

# Introduction to the Vision

There is something very important in understanding the vision of any church. Oftentimes, we think of the vision as part of what helps facilitate the ministry. We tend to look at the different departments and ministry operations as part of the vision. For instance, if a church has a Christian School or Bible School the tendency is to think of that as the vision. Actually, these are mere tools used to carry out the vision. The vision is much deeper in nature than that.

To understand the true purpose of a church vision you have to look at the heart of ministry. And that begins with why the church exists. We know that Jesus Christ instituted the church to carry out his mission; to seek and to save that which is lost, to become instrumental in healing those damaged by sin, and to bring deliverance to those who are oppressed.

But beyond our labor with him in the Great Co-mission, we are to become his representatives in re-presenting Christ through our life, our love, and our devotion. There is nothing that brings a greater awareness of any church to its community than for its individual members to truly live the life that Jesus Christ came to give. This must become foremost in our thinking as the fundamental core to a church vision. We must build together as a community totally committed to the establishment of God's love.

In Revelation chapters two and three, the Lord spoke to the apostle John to write a letter to seven churches. Among those churches was the church of Ephesus. In this letter, he spoke of the importance of maintaining their first love. According to chapter two, verse four, he warns them saying, *"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."* This warning was so stern that if they failed to return to their first love the result would mean the removing of their candlestick: *"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent"* (Rev. 2:5).

There is much to consider about the candlestick, but let it suffice to say that the candlestick of the local church is the foundation from which the light of God shines forth into a community. That very foundation is the platform upon which a local church becomes the light bearer of the light giver. Jesus is the light of the world, and his light becomes alive in us through the power of relationship. That is why he warned the church of Ephesus that the removal of their witness as the light bearer was contingent upon maintaining their first love.

Again, referring back to this particular scripture, John said, *"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works..."* What could Jesus possibly be speaking of? What are the first works? I believe the first works have to do with our passion to serve the vision of God out of relationship and not duty.

Take for example two individuals who fall in love. One day they decide to marry. During their wedding ceremony they exchange vows of love and faithfulness to each other promising never to waver until *"death do us part."* But as days, weeks, even years pass by their passion wanes, and though they continue to work to build a life together, the love they once had slowly changes. Still married, and still carrying on their civic duties through making a living and maintaining a socially-accepted lifestyle, they let the distractions of life affect the core of their relationship. Something is now missing. The spark that drew them together is no longer

there. They love their home, they love what they have built together, they may even love their job, but individually their love is no longer passion driven.

Does this sound familiar? I believe this clearly typifies why Jesus gave such a stern warning. Without building a deep and abiding relationship with God our mission can become very mechanical. The church of Ephesus was commended for their faithfulness to work and labor, and though they were patient and would not bear evil, there was still something missing; ministry had become propelled by duty and sacrifice rather than by passion and vision.

How often do we find this today, where ministries have fallen into the same trap. The core values of the vision has turned from seeking a deeper, more intimate relationship with Christ to focusing on the materialistic tools of the ministry. Instead of church life staying focused on the spiritual burden of the Holy Spirit, it slowly becomes preoccupied with the civic duties of corporate business operations, church growth, facilitation, and organizational development. What started out with a passion gradually grows into a work-oriented enterprise.

It is very important that we don't make that same mistake. Even though Jesus did not criticize their work ethic nor fault them for their motivational skills, he was very disappointed in their lack of passion. It was upon this warning that the church, as busy as it had worked to do what seemed right, allowed themselves to be at risk of letting duty replace the true heart of ministry; therefore, letting slip from their grip the very thing that was to carry and propel the church to perform its mission—the vision of love.

