when, why, and how — we are to do. That Knowledge is key to success.

Here are a couple of scriptures you're likely familiar with that make my point.

"Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst." Isa. 5:13 — KJV

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Hos. 4:6 — NIV

4. Assignments and Mandates

Since every person and church is to have a Vision, every person and church must have Assignments given to carry out that Vision. In this section we will discuss what that looks like. I have also added the various Giftings in scripture under this section. My purpose is to be able to explain them a little and give some clarity to them.

A. Assignment: “a task or piece of work assigned to someone as part of a job or course of study — the allocation of a job or task to someone — the task or post to which one has been appointed — an act of making a legal transfer of a right, property, or liability” Assignment has to do with things like Where, How, What, With Whom, Focus, Design and Gifting.

B. Mandate: “an official order or commission to do” Mandate has to do with Commission, Orders, Authority, Responsibility, Etc.

C. They can be long, intermediate, or short-term. (Just like the Vision) They can be unchangeable for a lifetime, (Long-Term) or be transitory over the Short and Intermediate Term.

D. They are the stones that become the building blocks of the structure God is establishing via our lives.

E. Remember to not only apply these to Priestly areas, they also apply to Kingly areas.

1. Too often Christians tend to think that God will only assign people in ‘church related’ ministry areas. God assigns and gives mandates in all areas of human activity. So when we refer to minister or ministry, don’t limit that to only the priestly areas. It also includes the kingly areas.

F. Our Purpose and Sub-Purpose are the ‘What’ we’re here for, or we could also say the ‘Why’ we’re on this earth. Vision not only reveals them to us, but shows us ‘How’ we’ll accomplish the Purpose/Sub-Purpose. They can be carried out anywhere on the earth. Our Assignment will narrow the scope of our activity. So we’ll start by looking at the list I mentioned in A. — Above.

1. Where are you to carry out your purpose? This can be fairly broad in scope, as well as very specific. Examples of questions that need to be answered are:

a. Where on the earth am I to live?

- Which Continent?
- Which Country?
- Which State, Province, or Region?
- What area of the State, Province, or Region?
- City or Country?

b. Am I to minister where I live?

- Am I a traveling minister?
- Do I live in the area I am to minister?
- Am I to remain living where I grew up?

2. How am I to carry out my Assignment? What am I to do?

Don't confuse these with the big picture 'What' of Purpose/Sub-Purpose and the 'How' of Vision. In this context, they are merely words to probe and cause us to search/consider.

- Full time job being the five-fold Ministry?
- Full time job being the Kingship Ministry?
- A combination of the two?
- Either way, what is the five-fold area of my priestly ministry? (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher — See Gifting and Design Below) This is important to know, because whatever your spiritual gifting is will have a direct expression in how you think and operate in the business world.
- If I work in a secular job, what general area should I work in?
- What specific job am I to pursue?
- Am I an entrepreneur or a career person?
- Am I to be a company owner, or a support person in a company?
- If I'm to be in full-time five-fold Ministry, what is that supposed to look like? How am I to carry it out?
- Do I start an organization?
- Do I support an organization that's already in operation?
- Is there a specific segment of society that I'm to focus on?
- Am I an out-front person?
- Am I a behind-the-scenes person?
- What are my gifts and abilities?
- Do I need more education?
- Does God need me on a property with land, or in town?
- Am I to rent or own?
- Does my wife stay home and raise the family?
- Are our children to be home, Christian, public schooled?
- How many children are we to have?
- What role do we allow relatives to have in our and their lives?

- Etc.

3. With whom do I join to fulfill my destiny?

- What church denomination (company) do I become a part of?
- Am I to be married or single?
- Do they have a like vision?
- Is this a personal endeavor, or a team endeavor?
- If team, who comprises the team?
- If I'm married, how will my wife and children fit into this assignment?
- Am I an entrepreneur or a company person?
- Why am I associating myself to this person, company, church, community, etc.?

4. Who or what is the Focus of my Assignment?

- Children?
- Youth?
- Adults?
- Or all three?
- Any specific nationality or race?
- Predominately men or women, or both?
- What five-fold area do I operate in and focus on? (See Design and Gifting Below)
- Local Community? Regional? National? International?
- Business? (Owner or Support)
- Design? Production? Marketing? Accounting? Warehouse?
- Service Industry? Manufacturing? Building? Health? Etc.
- Private Sector? State or Federal? Charity or Not for Profit?

5. Design and Gifting.

- When God formed us for our purpose, he blended a complex group of qualities. They have to do with our Gender, Personality, Physical Abilities, and Spiritual Gifts. (five-fold — Eph. 4:11; Motivational — Rom. 12:3-8; Gifts of the Spirit — I Cor. 12:4-11)
- Remember: God looked at the need and what would be required to fulfill it. Then he created you. You have everything you need to fulfill your assignment.
- That does not mean you won't have to grow in your Design and Gifts. Schooling, training, internship, oversight, etc. will be on-going development in our lives.
- Example: God asked you to be a professional athlete. You are created to fill the assignment. If you're going to be a runner, you will be naturally designed and gifted

for speed or endurance. If you are going to be a basketball player, you will likely be tall, quick, and agile.

Every sport has a certain Design of people that succeed. If you don't have the Design for that sport, it's likely not your assignment and purpose on this earth.

Every sport has a certain Gifting (natural ability) that is needed to succeed. You can have the bodily design, but not the natural ability, very likely it's not your assignment. Look elsewhere.

Even if you do have the Design and Gifting, doesn't mean you don't have to practice, perfect, polish, and mature yourself. Ongoing work, training, practice, improvement, etc. will always be needed.

- The same principle holds true to any area of ministry. If you are going to be a singer, you need to be able to sing. If you are going to be an engineer, math will likely come easy to you. If you are going to be a teacher, you will have the ability and desire to study and communicate. If you are going to be a professional musician, expertise at playing an instrument will be necessary.

God knew what he designed us to accomplish. He gave us the gifts to accomplish it. Even in the area of spiritual gifts, (five-fold, Motivational, Gifts of the Spirit) there will be a drawing to that area. (Many times even from a child)

a. Finding your five-fold gift area. (Eph. 4:11)

This is usually made more difficult than it really is. Just ask yourself this question: 'What is it that needs to be done in the church?'

Your answer will drop you into the following categories. One or two will be the dominant ones. That's the area of your Design and Gifting. The desires that God has already put in you will draw you to it. To be truly successful in any area of life, you will need to learn some things of how to do some of the other gifts that don't come naturally to you. For example: to be a parent, you must be adept at all 5 in regard to raising children. Any gift you avoid, your child will suffer. Another example: To be a business owner, you will need to evaluate your business from the perspectives of the five-fold gifts that don't come naturally to you. Whatever area you ignore, your business will suffer accordingly. You'll never flow fully in all the gifts, but you must learn enough of them to be able to flow in them with some proficiency.

Apostle — Someone who starts or births areas of ministry, businesses, etc. Someone who draws people together into a group to go a certain direction to accomplish a specific task. A gatherer. Entrepreneurial type of abilities in regard to ministry and business.

To answer the above question, they would be the ones who see the need for and will do something about expanded ministry and involvement in the church. We need to get this thing moving in certain areas of ministry and people need to get involved. Missionaries come under this gift.

Prophet — Someone who believes we need the word of the Lord on the situation or problem. Someone who hears the voice of God for direction for the group. They

Speak as though they were speaking for the Lord. They are very set on the direction God is desiring to go. In business, they are more the trouble-shooters in the group. They are very concerned that the plan is carried out properly.

To answer the above question, they are the ones who are very particular that we are doing it God's way. (Thus saith the Lord) We need to find what God wants/his will on this.

Evangelist — The outspoken ones for the cause of the gospel. They are motivated and relational. They are gatherers. Very persuasive in their speech and influence. They are soul winners and sharers of the gospel by nature. In business, they are the sales people, team-leaders, promoters, etc.

To answer the above question, they are the ones who say we need to get more people saved around here. We need to be proclaiming the good news more to the world.

Pastor — These are the ones who naturally watch over to guard, guide, protect, and lead the flock. They carry the natural overseeing abilities, and are very concerned it gets accomplished. However, to do this job efficiently, they must also have a grasp on what is going on in the world outside the church body. What influences, affects, and forces are at work that will affect the church both from the inside-out, as well as the outside-in. In the business world, they are more the CEO type of people. At lower levels, they are likely the officers and managers.

To answer the above question, they are the ones who are very focused on the needs of the church body and doing a better job of ministering to, taking care of, and guarding it.

Teacher — These are the 'Word' people. They can quote a scripture for most everything that comes up. They 'instruct' others by nature. The greatest joy you can give a teacher is to allow them to 'teach' someone something. They are often the Bible study leaders, counselors, teachers, etc. In the business world, they are the instructors, professors, on-going training coordinators, philosophers, inventors, mechanics, engineers, etc.

To answer the above question, they are the ones who feel that if people would just clearly understand the word, that would take care of all the problems. We just need to teach more.

b. Finding your Motivational Gifts.

What motivates you to 'DO'? It is the inner drive, desire, thing that moves you and produces action in you.

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is

leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”
Rom. 12:4-8 — NIV

You will produce to your full potential when you get enthused, excited, compelled by something. What is it that does this for you in serving and helping people? In that realm are your motivational gifts. They will give you the emotional push to do something about your purpose in life.

I’m only going to make reference to them in this booklet. If you need teaching on them, please consult with the media department for available materials.

c. Finding the Gifts of the Spirit you are to predominately operate in.

(1) Word of Wisdom — Word of Knowledge — Discerning of Spirits

- Known as the Revelation Gifts

(2) Gift of Faith — Gifts of Healing — Working of Miracles

- Known as the Power Gifts

(3) Prophecy — Tongues — Interpretation of Tongues

- Known as the Speaking or Utterance Gifts

Except for Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues, these will operate in the business setting as much or even more than in the church setting. Don’t get religious and limit them to a particular setting.

Again, I’m only referencing to them in this booklet. If you need teaching on them, please consult with the media department for available materials.

G. The Mandate involves any specific Commissions or Orders concerning the Assignment.

This is talking about specific things God has placed into your Responsibility to accomplish. Again, these can be long-term or short-term mandates. Usually they are transitory. Once you accomplish one, God will give you another.

Mandates can be things like:

- Paying off your debts.
- Buying another vehicle.
- Furthering your education.
- Restructuring your company.
- Studying a certain scriptural subject.
- Giving a certain amount of money to a ministry.
- Creating peace in your marriage or home.
- Learning to hear the voice of the Spirit more clearly.
- Rallying support for a project or cause.
- Some form of community volunteer work.

- Teach a Bible Study.
- Mentor or Spiritually adopt someone.

Mandates are usually smaller, specific steps we are to take that will help accomplish the overall assignment. As already stated, they are usually transitory. However, once accomplished, whatever the mandates have produced is to stay in place. They move you forward, but are not forgotten or disregarded.

5. Accomplishing the Vision

No step in our Christian life is insignificant. Every time we:

- open our Bible
- get on our knees
- perform our ministry
- overcome an attack
- step out in faith
- die to the flesh, etc.

— we move one step closer to fulfilling our destiny.

- Examples: Abraham taking Isaac up the mountain. In his mind, every step brought him one step closer to offering his son. In God's mind, every step brought him one step closer to the Ram that was prepared to meet him.

- Example: Jesus going to Calvary. In his mind every step brought him one step closer to the curse and shame of crucifixion. In the Father's mind, every step brought him one step closer to being the sacrificial lamb that would live forevermore, and be the source of life for mankind.

- Example: Joseph and Egypt. In his mind, every step toward Egypt brought him one step closer to total complete abandonment, betrayal, and a life of servitude. In God's mind every step brought him one step closer to a great ruler and preserver of the nation of Israel.

- Examples: Paul going to Rome. David being chased by Saul. Jeremiah and NO Results. John the Baptist and Rejection/Death. Disciples and Martyrdom.

*** Please notice: Comfort and Ease do not typically come with Purpose/Destiny.

Very simply put 'A Vision' is when God reveals Our Purpose and The Steps Needed to accomplish it. The first thing we 'See' is the completion of the Purpose. (The end product) That is extremely important because it gives us the direction we are to go and the ultimate end we are working to achieve.

However, if we simply wait for it to happen, we will never reach our vision. There are steps we must take to reach the goal. Here is where we lose the average Christian. In fact here lies the reason why the average human being (saved or not) does not accomplish much in their lives. We don't know how to get from point A to

Z. So we wait for something to happen. It doesn't. We lose our dream and desire, turn negative about the whole thing and ultimately give up on it.

We don't want to become another victim to this syndrome. So we're going to take a look at some basic guidelines to 'Accomplishing Our Vision'.

A. Visions will have Long, Intermediate, and Short-Term goals.

1. Everything in life follows the 'build it a piece at a time' principle in scripture.

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little." (Isa. 28:9-10)

2. Very few things 'Just Appear'. There's always a lot that went on behind the scenes. Otherwise God would literally be handing something to us that we have not grown into. The authority and responsibility of our purpose would destroy us. We wouldn't be capable of handling it, because we haven't matured into it. Notice above: part of growing into something is to be maturing. No longer an infant.

3. If God gave us the end of the vision, at the time we receive the vision, we'd lose and destroy the whole thing. We wouldn't have the maturity to balance it.

4. So with that in mind, vision must have phases. They are described as:

- Long-Term Goals.
- Intermediate Goals.
- Short-Term Goals.

Let's look at a brief description of them — one at a time. For a more in-depth description, go to 'Word of Life — Accomplishing the Vision'. (Section 5 — Below)

a. Long-Term Goals.

- This is the 'End' or 'Completion' of the Vision.
- This will take the better part of a lifetime.
- Long-term goals are very necessary to keep us on track. They are the end we are always looking to accomplish. This is Phil. 3:14; the mark we are aiming at. Without the long-term goals we will find ourselves very unstable in focus. We will be easily distracted and veer from our lifetime purpose. Because intermediate and especially short-term goals are very transitory and transitional. Once we're past them, we set new ones. The old ones are gone. So they are always in a state of change.
- Long-Term Goals are quite permanent. They don't move or change much. They will always burn in our heart, no matter where we may find ourselves in life.

b. Intermediate Goals.

- This is typically a 5-10 year goal. (It can extend up to 25 years. That's more rare)

- They are somewhat transitional.
- They are never a single goal, but a series of steps and accomplishments that will move you toward achieving the Long-Term Goal.
- Intermediate goals are much larger than short-term goals. But in relation to the long-term goals, they are building-blocks or pieces of the big picture. They are not the full picture.

c. Short-Term Goals.

- This is typically a 1-2 year goal. (Maybe up to 3 years)
- They are very transitional. They are changed, refined, and reassessed on an ongoing basis.
- Intermediate and Long-Term Goals are extremely important for the reasons already stated. However, Short-Term Goals are probably the most important of the three in producing results and movement.
- I personally know of people who have huge visions. They've planned it, written it out, researched it, studied it, talked it for years. BUT HAVEN'T DONE ONE THING ABOUT IT!!! Short-Term Goals are the DOING IT, ACTION phase of goal setting.
- No matter how great or small the vision, if we do nothing about it today, we'll have nothing tomorrow. If we don't accomplish something this week, we won't be any closer to its manifestation next week. And that's how months turn into years, and years turn into decades, and lifetimes pass by without a person ever fulfilling their purpose for being on this earth.
- Short-Term Goals are the most recognizable 'DOING' and 'ACCOMPLISHING' portion of the three realms of goals.

*** Please read the driving to Miami, Fl. illustration and the material immediately following it under — 'Word of Life's Vision Expanded' (below) — Section 5 — A.

That's why if we don't keep our eye on the other two goal realms, we can be deceived. Short-term goal results are readily and easily seen. But they must convert into long-term progress!!! Unless they are tied to something to keep them on track, they produce huge amounts of action and movement — but may not actually go anywhere. Let me give an example of this. People who are always being told by God to do something. It's always 'Revelation'. But it's also always 'Changing'. This week it's this. Next month it's that. A lot of excitement, busyness, movement, activity. But a year from now — NOTHING was accomplished. IT WENT NO WHERE!!!! That's the danger of short-term goals not anchored in a bigger picture.

