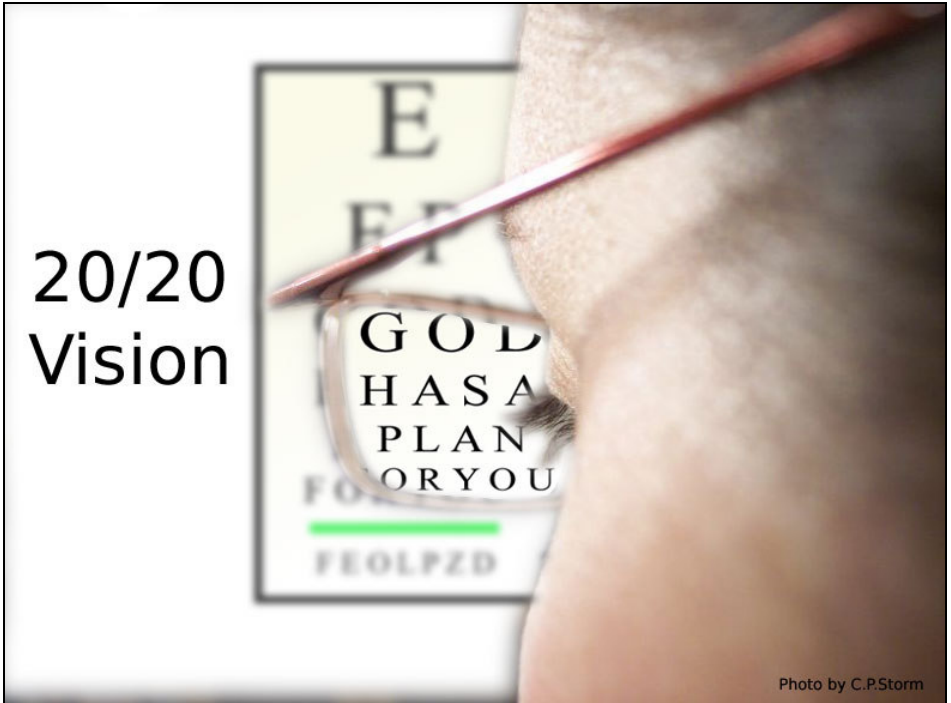


CORNERSTONE'S
Personal Vision Workbook



January 2007

Vision Week

Saturday, Jan 20 – Thursday, Jan 25

6 PM – 8 PM

Name: _____

Vision

God has a plan, a vision, for your life. Before you were even born, God knew what He wanted you to do and be – a **legacy** He wanted you to pass on to future generations.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
- Jeremiah 29:10

Intentionally seeking God’s vision for your life is the **single most important** thing you can do as a Christian.

Note: Be careful not to mistake your own ambition and desires for God’s vision. Vision is **not** dreaming up your biggest dream, it is **discovering** what God has called and created you to do.

Baseline Vision Test

Please spend at least 5 minutes in prayer before answering:

What is your understanding of God’s vision for “The Church?”

What is your current understanding of God’s vision for your life?

Giving God Access

God will not force His way into our lives. He will only come in as we intentionally invite Him. He can only work in the areas of our lives where we give Him **access**.

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”
- Revelation 3:20

Jesus is knocking, patiently waiting for us to give Him access.

God gains access to our lives whenever we open our hearts to Him in **prayer**. If you pray through every aspect of your finances and spending, you are giving God access to show you His vision for handling your money. If you don't talk to Him about it, He's not going to force His way in.

Think through what you do and think in a typical day (or week).

What areas do you need to talk to God about, so He can have access in those parts of your life?

Schedule at least 20 minutes of prayer (access) time every day until you complete the vision process.

When will you do it? Write it down and tell someone.

Listening to God is just as important as praying. **Fasting** is useful for intentionally listening for God. Consider turning off all excess noise for a week or two. Let leisure time become listening time.

How will you listen? Write it down and tell someone.

