



The Princeton PathFinder

January
2021

Kingdom Vision

Expanding The Kingdom Of God In Our Lives And The World Around Us

A Publication of
Princeton Christian Church



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Kingdom Vision Is What

We Pursue Together as People of God. It Is Not Just About What Works Well for The Local Church or Community—It Is Also About Preparing the People in The Local Congregation and Community to Share and Live in The Freedom Of The Gospel Wherever They Go. If We Truly Have A Vision for God's Kingdom, Then We Must Think About How We Can Actively Initiate Strategic Relationships to Expand the Reach of The Church.

The Godhead Teaches Us Much About Having A Oneness of Vision, While Exercising Different Responsibilities in Pursuit of God's Mission. The Apostle Paul Was of This Same Understanding When He Wrote 1 Corinthians 12—The Whole Body Must Work in Harmony, Value Each Other, And Use Their Spiritual Gifts to Ensure That God's Work Proceeds.

The Church Is the Expansion Of Christ

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20.

This IS A COMMAND THAT we have all heard and even possibly trained ourselves to turn a blind eye to; knowingly or unknowingly. No doubt we know and understand that SOMEONE should GO! We understand that for the Kingdom to be advanced that the Gospel must be taken to the lost souls of the world. The understanding that all too few of us have taken the time to embrace is that, that someone, those people called to reproduce disciples of Jesus Christ and to advance the Kingdom of God is the very same person who is reading this right now.

The Go in "go make disciples" is more accurately translated "**as you go**". This tells us that it is not a certain, planned event like a missionary journey to a third world country but more comparable to as in our everyday life; we are to proclaim to those we encounter daily the message of Jesus Christ and the impact that He has made in our own life, the comfort and hope He gives when nothing else seems to make since. We are to disciple those persons in the faith and not just convert them. Conversion is simply the start of the discipleship process.

Have we ever asked ourselves what exactly does making disciples look like? Scripture makes it clear that discipleship ordinarily happens in the context of the local church. Biblical discipleship requires the gifts and input of everyone in the body of Christ. One-on-one discipleship is necessary to get other disciples conjoined in the body, but it is not sufficient on its own. We all need each other in the body of Christ. We only grow to maturity in Christ as each member of the body does his or her part. Therefore, *in order for a believer to grow as a disciple, that believer must be engaged and committed to a local church.*

Disciple making should result in disciples who make disciples who make disciples, in an ongoing process of reproduction. The Great Commission, which commands God's people to make disciples, also commands those disciple-makers to teach the new believers to obey everything Jesus commanded. This includes the Great Commission itself, which commands making new disciples. Therefore, the process of disciple making should never end until Jesus comes back. Every disciple of Jesus should participate in making new disciples of Jesus.

All of this means that disciple making is far more than a church program or a study course. It is a lifelong process of growth toward conformity to the image of Christ and active work in the service of Christ. It happens in the rough and tumble of the life of a local church, as redeemed sinners spur one another on toward love and good deeds. It keeps going until Jesus comes back or the disciple goes to be with him through the valley of death. The biblical picture of what it means to be a Christian is a disciple who makes disciples in the fellowship of the church.

As we look at our future...our vision as a body of Christ in Princeton, Indiana it is my option that unless we hinge everything we do with the Kingdom as a whole in mind; then our efforts will be futile and vain. I have learned that as we proclaim the Kingdom as our primary goal then PCC will naturally be built up as a result, but the Kingdom is not necessarily built up in our efforts to build up PCC. Join in with us as we pursue the expansion of the Kingdom of God. Princeton sounds like a good starting place to me. 😊 ~Aaron Jones

Did You Know?

The purpose of the human race and the world is all about God's glory, God's kingdom, God's church, and God's Gospel.



Instead of using Scripture as a mirror, we often use it as a magnifying glass to point out faults in others, the very ones we might struggle with ourselves.

This happened to the people of Israel, too. Instead of hearing Hosea's warnings and applying them to their own lives, the Israelites were so accustomed to their idolatry and sin that they "regarded [God's law] as something foreign" (Hosea 8:11-12).

It's not easy to look in the mirror, to look inward and face our own sin. Focusing on others' negative qualities alleviates that anxiety, but in doing so, we deceive ourselves into thinking we're fine when we're not.