Our short-term goals must always be building blocks for a bigger goal. It must all work together toward one big GOAL. If not carefully guarded, short-term goals can become a bunch of contradictory, confusing dreams and ideas that we give God the credit for — but they never materialize into anything.

1) What does your activity today (short-term goal) have to do with 5 years from now?

- 2) HOLD YOURSELF ACCOUNTABLE to that!!!! Either it's God, or you? BE ACCOUNTABLE for your choices — TODAY.
- 3) Short-term goals are not unfinished projects.
- 4) Short-term goals are not old, discarded plans.
- 5) SHORT-TERM GOALS ARE PLANNED, METHODOICAL, LOGICAL STEPS OF PROGRESSION THAT LITTLE BY LITTLE MOVE YOU IN A SPECIFIC DIRECTION.
- 6) They require discipline to stay on track with.
- 7) They require discipline to keep doing.
- 8) They require discipline to stick with until they're accomplished.

5. The Goal with Short-Term Goals.

GET UP AND DO SOMETHING!!!! Even if it's not the 'exactly right' thing. At least you'll discover something NOT TO DO. Without movement, you know nothing. Get moving. AND THEN KEEEEEEEEEEEP MOVING!!! It's easier to steer a moving vehicle than a parked one. If you want God to steer you in specific directions, YOU MUST HAVE MOVEMENT!!! God will lead you and bring contacts, connections, wisdom, opportunities, etc. if you step out in faith and do something. Follow the Spirit, He will Lead you.

NOTICE what I just said: FOLLOW and LEAD. GET MOVING ON SOMETHING!!

You've heard us say: If you don't have a plan, you have a plan to fail.

Now I'm going to add something else to it: If you don't work your plan, your plan won't work.

No matter what it is, we must WORK at it. And WORK at it. And WORK at it some more. REFINE THE PLAN and WORK at it some more. (Over and Over and Over) Without this type of mentality, you won't work a short-term plan, and that will cause everything else to fail.

6. However, this is the step most people struggle with. Most everything in this life will work — IF — We Work It!! — We Work At It!!

So the following points are directed more toward achieving Short-Term and somewhat Intermediate Goals. The information is geared toward producing movement NOW and not sitting back and waiting for God or someone else to do our job for us.

B. Recognize your strengths and weaknesses.

1. Inventory your strengths and weaknesses. What are they? You might be thinking why would I need to do that? Because your strengths are what will propel you forward in your destiny. Your weaknesses will Quietly and very Unnoticed destroy your forward progress.

Build on your strengths. Shore up your weaknesses.

2. Examples of Strengths.

- Organized
- Timely
- Disciplined
- People Orientated
- Trustworthy
- Honest
- Friendly
- Fair
- Courteous
- Caringly Confrontational
- Focused
- Dedicated
- Clean and Neat
- Well-Groomed
- Dressed Well
- Positive Disposition
- Positive Speech
- Positive Outlook
- Finish Projects
- Self-Motivated
- Good with Details
- Good Retention Abilities
- Perseverance
- Kind and Gentle
- Loving
- Respectful
- Responsible
- Conscientious
- Prudent
- Uses Wisdom
- Knowledgeable
- Humble
- Open to Reason

• Any positive quality needed to fulfill your vision. Examples: Literate, Calculating, Office Skills, Aptitude for the Job, Etc.

3. Examples of Weakness. (Just the opposite of the above)

- Disorganized
- Usually Late
- Undisciplined
- Repulsive to People
- Untrustworthy
- Dishonest
- Rude
- Unfair
- Discourteous
- Oppositionally Confrontative
- Easily Distracted
- Wavering
- Sloppy
- Lack in Hygiene
- Dressed Poorly
- Negative Disposition
- Negative Speech
- Negative Outlook
- Many Unfinished Projects
- Non-Motivated
- Poor with Details
- No Effort to Retain Info.
- Easily Discouraged
- Harsh and Rough
- Hateful and Unforgiving
- Disrespectful
- Irresponsible
- Could Care Less Attitude
- Impulsive
- Quick and Rash

- Very Little Knowledge
 - Proud, Arrogant
 - Narrow and Stubborn
 - Any negative quality that will stifle your vision. Examples: Illiterate, Non-calculating, Non-Skilled, No Aptitude for the Job.
- 4.** To build on your strengths is to do what you are good at. Improve what you are already capable of. Focus on what you do well.
 - 5.** To shore up your weaknesses you must first admit you have them, confront them, and find a solution for them. The second step will be to initiate and carry through with the information in the first step.

The ultimate solution will be to personally grow so you can work in those areas of weakness, and they are no longer weakness. It may also involve some form of delegation in those areas, via volunteers, current employees, or hire others to take care of it for you.

Word of Caution: To not improve and grow in your weak areas, but rather simply delegate them to another (Volunteer or Hired staff) is really giving someone else the control and rulership of your purpose and vision. They don't have the vision like you do. It is almost guaranteed they will not care for it and watch over it like you would.

Minimally, you must become proficient enough at it to be able to oversee it with some credibility. Any area of your vision that you totally release to another, will soon become their vision — not yours.

C. What are the factors that are keeping you weak in areas? When dealing with weaknesses, we must always deal with the root of the problem. It can almost always be traced back to an erroneous belief you have concerning yourself or the area of weakness. Until those type of things are dealt with, you will not permanently overcome the weakness.

Example: Believing all men (women) are that way. Therefore concluding your weakness is 'Normal'. It removes all the need and motivation to change.

Example: I Can't — Syndrome. Just concluding it's not possible.

Example: I know others who do it the same way, and it's working OK for them.

Remember: "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he". (Proverbs)

D. To achieve what the average person does not, we must be willing to do what the average person is not.

1. The average person is very fearful, unmotivated, and complacent. How many times have you asked someone what they've been doing, and they say something like:

- a.** Oh, same-old, same-old.
- b.** Nothin' much.
- c.** Not much going on.

- d.** Just putting my time in.
 - e.** Trying to get through another day.
- 2.** Do you know what they just told you? I am not moving forward in any area of my life. And the sad part is — THEY'RE GOOD WITH IT. There's no excitement, urgency, focus, pushing for a new realm, motivation, etc. That's A Clear Indicator — THERE'S NO VISION!!!
- 3.** People who achieve are seemingly always 'in the push' for something. There's always something that needs learning, insight, accomplishing, more time, more work. Their life doesn't have enough hours in the day to do everything that needs to be done.
- 4.** They often work 10-14 hours a day.
- 5.** They're discovering and exploring new areas.
- 6.** They take risks on new opportunities.
- 7.** They don't spend a lot of time listening to and agreeing with the 'Have-Nots'. They are finding ways to tap into the knowledge and wisdom of the 'Haves'.
- 8.** There are many good Christian books, videos, etc. available on the topic of 'Self-Improvement'. Make sure the information lines up with the Word. (Chew the meat and spit out the bones)

To achieve what the rest of the people around you are not, you must be willing to push yourself with more intensity than the average person.

E. Seek more knowledge.

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."

"How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?"

"Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me. Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm." Prov. 1:7, 22, 28-33 — NIV

F. Learn to Rule, Subdue, and Fill. (Gen. 1:26-29)

- 1.** Until something changes and you see progress — you are not accomplishing your vision.
- 2.** Quit making excuses and start making some productive changes.
- 3.** Jesus' mentality was this earth was created to serve him. And he forced it to do so. What's our mentality and the actions that follow?

G. As some success comes, Guard Pride. The know it all attitude.

1. There is nothing wrong with feeling like you are accomplishing. That sense of progress and movement.
2. The thing we need to guard against is that attitude of 'Now I know what I'm doing'.
3. Keep growing and gaining knowledge, honing the abilities, shoring up the weaknesses.
4. Just because we can add, subtract, multiply, and divide doesn't mean we know math. Pride is an insidious enemy that is extremely crafty and deceitful. Remember, our goal is the 'end of the vision'.
5. Progress is good and should be enjoyed. But don't allow Pride to come in and turn us away from what's 'right' by settling for 'that's good'.

H. Anything that truly produces has (1) Eternal Value, and (2) is About People/Relationships.

1. Everything else is just a tool used to minister to people.
2. Everything in the physical realm is here to serve us. Don't turn that upside down. We are not here to serve the physical. The physical is not the primary focus. The only real focus it has — is to be a tool for (1) Eternal Purposes/Value, and (2) Helping People.
3. One of Satan's favorite tricks is to get us focused on and consumed with the tools like they are the accomplishment. Tools (money, houses, lands, buildings, clothes, vehicles, etc., etc., etc.) are not the reason we're on this earth. They are merely tools to serve us in the purpose we're on this earth. Guard yourself. Acquisition of tools does not interpret into success and accomplishment in God's mind. ETERNAL THINGS DO.
4. Build on Godly Principles. (John 10:10b) Don't violate the word. Jesus didn't come for the tools. (The earth is already the Lord's) He came for the Souls.

At this point in time, what is your largest obstacle? (This is transitional)

1. What does scripture have to say about it?
2. What do good business practices have to say about it?
3. What do good relationship principles have to say about it?
4. What are your options to overcome it? (Make a written list)
5. Never make decisions out of fear, anger, desperation, compulsion, anxiety, revenge, etc.
6. Be Directed by the Holy Spirit. Not Driven by some other Force.

J. It's not the hearers who accomplish, it's those who hear and do. (Matt. 7:24-27)

- 1.** Faith. (Mark 11:22-24)
- 2.** Linked with Works/Deeds. (James 2:14-26)
- 3.** Now I'm going to make a big statement:

"Whether a person is born-again or not, IT'S THE DOERS WHO ACCOMPLISH."

- 4.** Why is that? Because of man's design. We were created to Rule and Reign. Those are 'Doing' words. Fundamentally it doesn't make any difference whether we're saved or not, man was created to rule, subdue, and fill the earth. When we begin operating in our basic design — it begins to function.

We can be Christians, and seeking for God's prosperity and help, but if we are not in HOT PURSUIT of the next step of accomplishment in our Purpose and Vision, we will accomplish little to nothing!!

By pursuit — I'm talking about 'DOING,' 'ACTION,' 'EFFORT,' 'WORK' — EXPENDING ENERGY UNTIL WE BECOME EXHAUSTED, FATIGUED.

Why do you think it's called 'the WORK of the ministry'? Because no matter what we do in life, (Kingly or Priestly) we must be matured to do the WORK necessary to accomplish. (Eph. 4:12)

- 5.** People who will see their purpose and vision accomplished, are consumed with the thing! IT IS THEIR LIFE'S WORK.

K. Tapping the Law of the Mind and mingling it with Faith.

- 1.** Rom. 7:15-18, 21-22.
 - a.** God created our mind to perform in a specific manner when combined with Faith. The end result will be to accomplish certain things that relate to our purpose, gifts, abilities, and behaviors.
- 2.** Rom. 7:23.
 - a.** Another law of our members which fights the law of the mind.
 - b.** That law is the law of sin. The sin that is caught in the fabric of our physical being will fight us every step of the way. That's a law.
- 3.** What is the Law of the Mind that needs to be tied with Faith?
 - a.** Gen. 11:4-6.
 - b.** Imagination. ('Vision' — See Definitions of Vision) This has nothing to do with the Spirit of God in us. These people were unregenerate. This is the law of the mind. It combines with the 'measure of faith' that has been given to every man. These people were unregenerate, and it worked that well. Can we grasp what we're capable of as a Born-Again, Spirit Filled Son/Daughter of God.
 - c.** Once the mental image of seeing ourselves doing something drops into our hearts nothing can restrain us from the doing of it.

4. Most people imagine according to their fears and anxieties. The way you image it, see it, is the way it will occur. That's why we need to cast down vain imaginations. (II Cor. 10:3-6) (Acts 4:25; Rom. 1:21; I Cor. 3:20)

5. Rom. 12:2 — Transformation will only occur through the renewing of the mind. We must see our life lived out through the parameters that God wants us to live it.

6. Short term vision. Meditate on and image what God has for us, and the power of God will determine and order our steps.

7. The process of transformation. Ps. 37:4 — "Delight" — Meditation Prelude (v.1-3) This produces: v. 23.

L. Financial Budget.

1. Destinies and Visions demand funding. In our personal lives, Financial budgets break down into at least 2 general categories. Depending on what God is asking of you, it may require a 3rd category.

a) People

b) Equipment and Supplies

c) Facility

2. The first priority is person-to-person ministry. Our Purpose and Vision will always revolve around (1) Eternal Values, and (2) Relationships. To touch people's lives in a meaningful way will always require some form of financial investment.

3. To minister correctly, we must always have some type of Equipment and Supplies.

a) To meet the basic needs of what we are doing.

b) To represent God in a Godly manner.

c) To establish a relationship with them without requiring something from them right from the beginning.

4. Finances must be accounted for in the picture of your Vision.

a. Determine the amount you need to begin.

b. Count the cost of what is needed to finish.

c. Sort it out via Short-Term, Intermediate-Term, and Long-Term Goals.

5. Find the Spirit of God and his leading on this.

6. Come into and remain in agreement with your spouse. (If you're married)

M. The Vision must be reduced to Dollars and Cents.

1. We live in a physical world. That must be reckoned into the Goals.

2. What is needed? What do we need to believe for? What means will God use to get the first increments of it to us?

3. What are our first goals? (Short-Term)

4. What steps will be needed, what mile-markers need to be reached (Intermediate Goals) before the end-product (Long-Term Goals) will begin to take shape?

N. Living within our Means — Yet Living by Faith.

There is a balance in this.

- To live totally by the budget numbers is to exclude faith.
- To live totally by faith with open disregard to the numbers is irresponsibility.

Budgets matter. But so does taking steps by faith.

We never want to jeopardize the big mission for a faith step. Nor do we ever want to jeopardize the big mission because of numerical restraints.

There must be fiscal responsibility that doesn't ever put the Family and Vision at risk financially. But there must also be 'faith pressure' to keep the Vision and Family moving forward toward the overall Long-Term Goals.

Quotes from Oral Roberts on Accomplishing the Vision.

- (1) SOMETHING GOOD is going to happen to you. Believe it. Expect it.
- (2) There's nothing too big for God. Expect miracles. They come by faith, not by accident.
- (3) Don't ever try to accomplish anything without first sowing the seed. It is impossible to reap a harvest without the seed of faith being sown.
- (4) Love your Partners....they are family!
- (5) Jesus is my source — my only source. He supplies our every need. We ain't gonna be poor no more!
- (6) Love Jesus first and more than anyone else. Then you'll be able to love others like He does.
- (7) You cannot demand excellence from others and not demand excellence from yourself.
- (8) Don't (lay hands on the sick) until you're ready to release your faith.
- (9) If your word is not good, God's Word will never be real in your life.
- (10) If you bow you burn. If you don't bow, you don't burn. Whatever you compromise to keep, you will eventually lose.
- (11) When the finances drop, there's a bottleneck somewhere. In every situation there is a key issue that can only be seen through faith. Deal with that issue and the rest will unravel.
- (12) The first two questions that must be answered are: "Will it meet the needs of the people?" and, "Will it win souls?"

(13) People will always tell you it can't be done. Don't listen to that. Do these three things and you will always succeed:

- a.** Find out the will of God.
- b.** Confer no longer with flesh and blood.
- c.** Get your job done at all costs.

Word of Life's Vision Expanded

Please understand that everything in this major section has to do with the Vision of Word of Life. It is broken down into 5 sub-categories:

'The God-Given Purpose for Word of Life'

'Word of Life's Core Values'

'Word of Life's Assignments and Mandates'

'Word of Life's Vision'

'Word of Life — Accomplishing the Vision'

It all combines together to form the overall Vision of Word of Life. There are different facets of insight given under each sub-section that all fit together like a giant puzzle that forms the Vision.

So as you look over different portions of this major section: 'Word of Life's Vision Expanded', realize it's all part of the overall vision.