## About the Vision

Habakkuk wrote, *“Write the vision and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it”* (Habakkuk 2:2). Whenever a God-called and truly appointed pastor begins building a foundation for a new work, the first thing that should motivate his vision is his burden to represent Jesus to others. There is a divine call to shepherd the sheep by precept and example. That call invariably starts with a divine passion to love people. His love for God and people are the core that steers his mission in Christ. It is not the size of a church. It is not the wealth of a church that determines its success. It is the effectual love and passion toward the lives of others that stands as the real issue. The vision that God gives in directing a pastor to build a community within a group of people is established by the underlying life force of spiritual ministry, the love of God.

The Lord told Habakkuk not only to write the vision, but to make it plain. Literally, the word “plain” means to make it clear and distinct; to explain it in detail. God has given us nine specific points to the vision of Faith Harvest Church. None of these are to be without the motivating passion and vision of love.

Once a vision is declared, it then becomes the burden of the people. The same calling that God puts in the pastor's heart is dropped into the heart of the church. This is how community is built. Those directed by the Lord to partner with the vision must stay focused on what carries and propels the very purpose of its existence.

It is a statistical fact that every church that has lost sight of its vision or its passion for the vision, inevitably has fallen into division. The one infamous tool of the enemy in wrecking havoc on any church is to cause relationships to suffer because the church has left her first love.

The vision is so important to keep before us that it is easy for folks to think the work is our mission, when in all reality relationship is our mission. Out of relationship comes passion, and out of passion comes commitment. And it is commitment that enables a church to fulfill its destiny.

Solomon once said, *"Where there is no vision the people perish"* (Proverbs 29:18). A literal translation could read, *"When the people are not focused as one on the vision, then they tend to run wild and unrestrained."* In other words, people can run back and forth trying to accomplish all kinds of ministry functions while never really carrying out the vision at all. It simply becomes a matter of religious works that has no eternal value to it.

Without a clear presentation of the vision the ministry will never reach its potential. It takes vision to build unity. And unity is necessary to build true ministry. If a church fails to provide a vision, it can leave the door open for the enemy to divide the church. Sometimes people (even unknowingly) can feel a church should go in a particular direction and push for their own agenda. If there is a written vision, then there is something in place that can help steer the course of the church and not leave it open for misinterpretations. If the vision is plain to read and to understand, then it becomes the rudder that guides the church. And when it maintains the heart of ministry, which is its passion, and allows faith to become the wind to her sail, then the candlestick will remain in his place and the glory and praise of God will be both manifested and recognized.

This booklet is all about the vision of Faith Harvest Church. If you are reading it as a newcomer to this ministry, I encourage you to take the time to pour over each page and ask the Holy Spirit to help you "catch" the vision. Find out how you can connect with the goals already set in place by the leadership. Remember, the anointing is always upon the will of God. When you find an area of ministry that stirs up the anointing of the Holy Spirit in you then take the time to seek the Lord by making yourself a true servant to that part of the vision.

*Pastor David Dunning*

## Understanding Our Mission

Faith Harvest Church, also known as Faith Harvest Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit, Word of Faith organization focused on carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ, which is to bear witness of the truth of his power and resurrection.

It began under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through several months of prayer seeking the plan of God. As Pastor David was asking the Lord about planting a new work, he heard the Holy Spirit on the inside tell him the church would be named Faith Harvest. This took place several months before it was clear that the location for this new work would be

Savannah, GA. What started growing in him was the vision that mushroomed out of this name, and came to be part of our slogan: **“Faith for the Harvest.”**

Our identity could best be described as a Full Gospel Word Church. We define ourselves as continuationists, meaning we believe that everything Jesus began to do was not only entrusted to the twelve apostles, but to every believer. In Mark sixteen, Jesus said, *“These signs shall follow them that believe...”* (Mark 16:17). Had he simply said, *“These signs shall follow just the apostles...”*, then we would have no hope of continuing the mission they began. It was necessary for them to tarry and wait for the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, so that they could conduct a supernatural ministry with power and authority. That necessity is still incumbent upon us today.

The same Holy Spirit that indwelt the early church indwells us. His mission has not changed. His power is still available to every believer. In fact, Paul describes how every church is to be built: *“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power”* (1 Cor. 2:4).