This blame game has been going on since the beginning of time (Genesis 3:12). And in James 1:22-25, we're given the perfect prescription for this not-so-modern psychological malady:

Being in Christ gives us freedom to run from sin and to embrace the truth in the mirror.

Reflect:

- ***Is there someone you frequently think of when reading your Bible or devotional or hearing a sermon? Is it possible that you struggle with similar weaknesses?***

- ***Jesus offers freedom from all sin. We only need to acknowledge, turn from, and ask forgiveness for it. Are you running from something in the mirror?***

- ***What's one area of your life where you need God's strength to overcome***

Man In The Mirror

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it not forgetting what they have heard but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. James 1:19-24

Reflecting back on 2020, it was a very frustrating year. Covid-19, riots, the turmoil surrounding the election and the Christmas day bombing of Nashville Tennessee were discouraging to say the least. It was not always easy to be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. But God is still on His throne and his word is still true. Looking into God's word reflects that we are all sinners in need of a Savior.

Looking ahead to 2021 we have a lot of work to do. We need to be mirrors reflecting Jesus to the world. The spiritual, emotional and economic fallout of 2020 will linger for some time. Those of us that are in Christ need to pray for spiritual eyesight so we can clearly see the needs of those around us. In 2021 we need to be committed to both financial and spiritual benevolence. We need to share our hope with the hopeless. We need to feed hungry stomachs and feed hungry souls. It has been said that an evangelist is just one beggar showing another beggar where to find bread. There is a great famine of the Word in the land and daily doses of gloom and doom on tv. My challenge to you for 2021 is to become so filled with the Word that it flows out of you feeding your neighbor.

~ Ron Smith

*"I'm starting with the man in the mirror
I'm asking him to change his ways
And no message could have been any clearer
If you wanna make the world a better place
Take a look at yourself and then make a change"*
Michael Jackson



In Colossians 3: 1-4 the Apostle Paul tells us something about our focus and our vision.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

For years, Benjamin Franklin was forced to take two sets of glasses wherever he went. He needed one set when he needed to see close up, and another set when he needed to see far off. This became a nuisance over time. So, Ben, who, of course was quite the inventor, decided to do something about it. You might say he had a vision about his vision. Then, on a day in 1785, Franklin wrote a letter that announced that he had solved this problem.

He had asked his optician to cut the lenses of his spectacles in half horizontally and fit these half-lenses into a single set of wire frames. Franklin was thrilled with the results. "I have only to move my eyes up or down, as I want to see distinctly far or near." He called his invention "double spectacles," but they would come to be known as "bifocals." Some of you may well know how that works as you have benefitted from old Ben's ingenuity.

This parallels the problems many people have in seeing the world with clarity. Or even having clarity about their lives. Their standards. Their future. How to make the right decisions.

20/20 vision is the ideal state of our vision in regard to our eyesight. We are people who, as a whole, are currently experiencing a different kind of 20/20 vision. We are living in a time of 2020 vision. That is, seeing the world through the lenses of a pandemic which has changed so much of how we live life. That vision is far from ideal.

All of us need clarity of vision to understand how to live. We need clear vision to help us make wise decisions. While we don't have available to us a clear vision of how our lives will be affected after the 2020 pandemic has passed, we can have a clear understanding and experience of vision concerning our need for God's vision for us.

We need to have a clear perspective on the things that are going on around us, in the world, and, most importantly, in our spiritual lives. That is why we need God. His vision is 20/20. He clearly sees past 2020. He sees all the details of our daily lives. He also has command of world events, both now and into the future.

He can help us see clearly in every situation we face.

If we are to gain Godly vision, or that is, God's vision for us, we must daily ask God to help us have His perspective for the world, and for His church, and for our individual lives. Pray that He might open your eyes to clearly see His plan. His plan is actually already laid out for us (perhaps not in full detail as we would prefer) in His Word. So, in order to see His plan, we must fill our minds with His Word. He wants us to see His vision and we can ask Him for spiritual discernment.

Ask Him to open your eyes that you might have insight into His plan for your life. Ask Him for insights into events that are going on in the world today. Referring to Colossians 3 again, a clear vision is ours when we set our hearts and minds on the mind of Christ. Desire to gain a clear view of His vision and make His vision yours as well.