1. God-Given Purpose for Word of Life

A. Every Christian church has the same General five-fold purpose given in the scripture.

- 1) Evangelize. (Luke 19:10; John 20:21)
- 2) Worship. (John 4:23-24)
- 3) Partnership. (Acts 2:42; I John 1:1-3)
- 4) Discipleship. (Matt. 28:18-20)
- 5) Ministry/Service. (Matt. 22:37-40; 28:19-20; Acts 2:1-47; Eph. 4:1-16)

Here is a brief explanation of each one:

- 1) Evangelize: Spread the good news about Jesus and introduce/restore people to him.
- 2) Worship: Teach and provide a place where people can build their relationship with Jesus.
- 3) Partnership: Commitment to each other in support of the Vision, as well as building safe, supportive relationships on various levels.
- 4) Discipleship: The Maturing and Growth process needed to develop Over-Coming and Victorious Believers.
- 5) Ministry/Service: Empowering them to Spread the Gospel; "Re-Present" the Vision of Word of Life; "Re-Produce" what God has done for them — in others.

B. Our statement of Purpose is:

To Introduce People to Jesus, enabling them to grow in Love for God and their Fellowman, so Establishing Covenant Partnership, for the Purpose of developing Christ-Like Maturity, and developing their God Ordained Ministry and Anointing.

Our Statement of Purpose simply restates and combines all five aspects of our Purpose. From my understanding of scripture, what has been said about purpose to this point should be pretty much the same for all churches. How God institutes that in various parts of his body (or we could also call them local churches) will vary greatly. Each church has its emphasis, or sub-purpose. It will make them unique from other churches.

C. In Eph. 4:11-16 it gives an expansion of the Purpose for the overall Church:

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

The scripture is quite self-explanatory. That commission is supposed to be accomplished in every Christian church — including Word of Life.

D. Something that bothers most Christians is this question — why are there so many different churches? The most common belief is because different churches have different doctrines. (Different Beliefs) That may be the main reason for so many different churches if you look at it from the perspective of this earth and how the system operates. But it’s not scriptural. From God’s perspective that’s not the right reason for different churches. God never intended different churches or even whole groups of churches (denominations) to arise because of differences in doctrine. The message of the word, gospel, doctrine was never supposed to change. All churches are to believe and practice the same doctrine. So the thing of different denominations being unique from each other because of what they believe is not of God. All Christians use the same Bible. The problem comes when we think the Bible is a buffet and we can pick and choose what we want. That’s what Jesus meant when he said that our traditions have made the word of God of no effect. (Matt. 15:6) Depending on what denomination we’re in, we have rules (traditions) that govern what we believe. That’s typically what causes different churches and denominations, and it’s not of God.

E. But let’s look at what this would look like if man and sin hadn’t gotten in there and messed the whole thing up. Would there still be different churches and possibly even different groups of churches, or what we refer to as denominations? I believe the answer is yes, and let me explain why. Like was

already stated — all churches have the same basic five-fold purpose. (1) All churches are supposed to evangelize. (2) Every church is to promote corporate and individual worship. (3) We are all supposed to enter into some form of membership, covenant partnership, or caring for each other. (4) All churches are supposed to disciple the people and (5) help them minister. Those five elements are the general purpose for churches. However each church should also have its own emphasis (Sub-purpose or Vision/Mission) in that general purpose. And if that were happening, groups of churches would form who carry a similar emphasis. Comparable to our present day denominations. Not brought together by different doctrines, but by similar Visions, or Missions. Let me explain. This concept flows in churches despite the problems that have arisen because of doctrine and theology differences. Certain churches carry more of an emphasis in an area. That's their Sub-Purpose. We're all supposed to do the 5 Main Purposes. But we'll also have an emphasis. That's our Sub-Purpose.

Examples:

- Recovery Churches
- 24-Hour Prayer Churches
- 24-Hour Praise and Worship Churches
- Street Churches
- Missions Focused Churches
- Cowboy Churches
- Age Specific Churches (College Age, etc.)
- Evangelistic Churches
- Bible Training Centers Churches (Bible Schools)
- Native American Churches
- Homeless People Churches
- Etc.

In each case, they are all to fulfill the five-fold Purpose of a Christian church, as well as they will have their own emphasis or Sub-Purpose. Each church has a specific mission God wants them to fulfill. God will give birth to a church to reach out to a specific group of people or a specific area. That way everyone is being targeted with the gospel. There is a specific reason God establishes each church. That is its Sub-Purpose and Mission. The Vision will help us 'see' HOW we're going to do that. It has a lot to do with Long, Intermediate, and Short Term goals and accomplishments.

F. Here again the principle is played out. God sees a need in a community and he will create a person to meet that need. The purpose for their being alive is dropped into their heart, and they will search to fulfill it. What they are alive to do becomes their Sub-Purpose. The method they are shown to accomplish it, becomes the Vision.

This is important to remember:

The Purpose and Sub-Purpose are very closely connected.

Why is that? Because the Sub-Purpose must flow under and help establish the Purpose. There is only one General five-fold purpose. But there are myriads of sub-purposes. When God shows us WHAT and HOW we are to accomplish, it will always fit into and support the larger five-fold purpose of the church.

G. What is the Vision of Word of Life? We know we must fulfill the General five-fold Purpose given to every church. But what is our specific emphasis, or mission? What is the basic Sub-Purpose that we are to build upon?

- We are a “How To Church”.

Or to say it another way:

- We are to empower people “To Know How To”.

They’re both saying the same thing. What is it that we’re to help people “Know How To do?” Live the Christian Life in a Victorious and Over-coming manner.

Our Vision describes what God is asking of US in our emphasis (Sub-Purpose). It’s our particular approach to fulfilling the five-fold Purpose given to the Christian Church.

1. We will more fully address the specifics of this in the sections that follow. But let me develop on that vision just a bit here.

H. What does it mean to be a ‘How To Church’?

1. Remember a vision is birthed out of a person. To understand what it means we need to see a little of how it came about.
2. The Vision for Word of Life originated in Pastor Vern. Here is the story behind it. I (Pastor Vern) was born into a Christian home. The church my parents belonged to was an Assemblies of God Church. I was raised in an A/G church. My parents were very committed to and very supportive of what God was doing in that church. So I was at the church a lot. We didn’t miss many services. There were 3 services per week. Most of my growing up years there were 2 weeks of revival meetings each fall and each spring. (7 services per week) In June there was a week of special emphasis services and teaching. For that week there were 3 services per day for 8 days. (Sunday through Sunday) And I went to all of them. That was just the regularly scheduled stuff. The special events were besides. I spent a lot of time hearing various ministers proclaim the word.

This might be a good time to add — AND IT DIDN’T HURT ME EITHER. The outcome of it all — God called me into the ministry. Now I’m doing the speaking.

However, there was one thing that started to bother me at a very young age. I was Born-Again at age 7, and Baptized in the Holy Spirit at age 14. Looking back, I can emphatically say that I didn’t really ‘kick in’ spiritually until I was Baptized in the Holy Spirit. Now I started to really pay attention. And there was one thing that always surfaced. It was this: We were always being shown from the word ‘What’ we were supposed to be as a Christian. But rarely did anyone address ‘How’ to do it.

Knowing what I know at this point in life, I can look back and say that was the beginning of me 'seeing' my sub-purpose in life. I remember it began with questions about how are we supposed to do these things. Then it moved into frustration and aggravation because no one was doing a very good job at answering my questions. I watched people around me stumbling through life trying to do WHAT they were being taught out of the word. Yet, they were really struggling to make it happen in many areas of their lives. Once I knew I was going into the ministry, this became my theme: I'm not going to just tell people WHAT God has for them — I'm going to tell them HOW to get it. Now my purpose was starting to boil up from the inside of me. I was 'SEEING' it. The Vision had dropped into my heart.

3. This church started in the heart of God. He picked the name for it. It comes from a scripture that actually describes our Sub-Purpose. It's I John 1:1-3:

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

Notice the points in this scripture:

- a.** "That which was from the beginning". This has to do with none other but God. He is what everything is built around. As we read on we'll see that it specifically is dealing with Jesus.
- b.** "Which we have heard". We've come in contact with him and learned of him via hearing.
- c.** "Which we have seen with our eyes". We've come in contact with him and learned of him via sight.
- d.** "Which we have looked at". (AMP — "Whom we have Gazed Upon") We have fixed our attention on him and studied him.
- e.** "Our hands have touched". This involves personal contact and interaction.
- f.** "This we proclaim". This is the heart of our message. What we've learned and interacted with.
- g.** "That you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." "Fellowship" — Greek — "Koinonia". Koinonia speaks of Covenant. We've Covenanted with each other. We've Covenanted with our God.
- h.** "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us." Our emphasis is 'Inclusive' — not 'Exclusive'. Evangelism is to be at the heart of this organization.

4. As you go on through I John, it is explained how this will take place. I call it the 'This Is How You Know' book. (Quoting the NIV)

- a.** 2:3 — "We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands."
- b.** 2:5 — "This is how we know we are in him...."
- c.** 2:18 — "This is how we know it is the last hour."
- d.** 2:29 — "If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him."
- e.** 3:2 — "We know that when he appears, we shall be like him....."
- f.** 3:10 — "This is how we know who the children of God are....."
- g.** 3:14 — "We know that we have passed from death to life..."
- h.** 3:16 — "This is how we know what love is..."
- i.** 3:19 — "This then is how we know that we belong to the truth..."
- j.** 3:24 — "And this is how we know that he lives in us...."
- k.** 4:2 — "This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God...."
- l.** 4:6 — "This is how we recognize the Spirit....."
- m.** 4:9 — "This is how God showed his love among us...."
- n.** 4:13 — "We know that we live in him....."
- o.** 4:16 — "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us."
- p.** 5:2 — "This is how we know that we love....."
- q.** 5:13 — "I write these things to you who believe....so that you may know...."
- r.** 5:18 — "We know that anyone born of God...."
- s.** 5:20 — "We know also that the son of God has come....."

5. It makes sense that the Holy Spirit would 'marry' what he created in me to that scripture. The Vision is the expression of the book of I John.

6. There was a need in this community and this region that he wanted filled. So he created us for that Purpose. I personally believe we are a replacement anointing in this area. But none-the-less, here we are. Through various Assignments and Mandates, we arrived in Minnesota, and now we're seeing the Vision actively come to life.

7. The Purpose for our lives was put within us a long time ago. So when the time was right, God brought the minister and the need together. So the ministry will take on the flavor of the people called to do the ministry. (Mary and me) The Vision for a church starts in the heart of a person. That just happens to be us.

The Natural Flow of Ministry

- 1.** Being a 'How To' church or ministry is not something that we have to concentrate on. It's not something we have to remember to do. It's something that just flows out of us. IT COMES NATURALLY. It's how we're wired. Our spirit, mind, emotions, reasoning, etc. naturally gravitate and flow that way.
- 2.** Remember, before we were born, God had the plan. So he created us to meet the needs of the plan. Our giftings, perspectives, desires, motivations, etc. all revolve around what God built into us. We're created for it, so that FLOW COMES EASY.

That doesn't mean the answers always come easily. It's still work and takes an enormous amount of preparation, study, research, application, etc. It's Still WORK!!! Everything we do in life still takes effort. It's just that the things we're created to do, because of design, we're more capable of actually doing them. When a person tries to work in a realm they're not designed for, it's typically quite impossible. They never do accomplish much. They're not designed to do it.

- 3.** Because it's work, we have to continually be sharpening, honing, and developing what God has put inside of us. But the design we were created in, will never change. No matter how many bells and whistles you put on it, a car will always be a car. We will always flow down the line of wanting people to 'See' HOW TO live this Christian life. Everything within us moves that direction.
- 4.** I list the information in points 1-3 above because the principles apply to not just Mary and me, and Word of Life. Whatever YOUR Purpose, Sub-Purpose, and Vision are, they apply to YOU also.
- 5.** We'll add some specifics to that in the sections below.

2. Word of Life's Core Values

- A.** Our 'Core Values' are what hold us steady in the face of adversity, opposition, trouble, pain, failure, success, increased influence, prosperity, praise and honor, etc. They are our 'Inner Convictions' that can never be compromised — No Matter What may happen in life.
- B.** Every Vision will need continual refinement. Scripturally, God will show us the end of the Vision. The End Product that is to be Produced. (Hab. 2:2-3) What he's revealing to us is what this church is supposed to produce if we fulfill his 'Purpose' and 'Sub-Purpose'. Getting there is a walk of faith. We learn. We mature. We grow. We make adjustments.

However, as we move through the years of our life on this earth, the end goal and product, The Sub-Purpose, remains basically the same. It's the 'Core Values' that the Holy Spirit drops into our heart that keep us 'On Track' in our Vision.

- C.** This is a difficult category to summarize. In reality, we are to value everything in scripture. So how do we reduce that down to our 'Core Values'?

Let me try by saying Our 'Core Values' are the scriptural elements that stand out in value to fulfill the Vision for Word of Life. Again I state, everything in scripture is valuable and profitable. (II Tim. 3:16-17) But there are principles that God has pointed out that we'll need to give special attention to for 'this ministry'. They must remain an integral part of what we do in order to fulfill our mission.

There are certain things that we will always do, and some we will never do. These are the 'Core Values'.

1. The Word of God.

a. The scripture is the Basis for all of our beliefs, doctrines, and life. It is the infallible standard we measure everything against. Compromise on the Word will never be an option.

b. We consider ourselves to fit the term "Full Gospel". What that means is we consider everything in the New Testament as relevant and available for today. The only portion of scripture that is not directly applicable for us today is the Old Testament Law and its ceremonies. These were all fulfilled in Christ and now receive their representation in the New Covenant. (Matt. 5:17-18; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 7:18, 22; 8:13; Rom. 10:4)

c. The emphasis on the Word is where we get our name.

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." I John 1:1-3 — NIV

d. As it refers to in I John 1:1-3, the Word is not meant to be a bunch of inapplicable rules, ideas, and stories. It must be seen and presented as a necessity for our current time and life-style.

2. The Freedom & Movement of the Holy Spirit. (John 14, 16; Acts 1-2; I Cor. 1, 12-14)

a. The Holy Spirit is alive and well. He has a very specific office to fulfill in the church. Unless he is allowed to do what he was sent for, his working is stifled. Everything the scripture has to say about the working of the Holy Spirit WILL be Encouraged at Word of Life.

b. It is a combination of the Fullness of the Word, (Full Gospel) and the Empowering of the Holy Spirit that are essential to the fulfilling of the Vision for Word of Life.

3. Walking in Love.

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your

neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matt. 22:37-40 — NIV

a. These are the first things we endeavor to do. Everything else follows.

4. Service.

a. It’s meeting the needs of others as an expression of love. It is based on sowing and the attitude of servant leadership. It is fundamental to Godly leadership, and essential to spiritual growth.

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matt. 20:25-28 — NIV

5. Obedience.

a. This is the second thing we strive to do. If we Love, this is the indicator of how much.

“This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.” 1 John 5:3-4 — NIV

6. Hope and Faith.

a. According to the above verse, we must have faith to overcome and obey. Obedience is Love. So if we’re going to Love God, we must have Faith. We can’t even please God without Faith. (Heb. 11:6)

b. Hope is a necessity in all of this. Without Hope there is no Faith. (Heb. 11:1)

7. Intimately Knowing Him.

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him”. Phil. 3:7-9a — NIV

a. There is a difference in knowing about God, and knowing God. Knowing about God is referred to as religion. Knowing Him is referred to as relationship. In the New Testament, we are called to Relationship. (Rom. 8:15-16)

8. Pleasing Him.

a. This is the motivation in all of life. Pleasing God.

