

## Beyond 20/20 Vision 8 - EQUIPPING

### THE POWER OF VISION

1. People are WIRED to UNITE around a CAUSE.  
→ *What fruit and what damage has this principle caused through history, including Biblical history?*
2. If you DON'T KNOW where you're going, ANY ROAD will do.  
→ *What happens when there's no clearly defined vision? What happens if different people have different visions?*
3. If your resources are FINITE, you will have to be SELECTIVE.  
→ *"It takes more than one church to win a city." Discuss!*
4. COMPELLING vision is IRRESISTIBLE.  
→ *What makes a vision compelling and/or irresistible?*
5. If your dream is not IMPOSSIBLE, it's TOO SMALL.  
→ *What about our vision a theBarn is impossible? What happens when we think too small?*

### EQUIPPERS (Eph 4:11-16)

- \* We'll never be an OUTREACH centre until we first become a TRAINING centre.  
→ *Why is training centre such an important function of the church and how do we become that? What other functions should a church fulfil?*
- \* The MORE people we can EQUIP, the FURTHER we'll go.
- \* One of the primary responsibilities of church leaders is to EQUIP the saints to DO THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY.  
→ *How does a church 'equip' its people? And what does it equip them to do? What is the 'work of the ministry' and who is supposed to do it?*

### 1. EQUIPPED IN WORD (2 Tim 2:15, 3:16,17)

- \* Being STRONG in Word is your most powerful WEAPON.
- \* Being WEAK in Word is your greatest VULNERABILITY.  
→ *How do we become strong in the Word? What are the dangers if we're weak, personally or corporately?*  
We need to be able to CORRECTLY HANDLE the Word of truth.
  - a) To know the TRUTH that sets you free.
  - b) To have a RENEWED MIND, so you can be a transformer, rather than a conformer.
  - c) To make sure your FAITH is strong & secure, because the world needs a BOLD version of YOU.
  - d) To understand the nuances of LOVE & GRACE, which are crucial, but not always straightforward.  
→ *What does it mean to 'correctly handle' ('rightly divide') the Word? How do you learn how to do so? What part should your church play in that?*

### 2. EQUIPPED IN WALK (Eph 6:10-18)

- \* Our walk isn't always EASY, we can hit frequent ROAD-BLOCKS and there can be a sense of real, tangible OPPOSITION.
- \* It's going to be a STRUGGLE, so we must TAKE our STAND and be STRONG in the Lord.  
→ *Does your walk feel like a 'struggle' right now? What are the issues and how can we help? What can you take from Eph 6:10-18 into that struggle?*
  - \* We must learn to walk with GOD, in the LIGHT, in LOVE, in TRUTH, in the SPIRIT, and in fulness of VICTORY.  
→ *Which of those leaps out to you? Which would you particularly like to grow in? What has the Lord been showing you?*
    - \* It's crucial we KNOW what we HAVE at our disposal: the WEAPONS of our warfare, how to OPERATE in the GIFTS & TOOLS we've been given.

### 3. EQUIPPED IN WORK (Eph 2:10, Heb 13:20-21)

- a) This is about FLOURISHING in what God's CALLED you to.
- b) This is about DEVELOPING your God-given GIFTS, TALENTS & MINISTRIES (Rom 12:6-8).
- c) This is about our desire for God to say to us one day, 'Well done, GOOD & FAITHFUL servant.' → FAITHFUL is about CHARACTER, GOOD is about QUALITY.  
→ *What do we mean by 'work?' Why are good works important and how do you stop your relationship with the Lord from being defined by working to please Him rather than a grace that follows Him?*  
→ *Why is finding your 'sweet spot' so important? How does your relationship with the Lord 'come alive' as you serve him in that sweet spot?*

### 4. EQUIPPED IN WITNESS (Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

- \* One of our most crucial tasks is to be AMBASSADORS for CHRIST: Ministers of RECONCILIATION, preachers of the GOSPEL, makers of DISCIPLES.  
→ *What does it mean to an 'ambassador for Christ' and how can the church help you become a really effective one?*  
So, we need to be equipped to
  - a) Explain the GOSPEL in simple terms.
  - b) Defend the FAITH with skill = APOLOGETICS.
  - c) ELEVATE the conversation onto SPIRITUAL matters.
  - d) Recognise & capitalise on DIVINE APPOINTMENTS.
  - e) Respond to the tug of the COMPASSION of the Spirit.  
→ *Which of these five jump out at you? Which would you like to grow in? How might your Connect Group help facilitate that?*