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). If our mission is to preach the same gospel that the early church preached, then it stands to reason that it must still possess the same power to heal, deliver, save, and set free today as it did at its inception.

Our goal is to build the Word of God into people so that faith will arise in their hearts so that they will come to experience a true harvest of God’s purpose and destiny for their lives. Jesus gave us the parable of the “sower and the seed” (Mark 4:14-19). His entire message had to do with God’s Word growing up in us until it produced a harvest. Our aim at FHC is to plant the Word, water the Word, and use our faith for God to give the increase (1 Cor. 3:6).

It is our conviction that in this great hour that we are living God desires to ignite the message of faith in every believer’s heart until it burns into a fiery passion for the harvest! Through the revelation of our redemptive rights there will arise a body of believers who unashamedly will reach into the vast domain of a Spirit-filled life and walk in a new level of empowerment. This company will take the message of faith and boldly proclaim the Word of God until the supernatural will be a common occurrence within the church.

We are in the wake of something new emerging all around us. The river of God is rising. Men and women all around the world are returning to their first love, and are becoming more and more passionate about their relationship with Jesus Christ. While it has been prophesied by Christ himself, concerning these last days, that *“iniquity would abound, and the love of many would wax cold”* (Matt. 24:12), we believe, here at Faith Harvest, our mission is clear. We will work and labor to keep our passion alive, and we will hold firm our faith in Christ without wavering until that day when we shall see him face to face at his blessed and glorious appearing. To God be all the glory both now and forevermore.

## Nine Principles To “THE VISION”

The name Faith Harvest implies the idea that we are a people who purpose to use our faith for the harvest, which brings us to the very first principle of our vision statement.

## **1. A Faith-Based Ministry.**

Faith is a principle in God's Word that is necessary for us to receive anything from the Lord. Romans 1:17 says, *"The just shall live by faith."* Faith must become more than a spiritual force we use from time to time. It has to become our way of life.

The book of Hebrews recognized faith as that which, *"...subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness made strong, waxed valiant in fight and turned to flight the armies of the aliens"* (Hebrews 11:33-34). Earlier in this same chapter it read, *"For without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God"* (Hebrews 11:6). The scripture tells us that *"whatsoever is not of faith is sin..."* (Romans 14:26). It says, *"Faith is the victory that overcometh the world"* (1 John 5:4). According to First Timothy 6:12, we are to, *"fight the good fight of faith."* And it also says, *"For by grace are ye saved THROUGH FAITH"* (Ephesians 2:8).

All of these verses show us the importance of faith. Especially Romans 4:17, which declares that faith, *"...calls those things which be not as though they were."*

It is part of our divine calling and purpose for being in this city to use our faith to believe for the rain of heaven to fall, and for revival to break out all over this whole region. By no means do we feel or think that we are the only ones that are to experience the move of God. But we do feel the burden and responsibility to use our faith to see such a move flow over this city so that every church can know and sense the fullness of the measure of God's end-time outpouring.

We refuse to glorify the works of the devil. Nor will we utilize our time to report on all the evil that exists in this city. Our faith is locked in on seeing a godly community that is constantly being changed from glory to glory. And we are speaking our faith over every aspect of leadership in this city that it is covered by the blood of Jesus until righteousness prevails and restoration is accomplished!

It is through faith that we stand complete in him and through him. We therefore, use our God-given rights in Christ to pray against the forces of evil and pull down the spiritual strongholds of darkness unlocking our city for a true move of God. This vision of faith compels us to labor for the souls of men and to reach out until the harvest is reaped and the threshing floors are full.