“We pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way” Col. 1:10 — NIV

“We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.” 1 Thess. 2:4 — NIV

“Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.” I Thess. 4:1 — NIV

9. Living in Unity.

- a.** There is only one thing that can defeat the Church of Jesus Christ. Scripture makes it plain that nothing from the outside can undermine or destroy a church. We are the only ones who can do it. The way it is accomplished is if we become divided against ourselves. (Matt. 12:25)
- b.** That is why the scripture stresses Unity. Division will kill us. It cannot be allowed. (I Cor. 1:10; Gen. 11:6; Matt. 18:19; John 17:20-23; Eph. 4:13)
- c.** Where there is unity, the Lord bestows his Blessing. (Ps. 133:1, 3)

10. The Anointing.

- a.** This is referring to God’s method of transferring things from his kingdom over into the physical realm we live in. It manifests for the purpose of operation in the supernatural. It is the transference of the things of God and the Power of God to his people.
- b.** If Jesus needed it, how much more do we need it!!! (Luke 4:18-19; Acts 10:38)
- c.** It comes with the presence of God, so we should always sense it at work among us. He’s given us the anointing. We should live in it. (II Cor. 1:21; I John 2:20, 27)

11. The Supernatural.

- a.** By Supernatural we are referring to Salvation, Signs, Wonders, Miracles, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Casting out Demons, Raising the Dead, Angelic Visitations, Gifts of the Spirit, Tangible Presence of the Spirit, Visions, Dreams, Displays of the Glory, Healings, Deliverances, Etc., Etc.
- b.** All throughout the New Testament, these things followed the believers. (Book of Acts) In fact we are commanded to operate in the supernatural and have it at work among us. (Mark 16:15-18; I Cor. 12:31; 14:1)
- c.** A church without the manifestation of the supernatural has either become or is quickly becoming spiritually dead.

12. Corporate and Individual Prayer.

- a.** Prayer is the life-blood of any believer or church. It is so necessary that we are told to pray continually. (I Thess. 5:17)
- b.** It is one of the primary necessities to spiritual warfare, and overcoming. (Eph. 6:18)
- c.** It brings Unity and activates the Supernatural. (Acts 4:23-31)

13. Striving for Maturity.

- a.** This has been commanded of every believer. (Matt. 5:48)
- b.** It is to be a primary end-product of the work of the church in believers. (Eph. 4:11-16)

14. Whole Hearted Praise and Intimate Worship.

- a.** Praise can be 'Perfected'. (KJV) It means to be made "complete, or put in order". (Matt. 21:16)
- b.** It is part of the process of coming into the Lord's intimate place. (Ps. 100:4)
- c.** The Father is seeking worshippers who will do so in spirit and in truth. (Matt. 15:8-9; John 4:22-24)
- d.** We are commanded to worship God. (Matt. 4:10)

15. Integrity & Credibility.

- a.** Ministry is a relationship of trust. For trust to be built in a church, its people, and pastoral staff — we must set an example of Integrity and Credibility in everything we do.
- b.** I Tim. 3:1-15 tells us what standard is to be set.

16. Excellence.

- a.** The Old Testament standard was that God was given the best or he didn't want it.
- b.** The New Testament standard is to give him ALL of us. All of our Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength.
- c.** We are told that whatever we do for the Lord, we are to do it with all our might. (Eccl. 9:10)
- d.** Excellence in Delegated Authority: All authority is delegated. It is our responsibility to protect and promote the same spirit, will, purpose and standards as the authority we are under.
- e.** Excellence in ministry is doing the very Best we are capable of.
- f.** Re-evaluation: Our Best only Remains Our Best until we can do Better. Then we must strive on or we are no longer offering our Best.

17. Responsibility must equal Authority.

- a.** When Jesus sent out the twelve disciples, he gave them the authority needed to carry out the responsibility he was requiring them to fulfill. (Matt. 10; Luke 10)
- b.** "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48 — NIV
- c.** In order to maintain Righteousness, the Leading of the Holy Spirit, and Excellence, the people with the authority must carry the responsibility. We

do not have people placed in positions of authority and decision making who are not carrying a proportional amount of the responsibility. It does not produce Godliness.

18. Major on the Majors. Minor on the Minors.

a. Majors — Eternal Perspectives.

- Generations and Lineage.
- Earthly Covenant With God.
- Love, Unity, Anointing, Ministry.
- Agreement with the Holy Spirit.
- Etc.

b. Minors — Clothes and Styles.

- Focusing on Mistakes in our Growth Process.
- Styles of Music.
- Structure of Services.
- Outward Appearance.
- Etc.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.” Matt. 23:23-24 — NIV

19. Authenticity. Being Real and Genuine before God and man. It is the absence of pretense. It is the opposite of hypocrisy. It’s an attitude of presenting the real you. Transparency. It gives credit where credit is due.

“But the Wisdom that is from above is first of all pure.....without Hypocrisy.” James 3:17 — KJV

20. Stewardship. Is properly managing the time, talents, and treasures He has entrusted to us. Being faithful to how he would handle these things.

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” I Cor. 4:1-2 — KJV

a. Financial integrity.

b. Management of Volunteer time with integrity.

c. Recognizing and utilizing the talents of the congregation with integrity.

3. Word of Life’s Vision

A. ‘Vision’ begins in the heart of one person and will spread to others from that one. A Vision is not born in a group of people. It’s born in one person. In a church setting, the Vision will follow the flow from the pastor. Scripturally, there is one

person who is set in charge of and will ultimately give account for the local church. That person is the Pastor. Of the five ministry gifts, the Pastor is the only one charged with taking care of the local church. This person is referred to as: bishop, elder, overseer, shepherd, and pastor. All the titles are referring to the same person. There is no scriptural evidence to support any other ministry gift was ever put in charge of a church.

B. The Pastor becomes the primary one (not the only one) responsible to receive from God and pass it on to the people for that congregation. The Vision will be the same. Again I repeat what I said earlier, according to scripture Visions are not born in committees or groups of people. Vision is always given to one man or woman. Then it will spread to a group. (not Vice/Versa)

The direction that God wants to take a congregation will be born in the pastor. Then God will gather people to that 'Vision' so that it can come to pass. The Vision is to flow from the heart of God. The man is simply the representative of it. People are not to be gathered to a man or woman simply because of the person. (Their personality, charm, appearance, etc.) This will result in the people following man, not God. Like-Minded and Like-Visioned people will be gathered around a Primary Vision, and Sub-Purpose that God is wanting to accomplish in a church. Just as the pastor is to be the 'Representative' of the vision given to him by God, the people are to be the 'Representatives' of that same vision. That will help produce two things: (1) Everyone is still following God, not a man. (2) Unity is much easier to establish and maintain.

C. In a church setting, if this is understood, it can be wonderful. If it is not understood, it can be devastating. Too often people feel everyone has the Vision or a piece of the Vision for the church. It's devastating because it will cause power struggles, disunity, strife, etc. The reason it causes those things is because everyone feels their vision of what should happen is as important as anyone else's. Then the people who win the power struggle will prevail and the pastor will simply carry out their wishes. (Now he's become a hireling) So in the middle of this strife, disunity, hurt feelings, etc. — we're expecting God to move. If that's how the church is set up governmentally, everyone has equal say — that will cripple the church the same way it would cripple a secular company if the business side were run that way. If all the employees would have equal say as to what a company should do, and the president of the company was simply the person who carried out their wishes, the company would be destroyed in a matter of months. It doesn't work in the business world, and it doesn't work in the church either. God's a smarter businessman than that. That's why he didn't set it up that way in scripture. The challenge from the pastoral perspective is to hear what God wants and fully obey it. Be true to the design, gifts, and vision he has put in the pastor's heart. And yet, include and listen to the covenant partners as a companion. (Marriage picture) Because it's a voluntary organization, and people are not coming for a paycheck, the key to that working is listed above. I'll restate it here:

God will gather people to that 'Vision' so that it can come to pass. Like-Minded and Like-Visioned People will be gathered around a Primary Vision, and Sub-Purpose that

God is wanting to accomplish in a church. Just as the pastor is to be the 'Representative' of the vision given to him by God, the people are to be the 'Representatives' of that same vision. That will help produce two things: (1) Everyone is still following God, not a man. (2) Unity is much easier to establish and maintain.

Visions do not mix very well. Small Variations of how a vision is carried out, are workable and usually even positive. However, when it becomes disagreement concerning the basic foundations on which an organization operates — now disunity and trouble will be produced. When people feel they have 'A Vision' of their own on how the organization should be run, that will result in nothing but trouble and strife. The challenge to pastoring the vision is being inclusive of the companion, (church people) but not at the expense of the basic foundations that God put into the person that God used to create the vision. Those basic foundational building blocks are listed next. (D — below)

D. The Mix of Gifts. The basic foundational building blocks.

God will always use a person (man or woman) to birth a church. The church will form in line with how God has gifted and uses that particular person to accomplish the purpose God is seeking.

The coloring of the person and ultimately the church will come from that gifting.

- 1.** What is their emphasis in the five-fold gifts: Apostle, Pastor, Prophet, Evangelist, or Teacher. (Eph. 4:11) That will always paint the overall setting of the picture of the individual's life and the church or ministry that is born out of them.
- 2.** Next the motivational gifts are mixed in to define how that picture will look. (Rom. 12)
- 3.** With that will be mixed the emphasis they carry in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. (I Cor. 12) These also form and shape the person.
- 4.** Then we must add in the personality, abilities, and the things that motivate the person.
- 5.** And lastly, but definitely not least we must consider the experiences, culture, environment, etc. that have helped shape and form the person. (Acts 17) God placed these into that man or woman so they can most readily accomplish God's purpose for their lives. (Ps. 139) They are all used in helping to shape and form the person to accomplish what God desires.

E. Then the Vision is brought into clarity.

Into this awesome mix, God will place a burning desire of His heart. The Vision is literally an impartation of the Heart of God. The Vision is the way God is longing to see His Purpose accomplished in the person and ultimately the church.

That is all stirred together in the person like a giant mixing pot, and out of that will come:

A Unique, One of a Kind, Individual Vision or Burning Desire to see something accomplished (the sub-purpose) for God in a specific manner.

F. Building Around the Vision.

To that Vision, God will gather people. The church is a body of people (I Cor. 12) working to accomplish the purposes of God. God always works with a group of people, because no one person has everything they need spiritually, emotionally, or physically to accomplish the task. God has ordained the various members/parts of the body to accomplish different aspects of work. Jesus was the only person who was given the Spirit without measure. (John 3:34) The rest of us carry an aspect or measure of the Holy Spirit to accomplish our life's work. That is why we need each other to fulfill a Vision.

This mix of individuals, gifts, anointing, and purposes is very powerful. But it's the Vision (overall purpose and goal) that cements them together and moves them the same direction. This Vision will always solidify the reason or purpose a particular church exists. That Vision may adapt to changes in society and the world over the years, but rarely will it evolve into a different Purpose.

That's why different churches carry different emphasis. They operate differently from each other. They approach the task differently, and will use different methods. Yet all the while working on the same task of spreading the gospel and bringing people into the kingdom so they can be matured and disciplined.

G. The goal for pastoral ministry. (My job description)

1. Like starting any type of company. The people starting it do 90% (+) of the work. That's normal and even expected. The danger comes in a church setting when that becomes what is expected by the church people. The Pastor(s) should do it all. The exact opposite is what is actually true.

2. Scripture is very direct on this subject. This is what it says:

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Eph. 4:11-16 — NIV

3. As people catch the vision, God expects them to get in and do the work. Each part of the body has a job to do and is to be working.

4. Again, just like in any company, why doesn't the owner do it all? Because it won't work. It's not possible. The way the church operates the smoothest, is when the most people are involved — rallied behind a single vision.

5. The pastor is quickly to move toward what he is supposed to do. (Which is not the work of the ministry) Scripturally, here is the pastor's portfolio.

- a.** Spend time in the word and prayer. (Acts 6:4)
- b.** Steward the pulpit. Be a pulpit ministry that is effective. (Acts 6:4; I Tim. 5:17)
- c.** Have General Oversight and Shepherd. (I Tim. 3:5; Titus 1:7; I Pet. 5:2-4)
- d.** Cultivate and articulate the Vision. (Find and lead in the direction God is wanting to move) (I Tim. 3:5; Titus 1:7; I Pet. 2:25, 5:2)

*** That is a full time job. Eventually, everything else needs to be delegated.

H. Differing Visions vs. Differing Denominations.

Since there is such a diversity of people in God's creation, and since no one church is going to appeal to all people, God will form many churches to accomplish many different tasks in an effort to reach ALL the people of a community, region, country, and world. This is not to be confused with different denominations. Denominations are a man-made structure. They separate out by beliefs and doctrine. Different beliefs and doctrine are not of God. God is not confused as to what he believes and knows. He has written one book. He has declared what his will is and how it is to be accomplished on this earth. What he wants accomplished: Salvation, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Gifts of the Spirit, Healing, Miracles, Discipleship, Maturity, Love, Water Baptism, etc. are a constant. They don't change by changing the Vision he gives to someone. The sad part is they change by man's traditions, beliefs, and doctrines. It was never intended to operate that way.

Pastoral Change and a Church's Purpose and Vision

Changing pastors in a church can be a wonderful or devastating event. IT WILL LITERALLY MAKE OR BREAK THE CHURCH. That's another reason why the laity tends to take charge and simply tell the pastor how and what he can and cannot do. The problem now is that you have a hireling. (John 10) This is someone who has to fulfill the will of the employer (the people) before he/she can fulfill the will of the Lord. It's upside-down.

The one thing that should never change in a church is the Sub-Purpose for which that church was brought into existence. If you change that, the anointing and moving of the Spirit which was given to that church (Its candlestick. — Rev. 1-4) will at the very least be hampered, and could be rendered useless. Now you have a social organization without the power of God active in it. How to get the job done (which is more the Vision) can change to a degree, and sometimes it needs to for the organization to remain fresh and relevant. However changing the job that needs to get done (The Sub-Purpose) will always affect the church negatively. (the only exception to that is if the Lord is wanting to birth a new purpose in that church and community.)

J. Churches and Apostles. The concept of an apostle to a church (Like Paul) should be followed to keep the continuity of the original vision and flow intact. Over the years a church can lose its way in what was God's purpose for forming it. FAR TOO OFTEN THIS IS THE CASE IN THE AVERAGE CHURCH. When this happens, the church goes through the motions, but the life-giving force, the power, the anointing seem to be lacking. It becomes a gathering of believers, a type of social-club, but it's not accomplishing what it was created to do. Believers can sense it once this has taken place. As a result, the church usually stops growing and becomes the housing place for the ones that feel they need to remain faithful to what once was.

To illustrate this, I was at a church for a speaking engagement. During the course of the service the Lord showed me a huge portrait of the church as seen from the platform. It was torn almost all the way through starting from the top left corner down toward the bottom right corner. The Lord told me: "I want to restore the original picture of this church. I want it to go back to what I called it to be when I formed it."

Interestingly, most of the people in the church had no clue what the original picture had been. Some of the old-timers knew exactly what God was talking about. It had been an Evangelistic Emphasis Church. It had a huge impact on the children of the community. The pastor and church were quick to heed the correction in course and the church immediately began to return to its roots. God wonderfully supplied buses, etc. to get the job done.

The disturbing part is that in time God moved that pastor on and a new pastor with a completely different purpose and vision took over the church. Within months, the thrust to return to the original design and emphasis of the church was abandoned. A new purpose was put into place. To my knowledge, the church slowly disintegrated and is struggling today.

Why?? Remember the beginning of the book: 'God Blesses His Purposes, Not Ours.' God raised that church up to meet a need. His anointing and blessing will be on that purpose and path. The more a church veers from God's Purpose for it, the less anointing, blessing, and supernatural will manifest.

That's why the Apostle Paul didn't let go of watching over the churches under his care. He remained a stabilizing factor that always held the church to its original course. That is a scriptural directive set by example. The more closely a church adheres to it, the more constant it can be held to what God will Bless — their Original Purpose.

K. In God's 'Purpose' there are a few things that must flow in our 'Sub-Purpose'. A Godly Vision will focus on:

- 1) Building the Individual.
- 2) Which Builds the Marriage.
- 3) Which Builds the Family.
- 4) Which Builds the Church.

5) Which Builds the Community.

6) Which Builds the Nation and World.

7) All of these work together to Build the Kingdom of God.

God's Primary Focus will always be the Human Being. Our Focus must stay the same. Everything else is non-eternal and must be a lower priority.

All physical things: equipment, land, buildings, etc. are all tools. These cannot become the main priority and focus. They are to play a support role only to the true Purpose and Vision.

