

The VISION of Our Church

October 25, 2009

Vineyard Church • Great Falls • Montana

Our VISION: To Experience God and To Help People - that the Kingdom of God comes also through us (in our place).

VISION is seeing in our mind where we want to end up. It is made into a map so that we know what to do to get where we are going.

• Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) "Where there is no VISION my people perish." • What commonly happens in personal lives, in businesses, and churches is that people do what they have always done and often it's not getting them to where they want to be. They perish. That is, they fail to succeed. Their dreams wither and they have no meaningful experience of God.

OUR VISION: God Real - People Helped - Kingdom Come

- 1- We want us and our world to experience God as real, powerful, and a loving Father of all.
- 2- We want to help our world come to Jesus, experience him and be saved. We want to help each other have the abundant life that only Jesus can give.
- 3- We want to live in the Kingdom of God (on earth) ourselves, actively doing things to help it come into our world /community to take the place of the kingdoms of this world (the rule and purposes of sinful mankind and the devil) so that God's blessings replaces stealing, killing and destroying.

VISION raises questions. Are we getting to where we are going?

• **At our SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP (yes or no):**

It is the first contact people have with our church family.

It is the showcase of our Christian family.

- 1- Is every person feeling welcomed, wanted, accepted, safe?
- 2- Do we feel God's presence in our worship in song?
- 3- Is the sermon from the Bible & revealing what God wants to say?
- 4- Is Jesus healing and setting people free when we pray for them?
- 5- When people leave are they inspired to read their Bibles and pray every day? Are they asking Jesus to make them better and obeying His directions? Are they going to Kinship? Are they making sacrifices to help other people?
- 6- Do we fear for the future of unsaved people and determine to be a light to them – invite them to church – listen – pray?

• **In our MINISTRIES: We look at what we are doing in.....**

- Our Children's Church, Youth Group, Kinships, Mercy.
- Woman's study, Celebrate Recovery, Leadership meetings.
- Fun activities – Training -- Conferences – all that we do.

- **We ask, "Is the activity of our church family HELPFUL?"**

- 1- Do people say they are feeling more of God's presence?
- 2- Do people say they are getting a better life among us?
- 3- Do we see that people live more useful and significant lives?
- 4- Are we making a positive difference in our families, neighborhood and community?
- 5- What kind of reputation do we have in the community?
- 6- Are we successful in providing meaningful ways of serving for every person and training and getting impartation from God for each person to succeed and feel significant?
- 7- Are we breaking out of old, self-centered ways and intentionally being a blessing to people on our pilgrimage?

• **With our PERSONAL HOLINESS:**

How do people see and experience us? Do we appear to be still in the world – or in God's kingdom?

- 1- Is our church building clean, in repair, and attractive?
- 2- Does a newcomer experience that we are living in peace?
- 3- Can it be seen that we are living good and godly lives?
- 4- Are we generous with our money? Willing to help?
- 5- Do people see us being like Jesus or as a religious club?
- 6- Do people see sincere faith and love for God in us?

THE KINGDOM OF GOD COME ON EARTH in our place.

The Kingdom of God is now present on earth with God's welcome and joy. With His government and abundance. With His power over works of the devil. With His restoring earth back to the Garden of Eden.

-1- Matthew 6:10 Jesus tells us to pray and work so that "Thy Kingdom come on _____ as it is in heaven."

A king-dom is a "king's domain." It is under the desire and will and life and death power of its king. In the spiritual domain there are only kingdoms. Two actually - the kingdom of the god of this world—the devil - and the Kingdom of God where Jesus is King.

-2- Mark 1:15 John the Baptist said that the _____ of _____ is _____ and to prepare for it by turning away from _____ and secondly by _____ the Good News." The kingdom of the devil corrupts. God's kingdom cleanses.

-3- Luke 4:43 Jesus said that he was _____ by the Father to proclaim the Kingdom of God (and make it happen) on earth.

-4- John 14:30 What does Jesus call the devil? _____

-5- I John 3:9 Jesus came to destroy the _____ of the _____ -- the king over this earth.

-6- Revelation 11:15 On the cross Jesus destroyed the hold of the kingdom of the devil, death, and evil in this world. "The whole _____ has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His _____, and he will _____ forever and ever."

-7- Mark 1:23 A member of the other kingdom (the other team) declared that Jesus was "_____!"

-8- John 20:28 Jesus was proven King of the Kingdom of God by His resurrection. When doubting Thomas saw and touched the risen Christ, he declared, "My _____ and my _____!"

The Kingdom Within Us—is JESUS WITHIN US.