## **2. We are a River Church.**

That means we desire to flow with God as he directs our path. No hidden agendas. No perceived ideas of how to carry out the task at hand, But simply to yield to the Spirit of God as we step into the river - allowing him to carry us *"whithersoever he wills."*

God spoke to us from the very beginning and reminded us of two very key scriptures, one from the Book of Isaiah and the other out of the Book of Joshua. Reading from the Good New Bible it says, *"Do not cling to the events of the past or to the way you did things long ago. For I am doing a new thing...and I shall reveal a path that I want you to take which you have never been on before."* The path that he was referring to was one that will lead to revival. It is a path that only God can direct and teach us to walk on. Religion cannot walk on this path. The system of man cannot follow the course of this path. It is destined only for those who will abandon themselves to hide in the glory of the cross.

The only way a church can qualify as a "River Church" is the people have to be willing to bend with the path of God. One of the characteristics of water is that it flows in the path of least resistance. When water runs off the land during a heavy rain, it is forced to travel in

every direction. What may appear to be an exact course can change at any given moment! The accountability for change demands a sensitivity to flow with the current of heaven and not try to channel the move of God the way we think best fits our style. Orthodoxy is too ridged and confining. It does not adjust to change. Therefore, it must seek to control the river, which denies the Holy Spirit free access to chart any new paths for us to follow.

The will of God always carries the anointing. That is a rule of the Spirit. Everything we do must be accomplished through the anointing. Psalms 127:1 states, *“Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.”* The river contains the anointing. Jesus himself said, *“Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water”* (John 7:37). When the anointing is flowing, know that the river is present to bring life to whatever it touches (Ezekiel 47:9).

Because we carry the call of being a “River Church,” nothing matters like the anointing. If a program or function loses the anointing, then we know the river has changed directions and we must adjust to the change. We demand of ourselves to take hold of the unction of God and stay connected to the flow.

The leadership of this ministry demands of itself to remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit so that it can interpret the direction of the river which way it is running. If we fail to follow the river, we will slowly deteriorate into a form of godliness without the power to affect any change in people.

The amazing thing about being a “River Church” is that the move of God can bring change right in the middle of a church service. It doesn’t need to go through a board meeting to switch tracks or change from any standard form of order. When God moves we move. That is our criteria for change! Any church that desires to be a “River Church” knows it cannot dictate the move of God anymore than it can plan the way the wind will blow or decide which path a flood will take. If any leadership tries to control the unction of God it will find itself overwhelmed by the river. The signature of true godly leadership is that it feels safe letting the current of the river carry it wherever it leads. And when a church finds its safety in following the unction it will ALWAYS maintain life and divine order!

### **3. We are ruled by a Divine Mandate.**

Faith Harvest Church focuses on two very critical mandates: Love the people and meet the need. When we started this church the Lord said to our hearts, *“If you will love the people and focus on meeting the need, I will lead you to pastor revival.”* God’s heart is people. When you read the calling of God on the life of Jesus Christ (found in Luke 4:18-19), you know immediately that the heart of God is all about redemption. Redemption is meeting the needs of the people. We cannot meet those needs without the power of the Holy Spirit. And so consequently, just as Jesus himself was moved with compassion and healed....so we too seek to follow his example by loving the people and letting the power of that love bring restoration and healing wherever the need exists.

From the early days of our ministry (1979), we have found one thing that burns in our hearts more than any other thing. And that is to help lift the standard of life in people and to help to heal hurting humanity!

We must find every conceivable means available to love people and pour into them the Spirit of the Living God. God sees every individual as valuable and precious. And though many come with the hurts and pains of their past the Spirit of God is always seeking first, *“what can be done to bring redemption!”* We must be willing to help people through their difficulties; spiritually, emotionally, and physically. We must be consumed with a passion for

restoration...reconciliation...and redemption. This is the driving force that compelled the ministry of Christ, and it must be the same force that drives us!

#### **4. We are a Teaching Center.**

There is a deep compelling desire that motivates us to see people trained in the truth of God's Word. Not only to know truth, but be able to recognize the power of truth. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life*" (John 14:6). Truth is more than knowledge. It is a person. More specifically, it is the person of Christ. There is no higher truth than Jesus! When we come to know truth, we enter into a personal relationship with him. That is why Jesus himself said, "*And ye shall KNOW the truth and the truth shall set you free.*" True freedom is only found in the person of Jesus Christ, and that is the TRUTH of the gospel!