L. The Heart of our Vision is to teach, show, enable people to 'KNOW HOW TO' live their Christian Life Victoriously.

1. Right from the start let me refer you back to the Core Values and Assignments/ Mandates. There is quite a bit of information there that we won't repeat here. Go back and read that material from the perspective of helping people to know 'How To' live their Christian life. In doing so you will find many things concerning how God is showing us to accomplish this vision.

2. Obviously the first thing this needs to be built upon is the Word. Everything is weighed and measured against the Word.

We believe in and practice the Office of Prophet, as well as the Gifts of Utterance, (Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, and Prophecy) however we try to walk in a balance concerning them. The primary one responsible to give information to an individual is the Holy Spirit. He is our Counselor, Guide, Teacher, Informer, Reminder, Paraclete, Vision and Dream Giver, Etc. A man or woman is never to take his position. Once we start looking to man for the leading of God in our life, we are out of balance. The Holy Spirit will speak to us through (a) the Written Word, and (b) the Rhema Word. (Words He Speaks to us) Without him, we won't understand any spiritual thing. (1 Cor. 2) So we are not into looking to a Prophet to tell us what to do. They can confirm and offer additional information to what we already know, but they are never to be the primary source.

A major focus at Word of Life is on people learning how to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit for themselves.

3. The Holy Spirit will always be central to what we are trying to do. It's the reason he was given. To the church of Jesus Christ, he is currently:

- The Anointer (Luke 4:18-19; 1 John 2:20, 27)
- Teacher (John 14:26)
- Counselor (John 14:16; 16:7)
- Guide (John 16:13)
- Paraclete/Comforter (John 14:16; 15:26)
- Convicter/Convincer (John 16:5-11)
- Sanctifier (John 14:17; Rom. 15:16)

- Gives Power (Acts 1:8)
- Gift Giver and Manifester (I Cor. 12-14)
- Leader (Luke 2:25-27; 4:1)
- Revealer (John 16:13-15; I Cor. 2)
- Helper (John 14:16; 16:7)
- Interceder (Rom. 8:26-27)
- Connection to Father/Jesus
- Makes Jesus Lord to us (I Cor. 12:3)
- Strengtheners (Eph. 3:16-17)
- Born-Again (John 3:5-6; 6:63)
- Deliverance (Matt. 12:28)
- Etc.
- We can't do anything without him.
- (Further study: Booklet "Understanding the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit — Primary Focus: The Holy Spirit")

4. Through the Word and the Holy Spirit we have everything we need to live a victorious and over-coming life for God. We have the Promises (II Pet. 1:3-4) and the Spirit to reveal the word to us. (I Cor. 2:6-16)

5. Word of Life was formed for the Generations. This was spoken to Pastor Vern before they had moved to MN. The Lord has confirmed it repeatedly via prophecies.

a. What does that mean? Our focus should not be predominantly about the older generation. This happens many times in churches. The reason usually is two-fold. (1) It's the older generation that has the money to fund the organization. (2) They are the ones who the Lord worked through to get the organization to this point. Therefore because pride enters in — it is presumed the next generation doesn't know what they're doing. We're not going to allow the younger ones to become the focus. We must not allow that attitude to develop at Word of Life. A perfect example of this is one of our short range goals. Layout the building site and build the first phase. We will be more focused on what the next generation desires and needs than the over 50 bunch. Yes, our opinion plays in, but we have been instructed to set up the next generation. So it must be mostly about them.

b. Generations immediately infers Family. You can't have Generations without Family. Everything we do needs to either have some type of family vision, or support a family vision.

c. "They are the Hope of this world." (1/14/11) This is the way we need to begin viewing the next generations. If the truth be told, the over 50 year olds have spent a great portion of our life doing their thing. It's not that

the older ones won't do anything from this point forward. We carry a very important role of over-sight, encouragement, support, funding, etc. But in order to stay out of the way of what God wants to do in the next generation, we must start making a mentality switch. In the coming years, we must begin fading out in carrying the main role and allow the next generations to begin shining brighter.

We must see and understand their importance in the revivals of the last days.

6. God commanded us to go and make Disciples. (General Purpose) Our Sub-Purpose or emphasis in making disciples comes from the direction of teaching 'How To' be a disciple. What that looks like. It goes back to the foundation of our Vision:

WORD OF LIFE IS HERE TO TEACH, SHOW, AND ENCOURAGE THEM

'HOW TO'

LIVE THIS EARTHLY LIFE IN A GODLY AND PROSPEROUS MANNER.

That covers every area of life. That's why we don't focus on one particular area or emphasis of the scriptures. We are not just a Revival Church. We are not just a church that flows in the Gifts of the Spirit. We are not just a Healing Church. We are not just a Missions Church. We are a church that must teach, practice, and impart the 'Whole Counsel of God'.

"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Acts 20:24-27 — KJV

Why? Because to enable people to 'Know How To Do' the word of God, every possible subject and question that can arise must be dealt with.

TO ENABLE SOMEONE TO KNOW WHAT GOD IS ASKING OF THEM IN EVERY AREA OF LIFE, WE MUST ADDRESS AND HAVE ANSWERS FOR EVERY QUESTION, ISSUE, AND SUBJECT THAT A BELIEVER MIGHT

ENCOUNTER. WE ARE TO HAVE A GODLY, RIGHTEOUS, FAITH-BUILDING, LIFE IMPARTING ANSWER AND SOLUTION FOR THEIR SITUATION.

WE ARE TO ENABLE THEM

TO 'KNOW HOW TO' LIVE THIS EARTHLY

LIFE VICTORIOUSLY FOR GOD.

7. A great deal of this is accomplished in group settings. Church services, bible studies, etc. But since every person is unique and has unique situations they are dealing with in life, general answers don't always give a complete

answer for the person to know 'How To' deal with the problem coming against them.

One-on-one teaching and instruction is a major method God uses and anoints at Word of Life to accomplish this task. It can take the form of:

- group question and answer times
- personal question and answer times
- supernatural direction via Gifts of the Spirit
- counseling
- etc.

Individual working with people is vital to fulfilling the Vision God has given to us.

4. Word of Life's Assignments and Mandates

Since every church has a Vision, every church must have Assignments given to it to carry out that Vision.

A. Assignment: "a task or piece of work assigned to someone as part of a job or course of study

- the allocation of a job or task to someone — the task or post to which one has been appointed — an act of making a legal transfer of a right, property, or liability"
- Assignment has to do with things like Where, How & What, With Whom, Focus, Design and Gifting.

B. Mandate: "an official order or commission to do"

Mandate has to do with Commission, Orders, Authority, Responsibility, Etc.

C. They can be long, intermediate, or short-term. (Just like the Vision) They can be unchangeable for a lifetime, (Long-Term) or be transitory over the Short and Intermediate Term.

D. They are the stones that become the building blocks of the structure God is establishing via our lives.

E. So let's look at the first one: Assignment.

1. Where.

a. Cambridge, MN and the surrounding area. (Given: November, 2003)

b. In the spring of 2009, God assigned a geographical area to us. We are to watch over this region and work in it spiritually.

c. Will our assignment of where grow larger than that? It may, but for now that is all that has been revealed. However, we have been told to get onto the 'Corridors of Victory'. (May 16, 2009) That has to do with ministry within the region. It will likely extend beyond the region.

d. These things are part of the Sub-Purpose God has given to us. Remember: Our General Purpose is the same as any other church which means in some way we are to minister to everyone from local to worldwide. (Acts 1:8)

2. How.

a. Via a church-based type of organization. We are not a traveling ministry; a TV based ministry; a literature based ministry; an internet ministry; nor a conference based ministry. God has asked us to be a church-based ministry. That will automatically help dictate how we will operate and function.

b. Via all media available. We may not be a specific type of media-based ministry, but that doesn't stop us from using whatever media is available to accomplish our Assignment.

c. Churches are people-to-people type of organizations. That will always dictate staff. One person can only minister to a limited number of people. To stay available to everyone and have the time to minister to them beginning with the individual, to the couple, to the family, etc. (Section 4 — J — Below) demands people-power. One-on-one interaction. That can only be accomplished through staff. (Volunteer or Hired)

3. What.

a. A local church with a regional focus and ministry capability.

4. With Whom.

a. We are affiliated with and accountable to The Association of Faith Churches and Ministers. (AFCM)

b. Lay People with a like-mind and vision. This point may seem too basic in thinking, however I think it's worth pointing out that we are not building a company, restaurant chain, manufacturing facilities, investment firm, etc. In most business settings, people are the customer base and that's all they'll ever be. In our setting, it begins with people being the customer base (the consumer), but if we are doing what scripture tells us, the customer base must move into working in the company. That process sets the church apart from the average business-minded approaches.

5. Focus.

a. The Unsaved, Lost, Hungry, Starving, and Displaced.

b. The Generations.

c. Our focus is not sheep stealing and will never be. We do not actively recruit and go after people from other congregations. When given an opportunity to begin that process, we back away from it. However, if people are feeling to make a switch from a different church to Word of Life, we will not turn them away. It's between them and God.

6. Design.

- a.** Our Design is to be a church/ministry for the whole family. We must always endeavor to meet the needs of the entire family. We should never plan to exclude some area of the family.
- b.** There will be specialized ministries that we are to promote. Such as: Prison Ministry, ½ Way Houses, Christian School, Etc. But our Design must always be built around ministry to the whole family unit.

7. Gifting.

- a.** Specialized ministry must be built around Individual's Gifting, Anointing, and Call.
- b.** We do not run Programs. We promote Ministry. There is a huge difference.

Here is what I mean by that:

- Ministry has to do with the Leading of the Holy Spirit, the Anointing, A Word and Direction from the Lord, the Supernatural, etc. God anoints people — not programs. The world is changed by Vision and Anointing — not programs. Ministry starts with a Call of God on someone. People minister to people.
- Programs have to do with nice ideas, people's personal lack or inadequacies, tradition, the way we're accustomed and comfortable with doing it, etc. Programs entertain. They cannot minister because ministry is done by the anointing. Unless it's born in the heart of God and given to someone to carry out, it won't be anointed. (If that does happen, then it is no longer a program)
 - c.** Programs don't change people's lives, Ministry Does. We don't want a Nice or Good Thing. We Want the Right Thing.
 - d.** Programs may make people feel like they're part of a large group, endeavor, etc. But they typically don't minister one-on-one. Programs usually blend people into groups. In that setting, the individual and what they need is usually overlooked.
 - e.** Word of Life is not and never will be a big Program Church. Programs can give Organization, Flow, and Help Support a Call or Vision. But a Program that does not stand on a Call or Anointing will die. We can keep trying to do the program, but it will not produce life. Ministries may take the shape of a Program in Mechanics. However there will always be one basic difference: Ministry is driven by the Holy Spirit to fulfill a Call and Vision. Programs are typically driven by old nature reasons. If they're not born of the Spirit, they're born of the flesh.
 - f.** The anointing and the supernatural show up for ministry. Ministry is something God put into someone's heart. It starts in God's heart and transfers to a person's heart. Once it's birthed in them, there is a zeal, desire, purpose, vision, and a strong perseverance to stick with it until it's accomplished. It came out of their spirit. They can't escape it. They eat it,

sleep it, and breathe it. It consumes their thinking and will stir their emotions. They feel personally responsible to God for seeing it through. It will drive them to action.

Programs produce most of what we have in the American church. Let's try this. Let's try that. No one has heard from God. It's trial and error. And then when it doesn't go smoothly or easily, people tend to give up and say, well maybe it wasn't God. There's little maybe about it. It probably wasn't God. That's why it died. The only other possibility is that we are horrible stewards of the things God. But I don't believe the average Christian tries to be a horrible steward. I tend to first of all look from the perspective that says it wasn't God. It was a program. Since we're usually not taught to distinguish between ministry and programs, we can fall into the program trap easily. Our focus at Word of Life is to try to stay away from programs.

g. In ministry, people's giftings will surface and become visible. They are the only tools that the Holy Spirit can use to accomplish the Lord's will. If the Holy Spirit doesn't show up to empower the endeavor, it will surely fail. He works through and anoints the gifts he put inside of us.

Programs are typically built around personality, likeableness, personal charisma, personal need, nice ideas, etc. The Holy Spirit doesn't have to show up and the program will go on. It's built on the wrong foundation.

One easy rule-of-thumb way to recognize whether it's a program or a ministry is by asking yourself this question:

What are the spiritual gifts that this person flows in?

If you can't identify the gifts that are promoting what's happening, it's not a ministry. It's likely a program.

8. Fellow-laborers or Cliques?

a. People will separate out into support-groups and relationships according to their gifts, anointings, and ministry. This is the way it's supposed to work. People who share the same heart's cry and passion will draw to each other. They're both trying to accomplish the same purpose. They become Fellow-Laborers. They pray together. They brain-storm together. They plan together. They share successes and failures. They search for answers together. They spend time together. Typically strong relationships develop based on their pull in ministry. This is good. This is the way it's supposed to work.

b. Cliques on the other hand develop out of very soulish or flesh based reasons. They will often separate out via like interests, friendships, personality agreement or clashes, enjoying each others company, their children are friends, etc. Cliques become exclusive. Only so many people are allowed into the 'Inner Circle'. It usually revolves around the ones who get along the best. And even if others would like to get close to these people, they usually don't 'really get in' to the group or clique.

It's one of the reasons the church is so powerless, we're not focused on the important things as far as God is concerned. Typically cliques are focused on a need we personally have, and trying to find a way to meet that need. We become more and more internal focused, and less and less external focused. What I mean by that is we lose our evangelistic edge and thrust. It's all about our 'already Christian' friends and spending time with them. And eventually nothing is being done to get into the lives of the people who need Jesus.

If your relationships are not advancing any 'True' ministry, you're likely in a Clique. If your relationships drive you on and promote 'True' ministry, it could very well be Fellowship. 'True' ministry being defined as a ministry that the ultimate goal is always 'Outward' focused. (The Unsaved, Lost, Hungry, Starving, and Displaced)

F. Now let's look at: Mandate.

1. 'Commission' — the authority to perform a task or certain duties.

- an instruction, command, or duty given to a person or group of people.
- an order for something, esp. a work of art, to be produced.
- a work produced in response to such an order.
- a group of people officially charged with a particular function.

a. The church moved to MN and was established under the Joseph's anointing. That anointing began spring, 2003. This anointing has to do with ultimately preparing for and weathering difficult times. Not only coming through these difficult times. But Prospering in them.

This is a last-days anointing. The more difficult things become in the world around us, the more this ministry will Prosper. This Prosperity during difficult times is a promise of this Anointing. (Joseph's Anointing) It will be on all who are connected into and supporting/flowing in the Vision God has given to this ministry.

b. One of the reasons we were to move to MN was for the Generations. (1/2004)

c. (Given to Joe Samsa — 9/25/2005 — First Sunday in the Modular Building)

- You have been deemed a last days church. (cf. Word from Lord — 8/10/10)
- You have been given a new name.
- The other levels are about to be super-imposed. (Reference Dream: Spring, 1995)
- I give you the North.

d. "Pray for this area like it is your own. For this day I give it to you." (4/6/06)

e. "You will be a regional church" (Open Heaven Mtgs. — 2008; and 6/3/08)

f. Jesus said: "I need a church up here who is willing to take a stand on witchcraft. Are you willing to do it?" I asked what was involved with doing

it? He said, “The Kingdom and everything that is involved with the Kingdom manifesting on the earth”. Scriptures he emphasized: Isa. 60:1-3, 9b, 21b; 61:3, 9b; 62:3. (10/17/2006)

g. Maintain Unity. (Spring — 2009)

h. Red River Valley identified as part of our region. (3/28/09)

i. The Lord tells us to go and set the boundaries for the region. (April, 2009)

j. First Regional Trip. (5/20-23/2009)

- Southern, Western, and Northern Boundary Line Established.

k. Second Regional Trip. (8/27-31/2009)

- Eastern Boundary Established.

l. Open Door to County Jails in NE Minnesota. (Fall — 2009)

m. (1) Obtain a deeper Love and Concern for the Lost.

