

## The 1980 Visions for the New Testament Church #1

**Introduction:** This outline contains the visions that were given in 1980 and after 1990.

### **I. The Meanings or Definitions of “Vision:”**

**A. The word “vision,” in Habakkuk 2:2 and in Proverbs 29:18, translates the Hebrew noun  $\text{חָזוֹן}$  (*hāzôn*).**

**B. Some of the meanings of “hazon:” “A communication from God to be communicated to others,” “A word of revelation,” “A mental picture of a plan.”**

### **II. The Power of Vision:**

**A. In the land of Shinar, a group of people desired to build for themselves a city and a tower which were not for the glory of God (Genesis 11:1-9).**

- 1. The people were unified (Genesis 11:6a).**
- 2. The people spoke the same language (Genesis 11:6b).**
- 3. The people had the same vision (Genesis 11:6c).**

**B. God could have sent one angel to stop the people from building the city and the tower (cf. Isaiah 37:36).**

- 1. I believe that all three members of the Trinity were involved in stopping the building project to show the power of vision (Genesis 11:7-9).**
- 2. I believe that only the Triune God can stop a group of people who have the same vision and speak the same language.**

**C. According to Habakkuk 2:2, visions should be written for others to read.**

**D. Reasons for knowing the visions:**

- 1. God will not bless a modified version of a vision because a modification indicates a lack of faith, and without faith it is impossible to please God (2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:6).**
- 2. Vision determines decision – All that we do should fit under one of the following headings:**
  - a. Glorification – all that God does is for His glory:**
    - 1) We were created to give glory to God (Isaiah 43:7, 21; Proverbs 16:4; Revelation 4:11).**
    - 2) According to the West Minister Shorter Catechism, “Man’s primary purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”**
    - 3) We are converted to give glory to God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 1:3-14).**
    - 4) We are called to give glory to God (Romans 9:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9).**
    - 5) We are commanded to give glory to God (1 Chronicles 16:24-29; Psalm 22:23; 29:1-2; Isaiah 42:12; 1 Corinthians 10:31).**

b. **Edification – building up and encouraging one another (Romans 14:19; 15:2; 1 Corinthians 14:26b; 2 Corinthians 12:19; Ephesians 4:29; Hebrews 10:24-25).**

c. **Education (Hosea 4:6; 2 Peter 3:18).**

d. **Evangelization – leading the lost to Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:2).**

3. **In the Book of Nehemiah, the people had a mind to work because they had the same vision (Nehemiah 4:6).**

E. **Imagine a church where all of the members have a vision for the glorification of God, the edification of one another, and the evangelization of the lost.**

F. **We believe that we have been called to be a demonstration of what God can do with a church totally committed to Him.**

G. **The New Testament Church is called to be different for the glory of God.**

### **III. The Vision of a Saved Church:**

A. **“The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47, New Living Translation).**

B. **There is a difference between a profession of salvation and the possession of salvation (Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:17).**

C. **Jesus promised to build His church.**

1. **We believe that Jesus will build His church if we will trust and obey Him.**

2. **The gates of hell will not prevail against the church that Jesus builds (Matthew 16:18).**

3. **Men can destroy what men build.**

4. **“Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it” (Psalm 127:1).**

5. **Peter describes the church of Jesus Christ as living stones (1 Peter 2:5).**

### **IV. Vision of a Spirit Filled Church:**

A. **As man, Jesus needed the Holy Spirit of God to do the work of God (Luke 4:18-19; Acts 10:38).**

B. **Leaders of the Early Church were Spirit filled (Acts 6:3-4).**

C. **Members of the Early Church were Spirit filled (Acts 4:31).**

D. **The difference between the filling of the Holy Spirit and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit:**

1. **The filling of the Holy Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has us – we are under His control (Ephesians 5:18).**
    - a. **“Be filled” in Ephesians 5:18 translates the Greek verb *plērousthe* (πληροῦσθε). The basic verb is *plēroō* (πληροῶ).**
    - b. ***Plērousthe* is**
      - 1) **Present tense which means continuous action in the present – moment by moment or habitual action.**
      - 2) **Imperative mood which means a command.**
      - 3) **Plural which means every believer.**
      - 4) **Passive voice which means the subject is receiving the action or is acted upon.**
  2. **The indwelling of the Holy Spirit means that we have Him.**
  3. **All believers are indwelt with the Triune God at the moment of salvation:**
    - a. **All believers are indwelt with the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:8; 2 Timothy 1:14; 1 John 3:24; 4:4, 13).**
    - b. **All believers are indwelt by God the Father (Ephesians 2:22; 4:6).**
    - c. **All believers are indwelt by God the Son (Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; 4:19; Colossians 1:27).**
- E. Evidences of the filling of the Holy Spirit:**
1. **Manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit: love (*agape, ἀγάπη*), joy, peace, long-suffering (patience with people), gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness (power under control), and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23; cf. Matthew 7:16).**
  2. **Interest in the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5; cf. John 6:63).**
  3. **Singing (Ephesians 5:19).**
  4. **Saying thanks (Ephesians 5:20).**
  5. **Submission to one another (Ephesians 5:21).**
  6. **Glorification of Jesus Christ (John 16:14).**
  7. **Boldness in witnessing (Acts 4:8-13, 32).**
- F. The 1980 visions will not work for carnal Christians.**
1. **Definition of carnal Christian – indwelt with the Holy Spirit but not filled with or controlled by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; Ephesians 5:18).**
  2. **Descriptions of carnal Christians (1 Corinthians 3:1-6).**
    - a. **Carnal Christians are babes in Christ – immature (1 Corinthians 3:1-2; cf. 2 Peter 3:18).**
    - b. **Carnal Christians manifest the works of the flesh (1 Corinthians 3:3; cf. Galatians 5:19-21).**