Truth leads us each day and enables us to recognize what is superficial from what is genuinely real. One translation of the Bible describes truth as "*reality.*" Everything outside of truth is lifeless in the sense of having any eternal value. It is our goal to bring people into the reality of truth, so that what they build their lives upon as a foundation will bring them into a personal, living and intimate relationship with Christ.

#### **5. We are a House of Worship.**

Faith Harvest Church is a place of intimacy. Our desire is to see people fall in love with Jesus. We seek to create an atmosphere of worship where people can meet God face to face. Where they can seek after him and know his voice for themselves. The heart cry of this ministry is that we decrease so that Jesus can increase. We want to see him lifted up, so that he might draw all men unto himself. Our worship is not entertainment...it is personal and intimate!

Though our music team seeks to play skillfully and sing with grace in their heart to the Lord, it is foremost in their minds that the "*anointing destroys the yoke,*" and that through the anointing people can find the Lord (Isaiah 10:27).

Though David was one who played skillfully with a loud noise, it was the anointing upon his life that drove away the evil spirits oppressing King Saul (Psalm 33:3; 1 Samuel 16:23).

Worship is more than a tool. It is a means to an end. That end is to find a peace and a "*joy unspeakable and full of glory*" (1 Peter 1:8).

#### **6. We are a Team Ministry.**

Faith Harvest Church is a place focused on the importance of recognizing the need for a corporate anointing. God has deposited his anointing in the body through the power of the Holy Spirit. Each part of that body carries a measure. With a vision for team ministry, we understand the need and relevancy of bringing together the individual measures into a corporate measure where "*one can chase a thousand, and two can put ten-thousand to flight*" (Deut. 32:30). By recognizing the ministry gifts within the body and pulling together those gifts for the sole purpose of bringing wholeness to every facet of ministry, it provides an opportunity for us to draw out of the treasures of heaven things that we cannot obtain any other way.

So much of the church world has left ministry to a chosen few, when hundreds sit dying, waiting for an opportunity to explore the gifts that have been graciously deposited within them by the Lord Jesus Christ himself! We will not be covetous of the call! We will not seek to monopolize the anointing! We are the embodiment of servants who understand that

everyone carries a divine purpose and destiny, even our children. Jesus stood in the temple and declared from the psalms, *"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast though ordained strength!"* David said, *"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity"* (Psalm 133:1) He went on to say, *"It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments"* (Psalm 133:2). If we do not let the anointing upon our lives flow down upon those under our leadership, how then can we bring others into what awaits them? More importantly, how can strength come from babes and sucklings, if they have no voice to be heard?

It is part of the ministry of Faith Harvest Church that as God speaks to us through his Word, and gives us direction, that the people will seek to connect to the Spirit of that Word until there is a definite increase. Revelation must be built upon revelation. Line upon line, here a little, there a little, until we frame the truth that God wants built into us and we become that true spiritual house. Ephesians 4:16 says it best: *"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*

Having a team ministry concept keeps us focused on a certain truth until it is absorbed into the whole body. We seek to glean every aspect of what God is saying to each other until the body is flowing in that truth and we, as a whole, are being changed from glory to glory.

## **7. We are a Place of Destiny.**

One of the things that God has made very clear to our hearts is that every person is here on this earth with a purpose and destiny. So often people sit in a church with a tremendous amount of energy to be used by God, but are never given the opportunity to explore what it is that God is doing in them. Paul stated, *"Though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers..."* (1 Corinthians 4:15). We have many that are being taught who need to become teachers. When folks are held back from developing their gifts, it leaves them helplessly frustrated with no avenue to give out what God has given them.