(2) Go after a Building. (Open Heaven Meetings — 2010)

2. ‘Orders’ — an authoritative command, direction, or instruction.

- an oral or written request for something to be made, supplied, or served.
- a thing made, supplied, or served as a result of such a request.
- a written direction of a court or judge.

a. Know those who labour among you. (Jim Kaseman)

“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.” 1 Thessalonians 5:12 — KJV

Guard ministry in the church. Do not allow just anyone to minister. Treat it as a Holy thing. Not taken lightly. Know the people who minister with you. They can mess you up or help you. They can help build the ministry or help destroy it.

b. Uncompromisingly speak the Word. Stake the future of the ministry on the Word of God. (1/2004)

c. Word of Life is called to be a Bride Church. (Prophecy — 1/30/2005)

d. “Embrace Mary’s anointing and gifts” (1/2006)

e. “Will you take care of her (Arianna) for me”?

f. “Bring the people to me and I will honor you. Bring them to you and I will rip the ministry away from you.” (1/29/2006)

g. The Bridge Dream. (2/23/06). There is a bridge created by everyone’s individual life that will either support or hinder their efforts to get into the Blessing, Kingdom, and the Power (Power Lines) of God. The bridge of some people’s lives were built out of anger and greed. It would not

support them to get to the other side/realm of Blessing, Kingdom, and Power. The bridge needs to be rebuilt.

h. Last week of July, 2006. The Lord told Pastor to buy 40 acres of land to build the church on. When asked why? He said: "My vision is bigger than yours."

i. "Turn the coming judgment into Victory." (8/2/06)

j. "You need to believe for Eric to come on staff. You're trying to reach that generation and you don't even have anyone on staff of that generation." (5/07)

k. "Do what you can to mature the saints. Harvest is coming." (4/16/08)

l. The Lord tells us to go and set the boundaries for the region. (April, 2009)

m. (1) Obtain a deeper Love and Concern for the Lost.

(2) Go after a Building. (Open Heaven Meetings — 2010)

3. Authority.

a. Authority can only be established by the Commission. We are given world-wide authority for individual ministry as believers. However, as a church we only have authority in the areas we have received a commission.

b. Authority can be physical or spiritual.

- Physical means having been given legal right in the physical realm and laws. Most authority in this realm must flow from human government and laws.
- Spiritual means having been given legal right in the spiritual realm and laws. Most authority in this realm must flow from God's Kingdom and his laws.
- Example: God has asked us to watch over and care for a region. That does not give us the right to tell cities, counties, etc. how they are to run their business. We haven't been given that power by the ruling governmental authorities or the people.

However, in the spiritual realm we have great jurisdiction. In this realm we don't need human government approval. We are not under it. We are under a spiritual government, a kingdom that is not physical. Under the direction of that King, we have complete authority to carry out his commands. (Which by the way will almost entirely deal with spiritual government issues.)

4. Responsibility.

a. Responsibility follows the same principles given under Authority.

b. There will be certain things we are told to do, places to go, changes to be made, and spiritual authorities to be confronted and dealt with. We are responsible to carry out those directives.

G. Over the years the Lord has given us a huge amount of information. The information in the 'Lines of the Scroll' section is given to the beginning of 2011. Obviously more will be added as time goes on.

This information is pertinent to the Assignment and Mandate, as well as to the Vision, and the Vision Accomplished sections. So rather than list it three separate times, I will list it under the last section — Vision Accomplished. (Section 5 — below)

5. Accomplishing Word of Life's Vision

So how do we do all of this? (Word of Life Vision)

It's simple: We personally go there first. We can't give what we don't have. (Rom. 8:32; I Cor. 2:12; Matt. 10:8) Another person said it this way: 'You can't lead where you haven't gone'.

It is imperative that we at Word of Life always strive to stay a step ahead of those we are leading. New participants need to view us as a people who can help them with whatever problem may arise. The things we don't know, (which are many) we are obligated by the Vision that God has given to us — to study, learn, and find the answer that needs to be given.

IT'S OUR PARTICULAR EMPHASIS OF WHY WE ARE A CHURCH!!!

To hear 'well done thou good and faithful servant' at the end of our lifetime — we need to accomplish what he's asked us to do.

That is the heart and core of our Vision. Showing, leading, instructing, etc. to 'Know How To' live this Christian life in a victorious manner.

How to practically walk that out in goals, planning, assignment, mandate, etc. is a much bigger issue to look at. For the remainder of this booklet, we'll look at some of these other areas and their relation to our Vision.

A. Goals.

1. We need to look at the three areas of goals. Short-Term, Intermediate-Term, and Long-Term Goals. Every area of a vision will fall into all three categories. For more information on all three, please see 'Vision Explained — Accomplishing the Vision — Section 5'. (Above)

Let me give you a good comparison of the three different types of goals. Let's compare them to a road trip.

- The Long-Term Goal is to drive from Minneapolis to Miami, FL. It is a slow, tedious process that many times seems like no progress is being made. The more immature we are, the more impatient we are with the Goal. Hence, the famous phrase: "Are We There Yet". Or other ones are: "Let's Go Home, I'm Tired", "This Isn't Any Fun", "I Want To Quit", Etc. The Long-Term Goal takes maturity to stay on course and keep persevering. The reason: IT TAKES A LONG

TIME TO ACCOMPLISH. It can be difficult at times to see if there has been any progress.

However, it's the Long-Term Goals that keep us focused. If we're trying to get to Miami, we can't be taking too many detours and stops to get there in a timely manner. If we play around too much, we won't get there by the time we need to. That's why under 'Vision Explained — Purpose' there is a quote concerning purpose that goes like this: If you don't know where you're going (your Purpose), any road will take you there.

- Intermediate-Term Goals. They are what keeps us on task. They are the ones that clearly indicate if we are making progress. On a road trip, they are the smaller goals we set. We need to get to such and such a city by tonight. Once we get to Nashville, TN we're about ½ way there. If we want to be in Miami by Saturday, and want to see Mammoth Cave on the way, we need to get there by Wednesday. Intermediate-Term Goals give us clear time-lines and indicators of our progress.

- Short-Term Goals. They are the necessary daily, moment-by-moment steps that need to be taken to keep moving forward. This is the area of goals that most people miss it. We have these big, lofty visions of grandeur and splendor that God wants to do through us — but we don't know what or how to live TODAY so that those things will come to pass.

To tie it into our illustration of going to Miami, Short-Term Goals are the simple little choices that make the big happen. Short-Term Goals are things like:

- I have to get the tires changed today so we can leave tomorrow.
- Filling the car with gas.
- Packing our clothes.
- Packing the car.
- Getting someone to watch the house.
- Stop the mail and newspaper.
- Get the garbage out and the toilets flushed before we leave.
- Where's the map? Pack it.
- Actually getting on the road. (When do we leave?)
- Filling gas again.
- Did you bring the check-book, cash, credit card?
- Filling gas again.
- Finding a place to eat.
- Getting back on the road. (Which direction is it?)
- Finding a place to spend the night.
- Etc. — Etc.

THIS IS WHERE MOST CHRISTIANS MISS IT. We have lofty dreams, but we don't do anything on a daily basis to get there!!!!

We think we're really moving forward in life and making progress. Look at all the trees we've driven past. Look at how fast the ground is moving beneath us. Open the window and feel the wind — wow, we're really flying toward our goal. It's been 15 minutes — Are we there yet? When will we get there? I'm bored. Let's stop and eat. Oh look, there is a park. Let's get out and enjoy ourselves for a few hours.

Are you getting the picture? If we're going to truly make progress and get to our Long-Term Goal (Miami — 1800+ miles), everything we do on a daily, weekly, monthly basis plays a huge role in our progress. And the only way to get an accurate estimate of our progress is to look at the Intermediate-Term Goals. Measure against them. If we measure against the Short-Term Goals, we'll think we're making great progress when in reality we've barely started. If we measure against the Long-Term Goals, we'll get discouraged and quit because it feels like this will never happen.

All Three Goals have their place. We need to have all three in focus in our lives.

Let's look at all three of them — individually.

2. The Long-Term Goal is the 'End of the Vision' that is talked about in Habakkuk. We tend to view it as goals that are years in accomplishment, or even a lifetime process, but I believe in God's mind it is multi-generational. It would have to be since he plans things from the foundation of the earth. He thinks over 100's and 1000's of generations.

He's already told us this ministry is multi-generational. He told us when we moved to Minnesota. ("This is about the Generations") And he's told us in certain of the prophecies. This church is to focus on the Generations. (See 'Opening the Scroll' below)

Long-Term Goals tend to take a great deal of time and effort before you can distinguish that progress is being made. However, they are to always be focused upon. It's the Long-Term Goals that will hold us steady and on-course.

In a nutshell, what are our Long-Term goals?

a. We are called to help build the Kingdom of God. That is focused on Eternal Souls. That must always be our #1 Priority.

b. We already know it must be about People. That is the message of the gospel. To continually accomplish God's 'Purpose' for his church with the specific 'Emphasis' (A How To Church) he has given to us.

The only way that should ever be allowed to change is if God changes it. Otherwise it will be to the detriment of Word of Life and God's design for us.

c. Most of the points made in the 'Opening the Scroll' section below are Long-Term Goals. These are points of emphasis he always wants in this ministry. Many of the Assignments and Mandates are Long-Term.

So not to be repetitious, I won't repeat everything stated under the areas of:

- Assignments and Mandates

- Opening the Scroll

- d.** Constructing a physical facility that will be a tool in helping accomplish the Vision.

- It must be capable of handling our local, church events.
- It needs to be capable of handling regional events and ministry.
- It needs to be family focused.
- It needs to show that God wants to prosper his people and supply a place for them, without becoming a show piece. Our facilities are a tool, not a statement of who we are. (That's not part of our vision)
- It must be next generation/future focused.

3. The Intermediate-Term Goals will cover a number of years. They can range from 5-25 or 30 years. Look at Abraham as an example of this. His long term goal was to get into the position of being the Father of many nations. To accomplish that, he needed offspring. That became an Intermediate Goal. In order to accomplish the Long-Term Goal, he needed a son. We know he believed for the child for a long time. It was one of the major concerns he brought up to God. But if we just look at the time period from when God told him he would get a son, until he got one — we are looking at 25 years.

In my own life, the Lord has told me to look for things and faith for things that did not happen for 20+ years. Anything 15+ years is probably border lining on a long-term goal for most people. There are no hard and fast numbers or rules. It again goes back to what is coming out of the person's heart.

Intermediate-Term Goals are the ones that tell us most clearly whether we are moving with significance toward our Long-Term Goals. They reveal progress. They can be somewhat transitional for the same reason Short-Term Goals are Transitional. (See 4 below) However, they need to be much more stable than Short-Term Goals or you will find yourself reinventing the wheel on an on-going basis.

They are never a single goal, but a series of steps and accomplishments that will move you toward achieving the Long-Term Goal.

Here is a synopsis of the Intermediate-Term Goals for Word of Life.

- a.** Move the church to a more permanent location. This needs to happen on the short side of the intermediate goal range of time. We can't take 20 years to do this. This goal will also be included in the short-term goals. The reason is that I am believing it will happen sooner rather than later.

- b.** Develop the facility and land into a genuine family and regional center. It needs to house several types of ministries to truly minister to the individual, family, and community.

- c.** Institute a more All-Inclusive approach to reaching this area and the region. Even though some of the things listed are a Long-Term Goal, they

need to be part of the Intermediate Plan and Goals. They may not be fully realized, but there can be movement in each area.

- Busing.
- Conferences.
- Day-care, Pre-school, and School.
- Internet, Live-Streaming, Etc.
- Out-Region Conferences.
- Church Planting.
- Interim and Shelter Housing.
- Half-way Housing.
- Sending out and Funding of Ministers. (Pastors, Missionaries, Etc.)
 - d.** Grow in the Anointing and Power of the Holy Spirit as individuals, and a body. There is a specific focus to this: it is part of becoming a resource center to not only the community, but the region. We need to have a move and flow of the Spirit here that becomes known as a place you can go and get answers.
- 4.** The Short-Term Goals will be from 1-2 years in length. (They might go up to 3 years) They are by design very transient. We will find ourselves adjusting them often. The reason is we see through a glass darkly and only see in part. (I Cor. 13:12) We do not see everything or know everything clearly. So we do our best to set the course and take the steps needed to get to our goal. But we make mistakes. We make bad decisions. We over-estimate and under-estimate situations and challenges. We must remain nimble on our feet to make adjustments as they are needed to accomplish the intermediate goals.

Short-Term Goals are probably the most important of the three in producing results and movement. The progress of Short-Term Goals should be very readily seen and tangible. It's the little things we do on a daily/weekly consistent basis that will produce huge results over time. If we are not moving forward DAILY, We Are Not Moving Forward. Short-Term Goals are the most recognizable 'DOING' and 'ACCOMPLISHING' portion of the three realms of goals. That's why if we don't keep our eye on the other two longer-term goal realms, we can be deceived. Because the short-term goal results are readily and easily seen. But they must convert into long-term progress!!!

Again, many if not most of the things the Lord has told us in the 'Assignment and Mandate' portion, the 'Opening the Scroll' portion, as well as the 'Core-Values' portion of our Vision will apply to this realm of goal-setting also. So please refer to all of them to help clarify our Short-Term Goals.

- a.** Our Short Term Goals can be summed up in a brief statement:
"Minister to the Immediate needs of the People".

That's one of the reasons the short term goals are so transitional. The needs of the people are ever changing from God's perspective. He will emphasize different aspects of his character, purposes, etc. Depending on what is surfacing in the congregation, the community, region, nation, or even the world scene — God will adjust the focus and emphasis to address these things. But like it says above, the first thing he will always look after are the needs of his bride, his faithful ones.

b. What other Short-Term Goals does Word of Life have?

Because this is so transitional, and I don't want to have to reprint this portion of this book every year — I will leave a blank space here where we can write them in as we go over this section.

B. 'Opening of the Scroll'.

Below are listed portions of various 'Prophecies', 'Words', and 'Direction' the Lord has given to Word of Life. Obviously if God is telling us something, it must have to do with the 'Purpose' he's trying to accomplish in our lives. So being able to 'See' what God is saying and having it 'Revealed' to us is paramount. It is part of the 'Vision'.

In the points listed below, you will find all three types of goals represented. (Short, Intermediate, and Long-Term)

We refer to it as 'Lines of the Scroll' or the 'Opening of the Scroll' because of what the Lord said to us in a prophecy. Here is the portion of that prophecy which we are quoting.

"And the place where I am taking you which will unfold before you as a scroll and it will open and you will begin reading from the bottom to the top, you will begin reading line by line and it will grow, and intensify and become closer to the height of completion as you read it up. And what I am showing you is not about you, it's for you. You will be blessed and benefit and reap from it, it's for you, but it is not about you. There is an eternal purpose that my father has planned, and you are part of it. And my father's eternal purpose will prevail. I say it again. I will oversee, that my father's eternal purpose prevails. I have chosen and hand picked you to be part of this last days." (10/16/2005)

In this book, we are trying to at least touch some of the core points that the Lord has given to us over the years. Many of them are in the Prophecies given at Word of Life. (For the full prophecy, please feel free to visit the website) However, there are many things that have been told to us aside from the prophecies. We have tried to record the most important ones here.

Lines of the Scroll: (Information for the journey)

(1) January 2004 — Angel spoke to Mary.

- "This is the year of the Joseph's Anointing"
- It was the Anointing that moved us to MN. It is the Anointing and Pattern that will continue to operate in the church in MN.

(2) Prophecy — 10/16/05. The place where God is taking us will unfold like a scroll. From the bottom to the top.

- You will be called by a new name — Salvation.
- Word of Life is for the generations. (Previous and Succeeding)
- We are being taken to an area where we will push into the realms of the spirit.
- Handle the supernatural with care and respect.
- The gates and doors to the realms of the spirit that have been closed for centuries are being opened.
- Stepping into these realms will be a distinguishing factor that separates the bride from the earthly realms.
- Press into me and come close to me and I will make supernatural connections and opportunities. It will not be you, but I will do it through you.
- Guard pride, or you will start all over.