"...Turning your old life in for a Kingdom life... Jesus will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything in proper order before God. Everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."

Matthew 3:11-12 Msg Bible

-9- Revelation 3:20 Jesus now invites all people into his Kingdom. "Look! Here I stand at the door and _____. If you hear me calling and _____ the door, I will _____ in, and we will share a meal as friends." This is the first meal of the eternal banquet.

-10- Luke 17:21 Jesus said the Kingdom of God is _____.

-11- Romans 14:17 Jesus rules first in the hearts of his people and through them he extends his rule into the world of men and women. The Kingdom of God within us, the indwelling of the King, is described as "_____ and _____ in the Holy Spirit."

-12- Zephaniah 3:17 "For the Lord your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty savior. He will _____ over you with great gladness. With His _____, he will calm all your _____. He will _____ over _____ by singing a happy song."

-13- Philippians 5:13 "I can _____ all things through Christ who _____ me."

The Life of the KINGDOM IS A LIGHT to our dark world.

-14- Revelation 5:9-14 The Lord saves us and sings over us. The response of those who love Jesus now (v9) is to sing a _____ song to Him. It is to witness that his life's _____ has ransomed every kind of person who ever lives on earth (v10). It is to know that Jesus has caused them to become _____ and his _____ (that is, those who stand between heaven and earth to bring

heaven to earth) and to _____ on earth as the family of the Kingdom.

-15- Acts 2:47 The life in the church of the Family of God was attractive to people without God. "They enjoyed the _____ of all the people. And each day the Lord _____ to their group those who were being _____."

"Now all of you together are Christ's body and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it."

I Corinthians 12:27

-2- It Worships

A kingdom heart realizes that there is A DIALOGUE OF LOVE and honoring between God the Father and Creator of all His creation. He sings a song of love and everything sings back to Him.

Sunday church is first of all about worshipping God-- Showing love to Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. It is not about us.

Doing it so that He sees--We see--The devil sees--Our neighbor sees-- Heavenly hosts see. It is entering into the song that that has filled the air forever, between God and everything He is made --called worship

"SING a new song to the Lord.!" Psalm 96:1

THERE IS A SONG IN THE AIR. A song that fills the Creation and Church --Heaven and human hearts --And we want to join in the song.

-1- The Creation sings--bird and whale -tree and sea
Psalm 148

-2-The glorious company of heaven sings
Revelation 5:6-14

-3- The human heart sings

-4- Church sings.

The Vineyard sings FIRST Psalm 22:3 2 Chron. 5: 11-14

The root meaning of the word worship is "worthiness"

"Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise."

Psalm 96:4

On the other hand God in a sense worships us--because He has placed such high worth on us that Christ died for our sins into order to restore us to fellowship with Him.

Worship is a DUET -- A love song between God and us and all.

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-3- It Is Generous

A generous heart is one that excited about living and excited about opportunities to give. It feels God's love. It is appreciated by people. It lives without fear. It empowers the local church to give into the world's void of selfishness and change the world .

The two most helpful things on this earth are:

-1- The life's blood of Christ given to save us.

-2- Money

GOD IS HAS A GENEROUS HEART He gave best. *"Thank God for His Son-- a gift too wonderful for words."*

2 Corinthians 9:15

A GENEROUS HEART TRUSTS GOD --That He will provide--That God will give back multiplied everything they have given .

"If you give you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving --large or small will be used to measure what will be given back to you." Luke 6:38

A GENEROUS HEART IS CHEERFUL *"God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 Cor. 9:7

So we encourage each other in our life of growing a kingdom heart--A heart like His. --Terry--

Experience God

Why seek to experience God .

#1 So that we know God for ourselves that God is real. That there is a real creator of the universe. That there is plan purpose and a power of goodness bigger than the human race. — So that we have happiness help and hope from God for this life . So that we may know Him and the power of his resurrection Philippians 3

#2 The second reason for experiencing the indwelling presence of God is that is the only enduring motivation and empowering for continuing the work of Jesus. His joy – His love for people -- His power to change things and encourage us to continue doing the things of the Kingdom.
Matthew

Jesus came so that the world could experience God in a way they could grasp -- As a person like themselves .

I John 1:1-3

Colossians 2:9

John 1:12 Hebrews 1:1-3

John 20 Receive the Holy Spirit

What ways do we experience God?

Jesus came to baptize us in God the Holy Spirit. That he might be able fill permeate immerse-indwell us
Experience God through the Holy Spirit

In worship

In miracles, signs and wonders

The Kingdom of God Come?