Here at Faith Harvest Church we believe that gifts have to be developed and that part of the harvest is not just in bringing the lost to Christ, but cultivating and reaping the gifts within the body.

It is so vital that every person realize the importance of covenant relationships and a commitment to corporate unity. People can and will make mistakes, but that is often what comes with the process of training others. When we confine people because we are afraid of any misuse of their gifts we restrict and stifle their development. We have to be willing to take risks to let people learn from their mistakes. Experience is a good teacher, but it is best served when godly mentoring is present to protect individuals from falling to hard when they do make poor choices.

In the same respect, we have to be willing to let ministry speak into our life and train us through instruction and correction if necessary, and do it without offense if we are all going to reach our destiny.

Learning where the anointing lies is vital to finding our destiny. The anointing teaches us all things (1 John 2:27). It can especially teach us where we are to walk and how we are to live our lives so that we are pleasing to the Lord.

## **8. We are a Prayer-Based Ministry.**

Prayer is the key to unlocking the kingdom of heaven. Jesus told Peter, *“And I will give unto you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth, will be loosed in heaven”* (Matthew 16:19). Knowing how to pray is a major part to carrying on kingdom business. In the Lord’s model prayer he said, *“Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven”* (Luke 11:2). Prayer releases the power of God so that the kingdom of God can be manifested in the earth. There is more accomplished through prayer than any other one thing that we can do. Prayer is a vital link in helping us walk in our destiny. It helps to stir up the gifts that lie within us.

When we understand the power of prayer, especially corporate prayer where the body prays together, then we take the limits off the church. Prayer can take the church beyond its physical capabilities into a realm of supernatural creative possibilities.

Prayer is the safeguard against the strategies of the enemy. It breaks down his deception and pulls back the curtain of his hidden schemes and ploys. It takes the church into a higher dimension of faith and victory. It releases a fresh anointing on the services. It carries the church through every storm and fortifies it during every trial.

Prayer has governing power. It can change the course of people’s lives and turn a potentially dangerous situation around without anyone ever knowing about it. It has the power to cover the church against error and it can and will expose every carnal heresy and self-willed agenda of man. It provides a means of watching over the saints as a spiritual covering and protects them against wolves who seek to devour the flock, who only want to lead them astray.

Prayer is like a lightning rod from heaven that attracts the move of God. It brings us face to face with the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit. Prayer is powerful, forceful and dynamic. Jesus said, *“Men ought always to pray and not to faint”* (Luke 18:1). Until prayer is first and foremost in our daily life, we will continue to fall short of our potential.

It is a known fact:

*“When prayer is neglected, nothing can be expected!”*

## **9. We are a Prophetic Church**

A Prophetic church means that we seek to stay fresh and alive with divine life. Paul told the church of Corinth, *“Prophecy is for edification, exhortation and comfort”* (1 Corinthians 14:4). The church is exhorted to flow in the spirit of prophesy. In the very first verse of this same chapter Paul said, *“Follow after love and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy”* (1 Corinthians 14:1). He ended this chapter with this exhortation: *“Wherefore brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak in tongues”* (1 Corinthians 14:39). This is a charge given by the Holy Spirit. The spirit of prophecy is having an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying, even what he wants to do in our midst. Sometimes it can come through a prophetic word, but other times it comes through praise and worship, a testimony, or stepping out to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in ministry. Every one of us is taught by the Word of God to edify, exhort, and comfort one another. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we live our lives with the intention of being prophetic. That means we stay real close to the Holy Ghost, and are willing to release whatever he gives us when the opportunity presents itself. It’s important that we understand that we don’t try to take things into our own hands or force the

prophetic. God can open the door for whatever he wants to do. We just have to stay ready and willing to follow his lead.

When the church focuses on the prophetic it will always stay fresh. There is a certain element of spontaneity to the prophetic that keeps a church living on the cutting edge of change, flowing in the supernatural. Hebrews 10:25 says, *“Not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some, but exhorting (prophesying) one to another, and SO MUCH THE MORE as you see the day approaching.”* All of us can understand that the day of Christ is fastly approaching. That is why it is paramount that we seek to be prophetic in everything we do.