Gary K Fair



Matthew 6:33 - *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

SEEK

- One must desire a vision; pursue a dream. It is more than just having your eyes open. There must be an active search and pursuit. God has called all of us to seek salvation. Even the heathen who have never heard of Jesus, have an inner longing to know and worship their supreme Creator.



A 20/20
VISION
FOR 2021

Upon salvation, each believer should seek direction from God. The Lord will undoubtedly reveal to you a vision of what you can do for His kingdom.

Matthew 7:5 - *you hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

SEE - See things as they really are. Sometimes we can't see what is in plain view, because our eyes are full of other stuff. It is aggravating to be looking for something fervently and then find out that it was right in front of you the whole time. Be careful not to be in such a rush to see your vision fulfilled, that you overlook other important qualities that God is trying to build in your life.

James 5:16 - *Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

PASSION/COMPASSION - There must be a driving factor for one to continue pursuing the vision. Your heart beats to see it come true. One must SIEZE the Opportunity. You can look at something all day long and never have it in your clutches.

Don't expect that the fulfillment of your vision is just simply going to fall into your lap. There must be preparations made along the way. ACTION is required.

Move toward the vision and seize it at the appropriate time. Do not let it elude your grasp.

Once the vision is being unfolded in your life, it must be treated like a precious seed. If it is not handled correctly, it will come to naught. Dig, water, fertilize, weed, cultivate, etc. are required to give birth to a **VISION**.

With your Kingdom vision firmly implemented, do not forget to guard it and protect it with the help of the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 1:12-14 - *That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day. ¹³ What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*

~Robin Fortner

KINGDOM VISION

We are moving into a new year that many believe will be a great time for those in the Kingdom of God. As there seems to be great conflict between light and darkness, something is shifting in the spiritual realm in those who know their King.

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries; but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits. (Daniel 11:32)

As Daniel was prophesying about the rising kingdoms and great conflicts, he makes a declaration that those who know their God shall be strong and do exploits. We are in a similar situation, as the battle between light and darkness is raging.

Do you know which side you stand on? Do you know your God and what He is like?

My God is mighty in power. My God is awesome in love and mercy. My God has a tremendous future for me. My God has an unlimited supply of His grace.

Let this year, be a year of discovering, developing, and doing your God given vision individually and corporately through the church. Many are sensing a real clarity in their purpose in this life. It is time for the saints to rise up in your kingdom assignment, under the authority of the King, living a life of meaning and purpose. Let us help you understand your call as an individual. Let us help each other to find or fine tune the gifts that God has given each of us to grow His Kingdom. Please consider your role in building a community of believers with a Kingdom Vision. Let us let this year, be the beginning to discovering and developing your God given life vision for yourself and what you can build through the church. This could change your life and the life of the church. As Paul declared before King Agrippa with boldness in Acts 26:19 ,

I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision. We too can be bold in our heavenly assignment. Saints, it is time to get clarity on your heavenly assignment in the kingdom of God.

God wants all his children to walk in purpose and passion birthed from our Heavenly Father.

Get Clarity on Your Purpose!

Receive Certainty on Your Passion!

Maintain Consistency in Overcoming and Growing!

Have Common Sense on Using Your Past!

Commune with God in Prayer and His Presence Daily!

Develop Compassion for Others with the Place and People of Your Community!

Be Creative with The Power of God's Gifts and Your Talents!

These are just a few areas we all can pursue to help make 2021 the best year of our life.



"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25 (KJV)

Kingdom Vision for PCC in 2021

- Expand Leadership with Quilified Elders and Deacons
 - Community Outreach Ministry
 - Host 5th Sunday Rally's
 - Resume SOS Women's Ministry
 - Men's Development Ministry

CONGREGATIONAL GOALS

- Individual Growth Is Intertwined With Church Growth.
- A primary function of the church is the edification of the saints... Ephesians 4:11-16.
We are challenged to minister our gifts to one another... 1 Peter 4:11.
- As we grow individually, so we grow as a church, and vice versa.

The Princeton PathFinder

Place
Stamp
Here



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