(3) April 26, 2006. The Lord gave this scripture to me.

“As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet. 2:4-5 — NIV

Then he told me: “He (God) is in the process of re-shuffling his bride. He is gathering her together via pulling her out and away from being scattered. He will bring together and organize and unite her for the revival that is coming. This is why so many are exiting the established church. They are sensing the stirring (that is) moving in their spirits for more and are seeking/being led out. The home church is just the next step for them. It’s part of the transition of where he wants to take them.”

(4) May 14, 2006 (Prophecy) Many are not ready for the great and awesome things that are before us. We have disqualified ourselves on the basis of religion, and what other people have spoken into our lives about us. He is looking for a bride who doesn’t just act like she’s in love with him. He’s looking for a bride who IS in love with him. The Lord said, Learn to come and ‘Reason with Me’ about the things that cause you turmoil, make you feel disqualified, or hold you back.

(5) May 21, 2006 (Prophecy) — Learn to stand under Jesus, and then you will understand.

(6) September 6, 2006 (Prophecy) Praise and Worship opens the doors and gates. It causes the way we are to go — to present itself. Our imagination and fascination is to be on Jesus, not the world. When my people don’t praise and worship, they stumble, they fall, they become exhausted, they sit down and there is no forward, no advancement, no movement. Praise and worship opens gates, it lays out paths, it makes roads smooth, it will call into being when there is no place to go. It will lay the road before you.

(7) December 24, 2006. The Holy Spirit said: “This year the Glory will come. I’m so excited, what you have waited for will come”.

(8) (10/14/06) How can people who know so much be going so far off? What is happening is the Hand of the Lord is moving in this nation for a last days revival. With it comes Blessing and Judgment. The people who are holding on to things in their lives that are sin/disobedience are being judged. The result of that is a hardening of their heart. (Taking them into religion and tradition)

The Key: take care of the little things or they will mess up the big picture. “Faithful in little things will be put over many cities.” Jesus said it’s the seeds in our lives that grow into big things. “Little foxes spoil the vines”.

Tell the people the basics of scripture and why. ‘Do not train them to respond to the spectacular explanations. They need to do it because it’s right. The spectacular is shown to those who obey because it’s right.’

(9) Emphasis for 2007 and the future of Word of Life:

- Call the Blessing.
- Pray the Fear of the Lord would rest and manifest.
- Pray for the Hovering and Brooding of the Spirit.
- Pray the Hand of the Lord would move.

(10) January 10, 2007 (Prophecy — Jim Isakson) “I call forth servant workers from near and far. I call forth the hungry hearts. Come here for the restoration that I have planned. The restoration that I have planned needs your help. For I am reclaiming my people for a new task and a new vision.”

(11) January 27, 2007 (Afternoon)

- The Holy Spirit asked: “Would you raise Arianna if you knew it would keep her out of hell”?
- The Holy Spirit said: “This is your seed for revival. Are you willing to die to yourself (Luke 14:25-35) for one soul? This is the turning point of your ministry. What you choose here will determine if you’ll be in that revival.”

(12) January 28, 2007 (7:15 AM)

- Jesus said: “You must take care of this one if you are going to be given more. There are great things in front of you. Great things demand great sacrifice”.

(13) January 28, 2007 (During the morning service) Bob Jones on his video said: What’s “getting ready to take place is being sowed now by the remnant seed. Those who’ve been faithful to Christ and looked towards him, and still believe. There’s been a death take place in their life and an impartation of righteousness, where they become like that seed that’s been planted on the other side of the cross. There’s 2 sides to the cross. One is to die, but the other side is the spirit of holiness, to where we become like a seed and what we raise up will become like that — a holy seed. It’ll have resurrection power in it and will be able to minister out of that, to how many comes to us. There’ll be a multiplication of the seed.” “Now he’s

speaking to the over 50's. (I was 50 years, 1 month, and 22 days) They must come in now and oversee it, protect it, get behind it, never in front of it. Finance it, motivate it, direct it. Get a vision that your life don't end at 50. It begins. Holy Spirit is waiting for the Joshua's to get into place. Old men leading a younger generation."

7:02 PM — "As you've done it unto one of the least of these, you've done it unto me."

(14) May, 2007. "You need to believe for Eric to come on staff. You're trying to reach that generation and you don't even have anyone on staff of that generation."

(15) June 3, 2007 (Prophecy) "It's time to refocus. It's time to refocus. The baby boomer generation was groomed to be selfish to try to prevent and stop the revival and the move of my Spirit that is coming. This day it's time to refocus. Goals, and plans, and dreams, the path for the remainder of your time on earth, your future, I call you to refocus and start learning, start asking my Spirit, start asking of me to retrain you and re-teach you to make decisions on the basis of it's not me, it's the generation behind me. Refocus my people, refocus. For the harvest will be so great and it will be so overwhelming in the areas of need, that I will need those who are fathers and mothers in the faith, who are established in their spiritual life. They have matured and grown and become people who know how to face down the needs of this Earth, the lack and the curse of the demonic kingdom of this Earth. They will know how to meet it eye to eye and not flinch, because they've learned to live in it (faith & spiritual life), they've learned to flow in it, it's operated in their life. They will need to be in position for this harvest to be brought in and not lost because with this harvest there will be demonic like this Earth has never seen. There will be broken, and torn, and twisted and maimed minds and emotions as this Earth has never seen.

People who will need literally their physical brain re-made to be able to get up and be a disciple of mine. But, oh, I have good news. When I hung on the cross, I saw this day. I saw the days, and the months and the years coming. And when I told my father, "it is finished", in my heart, I knew everything that was needed to save this Earth had been secured and the path, the opening, the spiritual gate and flow to my people to give them anything and everything they needed to overcome and to see those that are brought into the kingdom healed, and delivered, and set free, and restored, and recreated and re made to see whatever is necessary to form and make a disciple.

I speak to you now in this time for the harvest and the revival that is coming. You are entering into a day which will demand more than you are capable of giving. That is why I gave you my Spirit. You are entering into a time that will demand more than you are able to minister. That is why I gave you of my anointing. You are entering into a day that will be very, very, very supernatural. I repeat that. I don't want you to miss it. You are entering into an age, into a time, into a phase of this Earth's history that will be very, very, very supernatural. If there is one thing that I could request that you go after with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, to mature and develop in you so that it can be planted in this coming generation, is the wisdom of my Father in all areas. In the realms of the spirit, in the realms of the physical and

all, all sub categories that you would categorize in your mind underneath those realms.

Though you have to abandon and let go of everything else, seek wisdom, seek understanding. Find what I do, and learn how to do it like me. That is wisdom. Find what I do. And learn how to do it like me, as I said in my word be an imitator of me. That is wisdom. The example I set you need to follow. I did nothing except what the father showed me and as he worked, I worked. Find what I do and the way I do it and imitate me. Hone that, discipline yourself in that and hand that on to this next generation. You have seen nothing yet. I will manifest myself on this Earth, and I will display the splendor and the glory of my realm and every, every, every living human being will know who is God. And I grieve to think not everyone will choose me, but they will know who is God. I have invited you, I have invited you to be part of that splendor and of that glory. It is time to refocus. It's not going to be what I can do in your life that is going to become the dominating focus of your future, it's going to be what I can do in those following you."

(16) September 9, 2007 (Prophecy) "I have chosen you. I have chosen to work through you. I have chosen those who are longing for me, who are willing to lay down their life, who are willing to lay down their desires, who are willing to lay down their flesh, that calls out so loudly, to follow after me. And I am longing my people, I am longing my people to pour out the revival upon you. So I stand before you and I say choose, I stand before you and I say choose. So I say it again.

It is time to refocus. My people I say choose it is time to refocus and to grow and to mature and to become more like me. This life is bigger than your desires, than your opinions, than your plans, than what you want. This life is bigger than what you like to hear or what you don't like to hear, what you like to do, what you'd rather not do, this life is bigger than you.

But now I call — grow and mature and release the childish thinking. Step up to a more mature love where it causes change in you, it causes change in your life, it causes you to refocus, it causes you to pay attention to those around you, and it causes you to be willing to make sacrifices of yourself and your time and your thinking and your plans to be of assistance to them rather than thinking all of life is here to assist you. This church is not here to assist the mature. This church is here for a place for the mature to minister through and assist those who are sick and weak and dying and immature and lost. I call you to refocus again. I call you to refocus again. It's not about what this church or this community or this God can do for me, it needs to become what can I do for this church, this community and my God. You call out for revival and I hear you. And I believe your call is sincere and it's real and it's true. However, it is not dropping into your heart and changing your choices and your decisions and your behaviors. Behold I stand before you and I say choose. I hear your lip service, but I am looking for it to come from the heart.

There is only one thing standing between you and the move of the spirit that you're asking for. That one thing is the sincerity of your heart. The time for the moving of my spirit has come. The momentum, the power builds and begins to flow as the storm in the summer begins to brew on the horizon. The time for rain has come.

And there are so many of my people who with their lips say they want to be part of that, but their heart is not close to me. They persist in their old habits, they persist in their old mind sets, they persist in their old motivations, they persist in life without change. With all the love and with all the concern and with all the compassion of my heart I say to you: you're not ready for revival. So I stand before you and I say behold, choose, choose who will be God. Are you going to be God of your life? Or am I? Will you be the one who runs your life? Or are you diligently seeking my face? My people keep calling out for revival. You're living in a dry and arid, a dessert and thirsty land. Keep calling but then choose to conform your heart to what you are saying. My people make the choice and follow through. Truly become my disciple."

(17) November 14, 2007 (Prophecy) "I am calling for a dividing, on this earth. I am calling for a dividing of the true worshippers to be divided out. This will be done, through worship. This dividing will take place, through worship. The move of my spirit on this earth, is joined to and married with, true praise and worship."

(18) November 23, 2007 (9:50 PM) Jesus said: "The revival has begun. You will see what I will do for your sacrifice." He quoted John 15:13 and keyed on the word "Life" (Psuche). He said: "You did it for people you don't even know — who are not even your friends. One life for many. Look at what I did (how many were affected) by one life."

(19) June 3, 2008 — "You are going to be a Regional Church. You will pull people from the Region."

(20) June 15, 2008 — Father's day weekend. Our first true Revival Outbreak at the church.

(21) June 30, 2007 (Dream — Felecia Frey) — Jehovah is coming. A visitation of the Father is coming to this earth. He wants to meet the pope. The pope represented the next generation.

(22) Summerfest — 2008. (7/13/08) "Don't despise the wind. This weekend I have given you a living picture of what I'm doing and going to do. People are caught in hot, desperate, to the point it's difficult to breathe type of situations. I will hit them like a violent storm/wind. (Isa. 54:2-3 — 1986-87) (Prophecy of 9/9/07 — Page 4 — Bottom) I will break into their enclosures. They will try to hold me out but I will break in. I will shake them and the rain will fall. I'll drench them. They will be soaked. And I will blow on them, and I'll blow and I'll continue to blow. Just like the wind this weekend. I'm showing you what I'm doing and about to do. Don't despise the wind."

It was the third day of the wind. '3' — "Solid, real, substantial, complete, entire, to conform"

(23) August 2-10, 2008. Break-Through meetings at Word of Life.

(24) August 5, 2008 (Prophecy) "This night I have asked Jesus the Christ if I could speak freely and share of My heart with you. Which He and I are One, it is a reflection of His heart also, but He's granted Me the freedom to articulate what We crave for you and for this world. Let Me share My heart with you, and let Me start by

saying: I am so excited! I am so filled with anticipation! I am so overjoyed! Ecstatic! For you are learning to follow Me. So many, so many, so many never learn! They never learn to follow me. But you're pushing into Me. You're learning to get in step with Me. You're becoming sensitive to Me and I am so excited! Father, they are following! Father thank you for this day! They are following me! Now I say to you our people, and what I'm about to say do not take lightly, do not take lightly. There is a war that is set in place and is raging and is intensifying...and it's after the children. The enemy is out to destroy the next generations.

This earth is needing a display of the raw Power of my Father and I wield that Power through you! Do not be satisfied, do not be content for the way it used to work. Because it won't work that way anymore. We are living in a time where wickedness is increasing, but I have good news for you! Where wickedness abounds, My Grace, My favor also abounds and the standard is raised! But with the raising of the standard, new! New! New comes! I need a people who are willing to wield the raw, invincible, unconquerable, unfading power of Almighty God. It will bring this generation in, it will give hope where there was no hope! It will bring life where death seems to rule and reign! It will resurrect from the dead. Seek the Christ and His Anointing. Seek the gifts that are available. Seek the Lord's will and submit to it with everything within you.

You have stepped across the thresh-hold. Now keep walking. Learn to get in step with me to where it becomes unconscious event. And as My Power and My Anointing is allowed to flow, I will renovate your life. I will renovate your family. I will renovate this church. I will renovate this community. I will renovate this region. And I will renovate on into this nation and around this world through you. Do not belittle what you have been created to be. Do not think less of who and what my father has designed you to be. You carry an important position in these days. And literally life and death for this community and much of this region is in the hands of a few and you are part of that few.

I speak to the generations: I want to live and move and speak and literally breathe through you. That's why I'm in you. That's why I'm on you. I accomplished more in a few of your minutes last night than men can accomplish in a lifetime and change. The raw Power of the Almighty God is here for you and I am excited! I am excited! I am excited! I say it again, I have found a people who will follow me! And I am excited! Oh Father I am excited! I have found a people! There is life! There is hope! This area will change! This area will change! This area will change! This area will change! Glory be to the God most high!"

(25) I had been asking why the movement of the Spirit was happening in Bursts, and then it would settle back down again. He said: "This is Reproducible" (8/12/08)

(26) August 21, 2008 — We purchase 35 acres of land. (The other 5 acres is in waiting)

(27) December 14, 2008

A vision by one of the Covenant Partners. It revealed the 4 giant Angels that have been placed on the property to spiritually protect and guard the church. Also that

there was an opening into the heavens above the church. Also guarded by 4 angels. They would open and close the opening in conjunction to our worship. As we worship a gold liquid drips like honey down through the opening above the church. (Compare to John Paul Jackson video “The Perfect Storm” which was shown at Word of Life on December 27, 2009) The greater the worship, the larger the opening grows, and the more golden liquid (The Glory) drips.

Statement was also made: “Ignorance and Unbelief are the catalysts for failure”.

(28) January 3-25, 2009 — The first ‘Open Heaven’ meetings at Word of Life. We established an ‘Open Heaven’ over the church.

(29) Spring, 2009 — Unity in Word of Life was stressed very strongly by the Spirit.

(30) March 28, 2009 (A Word) The Lord asks our permission to deal with the flooding in the Red River Valley in a specific manner. He is showing us our position of ruling and reigning the region. We are to start thinking like we are over this region.

(31) April, 2009 — The Lord tells us to go and set the boundaries for the region.

(32) May 16, 2009 (Prophecy) “Remember. Remember, I have told you over and over that what I’m about to do in this earth is about the generations. Let me restate, this isn’t about you. You’ve already come, it’s no longer about you. (It’s about the lost, starving, dying, etc.) I told you that more work would be done in the spirit realm than in the physical realm because the physical realm merely responds to what is taking place in the spirit realm. This is why my enemy endeavors to completely shut and close the spirit realm of this world to my influence. Because if he can close the heavens so that my people cannot access me, what goes on in the spirit realm will eventually appear in the physical.