## The Divine Circle of Truth

I believe in these last days it is the destiny of Christ’s church to walk in greatness. Ephesians 3:20-21 says, *“Now unto him who is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all we can ask or think, according to the power that works within us, unto him be glory in the church by Jesus Christ throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”* When we follow the plan of God and obey his voice, then the glory will show up. The divine circle of truth is that everything must start with God, it must be accomplished through God and ultimately it should return to give him glory. It is his plan, his purpose, his vision. We are simply custodians who carry out what he has destined to fulfill in and through us.

Our prayer is that as you read through this vision statement that the power of God opens your eyes to see what God has called us to do and embrace it. We pray that somehow through the anointing of the Holy Spirit you catch the spirit of this ministry and make it part of the passion of your vision.

As pertaining to your commitment to a local church, it is important to know where God would have you be. Our belief is that every one, individually, are members of Christ’s body, but on a local level every one of us need to become a member of a local church to have a place for fellowship and service. God has called all of us into a life of covenant with him, and one of the ways we engage in that covenant is through community with other believers. John points this out in his epistle, *“How can we say we love God whom we have not seen, and fail to love our brother whom we have seen”* (1 John 4:20). Covenant simply means that we become of one heart, one mind, and one judgment, and the only way that can occur is sitting under the Word together, spending time fellowshiping with one another, and seeking God as a church community. Paul said it best in his letter to the church of Corinth, *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”* (1 Corinthians 1:10).

It is our full intention that Faith Harvest Church becomes a light that shines into the darkness around us – that through the power of the Holy Spirit, others might see our good works and glorify God in heaven.

This can be accomplished as we purpose to walk in true humility and the meekness of the Holy Spirit. Please take the time to seek to know his will for your life. Find a place to make a commitment. If Faith Harvest is where that place is, then review the forms on the next few pages and ask God to direct you to where you can be a blessing to others.

## **Finding Where You Fit**

The wonderful thing about finding your place is that the peace of God comes upon you. It is like putting on a coat that fits. There may be external changes that may have to be worked out, but inside you know that you know you are where you belong.

If all we do when we connect to a ministry is feed off of what they offer then we have really done an injustice to our part in helping to build up the body. The church needs your gifts. Don't let what lies within your potential lay dormant because of one thing or another keeping you from reaching out. Becoming part of a church is like a branch being grafted into the vine. It takes time to flow with everything that is around you. Don't rush to the conclusion that if things don't bring immediate advancement that you are in the wrong place. Give opportunity for the leadership to get to know you and for you to get to know the leadership. Find out where you fit and bring everything that you have to offer with you.

If you have had a painful experience in a previous ministry it is best to share that with the leadership. Even if you were at fault, this ministry is not looking for perfect people. It is here to help you find wholeness and fulfillment in your Christian walk. You will not be pre-judged. You will not be labeled as a trouble-maker. Christ never creates failures! We just have to find the right environment that fits so we can excel in our gifts and flow with those who we become connected to.

## **Watching Over the Saints**

We are very serious about confidentiality. We forbid any leader, in any capacity, to divulge personal, confidential information with other church members of things that have been shared with them confidentially.

However, in the personal interests of this ministry anything that affects this church or has to do with the spiritual welfare of this ministry being able to carry out this vision, there are no rights of confidentiality when it comes to informing the pastors of things they need to know. The leadership of this ministry is mature enough to know what to do with information reported. We are committed to each other. We are also committed to protecting not only each other's rights and wellbeing, but also the welfare and wellbeing of what God has entrusted into our care...personally and corporately.

NOTE: To understand more about connecting to this local church body, we recommend that you request a copy of Pastor's mini-books:

- (1) The Watchman's anointing
- (2) Entering into Covenant with Your Local Church
- (3) Applied Christianity