- c. **Carnal Christians focus on personalities rather than on Christ (1 Corinthians 3:4-9).**
- d. **Carnal Christians are saved (1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:9-11; 15:1-2).**
- e. **Carnal Christians are indwelt with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20) but not filled (Ephesians 5:18).**
  - 1) **The filling of the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and the first fruit on the list is love (Galatians 5:22).**
  - 2) **Because Paul devotes 1 Corinthians 13 to love, we know that the filling with the Holy Spirit was missing at Corinth because love was missing.**
- f. **The carnal Christians at Corinth were baptized in Jesus's name by implication (1 Corinthians 1:13-17).**
- g. **The carnal Christians at Corinth were baptized with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13).**
- h. **The carnal Christians at Corinth were gifted especially with tongues and prophecy (1 Corinthians 1:7; 14:1-40).**

**V. The Vision of a Worshiping Church:**

- A. **The Early Church was a worshiping church (Acts 2:46-47).**
- B. **One of the meanings of worship is "Valuing God more than anyone or anything else in the world" as Job did (Job 1:12-22; Matthew 22:36-38).**
- C. **Vision of families worshiping together.**
- D. **Youth ministry but no youth church.**
  - 1. **Nursery for infants.**
  - 2. **Children's Church for children under age 12.**
- E. **Reasons for no youth church:**
  - 1. **One of the things that cause Jesus to become angry was the hindering of children from coming to Him (Mark 10:13-16).**
  - 2. **Jesus fed the multitude of over 5000 with the lunch of a child in His congregation (John 6:8-13).**
  - 3. **Jesus used a child in His congregation to illustrate humility (Matthew 18:1-6).**
  - 4. **The command to be filled with the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5:18 includes the saved children (Ephesians 6:1-3).**
  - 5. **According to Josephus, God called Samuel at age 12 (1 Samuel 3:1-21).**

6. Josiah was eight years old when he became King (2 Kings 22:1; 2 Chronicles 34:1).

**VI. Vision of a Witnessing Church:**

**A. The Early Church was a witnessing church (Acts 1:8; 4:8-13, 18-22, 31; 8:4-8).**

**B. We are commanded to witness for Christ and to make disciples for Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:2).**

**C. We come together for glorification and edification and then go out to do evangelization (1 Corinthians 10:31; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:11; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15).**

**VII. The Vision of a Praying Church (Acts 2:42).**

**A. Prayer was one of the four continuing activities of the Early Church (Acts 2:42).**

**B. We see references to prayer throughout the book of Acts (Acts 1:14, 24; 2:42; 3:1; 4:31; 6:3-6; 12:5, 12; 13:3; 14:23; 16:13, 25; 20:36).**

**C. Someone has said, “The church advances on her knees.”**

**D. Prayer is a weapon in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2-4; cf. Isaiah 37:14-20, 36).**

**VIII. The Vision of a Tithing Church (Malachi 3:8-12; cf. Matthew 23:23).**

**A. No fund-raising to support the church.**

**B. There is fund raising to support the Academy.**

**IX. The Vision of Faith and the Bible (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).**

**A. Teach and preach the Bible from the Bible – the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible (1 Corinthians 2:13).**

**B. The textbook for Sunday school is the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17).**

**X. The Vision of a Plurality of Leadership:**

**A. The Early Church had a plurality of leadership (Acts 6:3-6; 1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5).**

**B. Plurality of leadership does not mean that leaders take turns leading.**

**1. There must be a leader of the leaders – Timothy was written to Timothy and Titus to Titus.**

**2. The 70 elders were chosen to assist Moses (Exodus 18:17-27).**

**3. God placed the spirit of Moses upon the 70 elders (Numbers 11:16-30).**

**C. There are some things that cannot be delegated (Exodus 17:8-16):**

- 1. Joshua prevailed in his battle with the Amalekites at Rephidim when Moses held up the rod of God on top of the hill. The Amalekites prevail when Moses lowered his hand.**
  - 2. Moses, Aaron, and Hur did not take turns holding up the rod of God because some things cannot be delegated.**
  - 3. Aaron and Hur held up the hand of Moses.**
- D. The vision is of leaders working together to determine the will of God for the church – not the will of the pastor, not the will of the board of elders, not the will of the congregation – but the will of God (Psalm 40:7-8; Hebrews 10:5-9; Matthew 7:21-23; Mark 3:35; John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 8:29; James 4:15).**

### **Visions Given After 1990**

- I. Vision of a Family Life and Educational Center.**
- II. Vision of a Christian School.**
- III. Vision of a Worship Center.**
- IV. Vision of a Daycare Center.**
- V. Vision of Housing for Senior Citizens.**
- VI. Vision of a Trinity Hall.**
- VII. Vision of a Bible School.**
- VIII. Vision of a Health-Food Restaurant.**

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