The transferring of anointing and the gift of vision that was given to some and imparted on some a few days ago is a primary tool that I will use to work in the realms of the spirit. To truly occupy and fill and call what I’ve asked you to do, you will need to learn to step into the realms of the spirit. I am building something and what I am calling and what my intention is in this group of people in this body — I am building something that will span decades and generations should my coming tarry. I am building something that will remain. The harvest is great and the laborers are few. A baby is not placed in an empty, half-built building and expected to live and mature and grow. The time is too short to keep rebuilding. I am determined to lay the foundation of my people, the stones of my church for this area in a way that they will reproduce themselves so that year after year, decade after decade, generation after generation, it never needs rebuilding. The Anointing and the Gift of Vision which has been released and will be released over and over, (there will be times it will be released and no one has laid a hand because it is part of the Anointing that this ministry flows in), this Anointing, this tool will be used greatly for those of you who follow Me with abandonment and learn to step into the realms of my Kingdom into the realms of the Spirit for I will show you things that you would physically not see. I will give you insight into cities, into people, into governments, into injustices that have been done that bind up areas and tribes. I will show you. You will see it like you were standing there. No matter how far away

it is. There will be times some of you will stand there and I will use what my Word speaks of and supernaturally take you to the place and let you see what you need to see. I am calling you to the halls the corridors of victory. I am calling you to the halls and the corridors of victory that lead to my dwelling place. I know no defeat. Let that get into your spirit. I am above all, I am over all, I rule over all, I have come out of death, hell and the grave victorious. Sin has no hold on me. I know no defeat. I called you and welcome you into an arena that will change this part of my world. (breathy whew) The excitement. The anticipation. The joy. Remember I told you My servants, as you would refer to as angels, my servants have been given the keys to unlock the doors and the gates of areas that have been held shut for millennia. That has already begun. But I did not give this world to my heavenly servants to rule. I gave it to the physical human race to rule. And I added onto that when I came and walked this earth and died and rose from the dead, I added onto that physical rulership, what was given from the beginning, I added onto that the fact that I saw the devil fall from heaven as lightning. He is under your foot and his realm, his domain is under your jurisdiction. You have been given authority to tread on serpents and scorpions and have power over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you. So I've given you authority not only to rule in the physical I've given you authority to rule over the realm of the spiritual that is opposed to me. So rise up in what you've been granted.

(Pastor Vern) I will just stop right here and try to describe to you the picture I am seeing. It's a wide wide hallway, corridor that goes up. It's white, kind of a pearl white with totally gold accents and trim. Everything that is trimmed or accented is gold. It goes up, I don't know how far, I can't tell that, but then it levels out and as you come up into that area there are branches of hallways or corridors that lead off of that spot where it levels out. It opens up into like an atrium and off of that, and it only goes 180 degrees, it goes directly from, as I see it, the West directly to the East and it wraps all the way around it 180 degrees, it fills the North. And the hallways, the atrium, the corridors, the places it goes are all empty. So I go back and let him continue to speak.

(Return to prophecy) The Spirit realm of this world was never designed or intended to be ruled by Satan. And the only reason he has the jurisdiction and the sway and the influence that he has now is because my people have not stepped into their positions. So let me share something with you. When this world stands before me and is judged I will not blame the sinner, the unrighteous, the unbeliever, the unsaved for the direction this world went. It is not within their power to change it. They are only responding to and following their God. But I will look at my people because with great authority comes great responsibility. I will look at my people and I will ask you this question. Why did you let it go that way when it was within your power to change it? Fill my realm with the authority that has been given to you to rule over every demon, every ruler, every principality, every power; bringing to nothing every curse, every sin of the fathers, every generational hex. Step into what I've granted you and let's begin revealing who I am to this world. Walk with me as a Bride. Walk beside me as a chosen one. Don't let me stand here alone trying to change this world when I've given all the authority to those who follow me and they do nothing with it. Step up as my bride. Step into the splendor. Step into the glory.

Pursue me with abandonment and before you're done and your lineage is finished on this earth we will change this area. You will learn by my Spirit; you will see things in my Word that you've never seen before. It's plain, it's there, but you've never seen it before. I will show it to you. There will be those of you I will call out, I will segregate out, I will separate out and you will be the ones who will flow in this. It demands faithfulness. It demands perseverance. It demands Holiness.

I am hand-picking and hand appointing those who are going to be put into this building and it's not just for them. It's for those who follow them. This calls for maturity and growth. This flies in the face of the spirit of this age. But it is necessary to rescue the generations to come. For the quality and characteristic and attribute of faithfulness is quickly fading from this land. This must be taught to the generations or it will be lost."

(This is a key prophecy that needs to stay in our minds)

(33) May 20-22, 2009 — The main Regional Trip to establish the boundaries for the region.

(34) July 2, 2009 — "Give \$1,000.00 to Jason and Anna. Begin to support them on a monthly basis. As long as you help take care of them, the finances for your staff will be taken care of."

(35) July 26, 2009 — Revelation of Kings and Priests to Word of Life.

(36) July 27-29, 2009 — The 2nd Regional Trip to establish the boundaries for the region.

- Monday, (27th) — Meeting with Koochching County Jail. (Offer — Jail Ministry)
- Wednesday, (29th) — Traveling across Ontario the Lord said:

"The time is coming soon that you will use the internet to reach these peoples."

(37) Late Summer, 2009 — Offer to introduce C.O.R.E. Programs into Northeastern MN jails.

(38) October 18, 2009 Today is a shift in Focus. "Deal with Pride so his Glory can manifest. Stop siphoning off the Glory he gives. Give ALL the glory back to God. Not being humble blocks the Grace. (James 4:6) Everything — including the Glory — comes by Grace. The salvation of others comes by my grace."

(39) January, 2010 — Seeking The Glory Mtgs. They gave us huge direction in a number of areas. Four of the most important were:

- (1) Permanent Change. God wants the changes he makes in us to be permanent.
- (2) To truly give Glory to God, it must be about the Lost. We must learn to truly love them, and prepare for them. He asked us the question: Why don't you love the lost?
- (3) In preparation for the next revival, God is asking: "Where will I put the Babies?" (Word given to Jim Isakson) (Emphasis switched on: 1/24/10)
- (4) It's time to put up the new building. (1/29/10)

- The proclamation of the 9, PLUS 2. Eleven different people had visions, dreams, words from the Lord saying if we are going to catch the beginning of the next harvest, we must build our new church building. (See: Specific Direction for Word of Life — 1/29/10)

(40) January 14, 2010 (Prophecy) “ I want to reveal great secrets of wisdom to you. (I Cor. 2:7) Open your hearts to hear. Open your eyes to see. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. One of the major characteristics of the fallen flesh is to look back — not forward. It dwells on the fact that life is not the same as it was before. It’s not the same as it was last year, or 5 years ago. Somehow it’s not as good as it was before. The flesh looks backward in time.

This is one of the main reasons why my people do not mature. They are looking back to what was and not forward to what will be. It is one of the main reasons why my people do not walk in faith. They are looking back to what was and not forward to what will be. Adults long for the childhood or teen years. Older adults are wanting life to be as it was in their early adulthood. THIS IS NOT OF MY FATHER.”

(The Prophecy goes on to explain more of growing in maturity)

(41) March 20, 2010 (Prophecy from Destaye Crawford)

“I see you nine months pregnant. I see the stretch marks. You cannot get stretched much further. It’s time for the baby to be born; for Revival to begin. You ask me how. How will this be done? And here will come forth the David’s. The least expected ones. The ones that others will say: go home to your father. David just came to serve. He came on command. He came to bring bread. David remembered what God had already done for him with the Lion and the Bear. Remember what God has done for you and that same Glory will come on you and more. Remember, you are the least expected. You will take a rock to the head of the enemy and he will fall. And here comes the Kings. Here comes the Kings.”

(42) July 15, 2010 — Destaye Crawford. “From Abraham forward, God always gave his people a land. Value the Land. Never give up or sell the land like Esau did to the Blessing. She saw the land as a Fair. A Place of Worship. A Place to Play. A Safe Place for the future children.”

(43) January, 2011 — Open-Heaven Meetings.

1/7-9/11 — Randy Mitchell. Summary of what God was telling us. He dealt with the question from the previous year’s meetings: “Why don’t you really care about the lost?” The answer is below:

- (1) It all goes back to the 1st and 2nd commandments. (Matt. 22:37-40)
- (2) To Grow in our Love Relationship with Jesus,
- (3) We must culture our daily, dynamic relationship with him,
- (4) As we grow in that Love, we will begin to Really care about the unsaved. (wife, family)

(5) The lack of true Love and Honest Caring about the Lost, (spouse, family, etc.) is only the reflection, evidence, thermometer of how much we Really Care about and Love God.

(6) Sloppy, Half-hearted Discipleship will not produce a Love for the Lost.

(7) Discipleship in us is paramount to growing in our Love Relationship with Jesus,

(8) And Honestly, Truly being Moved by the fate of Unbelievers. (spouse, family, etc.)

To be a disciple, we will have to relinquish every claim we have to our life. Jesus didn't die for sin, he died for People. Sin was just a problem he needed to get out of the way.

We are limited by only one thing — how much we Love him and his creation. Expanded Authority, Power, Impact, Destiny, Etc. comes with Expanded Love.

WE ARE COMMISSIONED TO GROW IN LOVE FOR THE LOST, STARVING, DYING, HURT, DAMAGED, REBELLIOUS, ETC.

(44) 1/21-23/11 — Bruce Van Natta.

(1) It's not a power thing. It's a Love thing that releases the power. (Bruce Van Natta)

(2) We're not to be Power or Glory Seekers. The baseline motivation for wanting to see God move in people's lives, must revolve around Love for those people.

C. The Establishing of the Vision.

STARTED CHURCH IN HOME

(June, 2004)

(Word of Life is Affiliated with 'The Association of Faith Churches and Ministers' — AFCM

— Pastor Vern affiliated since 1984 — Jim Kaseman is the President of AFCM)

STARTER CHURCH (Moved Into: 9/24/05 — Outgrew house — Fire Codes)

'Sonrays Nursery'

'Ignite'

'Women of Splendor'

'Fusion'

'Media Dept.'

'Men's Group'

LAND

Purchased 35 Acres: August 21, 2008

FIRST PHASE OF BUILDING

Additional Phases: As Needed

Goal: Limited Debt — 10% of Income for Mortgage Payments

Never to exceed 25% of Income

ULTIMATE VISION — ‘Building of People’

- Wellness Center
- Half-Way Houses
- Mentoring/Maturity Programs
- School
- Substance Abuse Recovery
- Divorce Recovery & Re-orientation
- Abuse Recovery
- Day-Care
- Pre-School
- Multi-purpose Gym/Concert Hall/Youth Center
- Auto Garage
- Handy-man/Repair Min.
- Regional Center and Ministry
- Busing
- Local and Regional Conferences
- Internet, Live-Streaming, Etc.
- Out-Region Conferences
- Church Planting
- Interim and Shelter Housing
- Food Distribution Center
- Sending out of Ministers. (Pastors, Missionaries, Etc.)

D. What are our next steps?

1. Our Short Term Goals can be summed up in a brief statement:

“Minister to the Immediate needs of the People”.

That’s why it’s necessary to keep aligning the short term goals with the intermediate and long-term goals. Short term ministry is always in a state of flux. It changes with the immediate needs of the congregation and community. If short-term goals are not held accountable with the longer goals, we will find ourselves continually changing our focus and thrust. Ultimately chasing our tails and going in circles.

2. Intermediate Goals.

Since the Primary Goal must always remain people. As we move through the phases of establishing and growing the ministries, we must always calculate for ministry to people to be the first objective. This will break out in three basic areas:

1. Personal Ministry via People.

a. Whether it be staff and/or volunteers, people must minister to people.

2. Ministry via media. (All forms available and profitable for promoting the Vision)

3. Ministry via Tools, Equipment, and Facilities.

E. Financial Budget.

1. Ministries demand funding. Financial budgets break down into 3 general categories.

a) People

b) Equipment and Supplies

c) Facility

2. The first priority is person-to-person ministry. You can have the nicest equipment and facilities in the world, but if you don't have God Called, Anointed, People doing the work of the ministry — the physical assets will have little Kingdom Value. However, if the Person-to-Person Ministry is kept strong, the Equipment and Facilities will manifest.

3. To do that correctly, we must always have:

a) Lay-People Involvement.

b) Workers, Leaders, and Staff.

c) Additional ministry times and settings as needed. (Services, Classes, Etc.)

4. Our approach is a conservative one. What does that mean?

a. We will always try to not take big risks with God's resources.

b. If there is a cheaper way to accomplish the same end with excellence, unless directed by the Lord otherwise, that's the route we'll take.

5. I'm not into setting up shrines. (Extravagance and Pride)

6. Nor am I into setting up junk. (spirit of Poverty)

7. The cheapest way is usually not the best. However, the most expensive way doesn't ensure quality either.

8. We must present a ministry, facility, staff, and equipment — of quality. We won't compromise these to do something cheaper.

9. It must represent the Kingdom. God is not in poverty and neither are we. But the best is to draw people to Jesus — not hindered by physical inadequacies, nor propelled by physical extravagance.

F. The Vision must be reduced to Dollars and Cents.

1. We live in a physical world. That must be reckoned into the Goals.

2. What is needed? What do we need to believe for? What means will God use to get the first increments of it to us?

3. What are our first goals? (Short-Term)

4. What steps will be needed, what mile-markers need to be reached (Intermediate Goals) before the end-product (Long-Term Goals) will begin to take shape?

G. Living within our Means — Yet Living by Faith.

There is a balance in running a church.

- To live totally by the budget numbers is to exclude faith.
- To live totally by faith with open disregard to the numbers is irresponsibility.

Budgets matter. But so does taking steps by faith.

We never want to jeopardize the big mission for a faith step. Nor do we ever want to jeopardize the big mission because of numerical restraints.

There must be fiscal responsibility that doesn't ever put the whole organization at risk financially. But there must also be 'faith pressure' to keep the organization moving forward toward the overall Long-Term Goals.

What Is Jesus Trying To Do With Word of Life?

He is wanting to Build a Last-Days 'BRIDE' Church!!!

A 'BRIDE' Church is a group of people who are no longer playing relationship games. They are sold-out in a Covenant type of relationship with their Groom. Their highest concern is Fulfilling and Pleasing their Lover. Whatever He desires, they give. Whatever Displeases Him, they stop. This allows the Groom to pour his Splendor on his Bride to be. Creating her to be something that is separated from this world's system and ways; and set apart to be Holy to Himself.

Through Her, He Will Manifest Who He Is. She will take on his Character, Desires, Longings, Goals, and Plans. Literally changing into his very Image, with ever-increasing Splendor. (She will begin to look like him) What does he want us to look like? He said it himself: 'LOVE'.

The Church of Jesus Christ has been adrift in recent years. Because of that she is becoming more and more mired down in the ways of this world's system. In many ways she has become a spiritual whore, consumed with her needs and desires, and increasingly being conformed to the Sinfulness, and Selfishness, and Passions of the Last Days. She is finding herself living in the moral decay that she was warned against. Not standing apart as a Holy People of Character, Discipline, and Supernatural Power. The True Representative and Likeness of Jesus on this Earth.

Matt. 24:1-14, 36-51, 25:1-46; II Tim. 3:1-7, 4:3-4; Luke 18:1-8, 21:5-36; James 4:1-10, 5:1-6; II Thess. 2:3-12; I Pet. 1:5-15, 2:12, 4:7-5:11; I Tim. 4:1-5; II Pet. 3:3-15, 17-18

She could more accurately be described as a people who call themselves Christians, but willfully choose to live in Sin, Selfishness, and Complacency. Paul described the end result of her like this:

"Lovers of Sensual Pleasures and Vain Amusements more than and rather than Lovers of God. For although they hold a Form of Piety (True Religion), they Deny and Reject and are Strangers to the Power of it (their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession)." (II Tim. 3:4-5 — AMP.)

Paul goes on to say: "Avoid All Such People, Turn Away From Them". (v. 5) The first ones who we must look at to see who the "Such People" are — will be found in the mirror. We must avoid anything and everything that will turn us into "Such People".

Our Determination is To Be Found Pleasing To Him, and Never Be the "Such People" that Paul said need to be avoided.

Our Goal is to learn how to live beyond mediocrity in ALL areas of our lives. Our Praise and Worship, Giving, Prayer, and Messages are all focused to help us accomplish that end. Then to take this Understanding and pass it on to others, enabling them to 'Know How To' live a Victorious, Overcoming Christian Life.

Our call is to do everything we can to Answer the questions that go Unanswered. To give Hope, when all seems Lost. To Plant Courage, when Encouragement is

disappearing. To join with the person who Sincerely wants God at Any Cost. To Be and to Make Disciples.

‘This We Proclaim Concerning The Word of Life’