Access List

- Money
- Television
- Food
- Parenting
- Internet
- Spouse
- Sex
- Work
- Friendships
- Honesty
- Emotions
- Habits
- Bible Study
- Spirituality
- Attitude
- Health
- Discipline
- Forgiveness
- Lust
- Plans
- Drugs
- Trust

Progressive Obedience

God has already been at work, speaking to you through His Holy Spirit. He's been telling you what He wants you to **quit** doing and **start** doing. This isn't the big vision God has for you, but it *is* a stepping stone toward that vision. **If we're not willing to start obeying God in the little things, why would He show us the big things?**

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."
- James 1:22

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."
- Luke 16:10

**What do you *know* God wants you to do differently...
...at home?**

...with your spouse?

...with your kids?

...with your leisure time?

...at work or school?

...at church?

...in the access list areas on page 3?

What will you do about it? Who will you tell about it?

God at Work in My Past

Every one of us has been on a spiritual journey bringing us to the point where we are now. God has been at work shaping our characters, interests, and skills – getting us ready for His vision for us.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

- Ephesians 2:10

God had prepared Moses long in advance of the Exodus. Being threatened as a baby, being brought up in Pharaoh’s court, being exiled, becoming a shepherd on Mt. Sinai – everything was meant to prepare Moses for his specific vision.

Spend 20 minutes brainstorming (on a separate sheet of paper) any and every significant life experience you’ve ever had. Write them down quickly as they come into your mind. Write down good experiences and bad ones. You should have 75-100 experiences when you are done.

Now go through your list and put your life experiences in chronological order on a different piece of paper.

Take a highlighter and mark all of the negative life experiences.

Do you see any patterns or recurring themes?

What spiritual strength have you gathered from the negative experiences?

Which experiences gave you a sense of peace or knowledge of being in the center of God’s will?

God at Work through Others

The Bible is chockfull of mentor relationships:

- Moses mentored Joshua** (*Deuteronomy 34:9*)
- Elijah mentored Elisha** (*1 Kings 19:19*)
- Mordecai mentored Esther** (*Esther 2:7*)
- Jesus mentored the disciples** (*John 1*)
- Barnabas mentored Paul** (*Acts 9:27*)
- Paul mentored Timothy** (*1 Timothy 4:11-16*)
- Etc.**

God has also brought special people into **your** life to shape your thoughts, beliefs, and actions. They might be anyone – **parents, teachers, co-workers, pastors, friends, neighbors** – anyone who invested in your life, inspired you, or influenced who you have become.

Use this chart to list others who have significantly influenced you.

Date	Name	Contribution to My Life

What qualities did you see in these people that God wants you to have?

Is there someone you could mentor?

Personal Identity Statement

Who are you really? In the grand scheme of things, who did God design you to be? As we go into the **Identity Statement**, remember: this is about **being, not doing**. This isn't about what God wants you to do. It's about **who you are** as a Christian human being.

*Start off by looking up the following verses, and writing out what they tell you about who you are in Christ. **Any other verses come to mind?***

John 15:1-11 –

John 15:15 –

1 John 3:1-2 –

1 Peter 2:9 –

2 Corinthians 5:20 –

Ephesians 2:10 –

Romans 6:15-18 –

Why do you exist?

Apart from what you do, what gives life its deepest meaning?

Complete these sentences:

I exist as...

I am a...

Write this rough-draft Identity Statement on p. 10 in this workbook.

Personal Values Statement

Our personal values determine what we do and how we do it. Personal values are essentially priorities statements. They are 4-8 things that repeatedly show up in your life. If someone were to follow you around for a week, they would be able to say 4-8 things about what you value most in life. One of David's values statements says:

"The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver or gold." - Psalm 119:72

David was saying that if it came down to obeying God or getting rich, it was a slam-dunk decision.

It's often easy to say we value certain things, even when there's no evidence that it's a real priority in our behavior. **What values do you consistently exhibit in your life?**

Complete the following sentences:

My character traits that I value the most are...

It really bugs me when others aren't...

Some of my core convictions about people and relationships are...

Choose 4-8 values and write them on p. 10.

Sample Values

Justice
Honesty
Service
Family
Being Real
Teamwork
Worship
Hard Work
Friendships
Leadership
Simplicity
Humor
Music
Respect
Helping the Poor
Obedience
Excellence
Mentoring
Details
The Big Picture
Practicality
Evangelism
Prayer
Listening
Healing

Personal Calling Statement

What is God calling you to accomplish for His glory? As we've already noted, God has a plan for your future.

*"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart."
- Jeremiah 1:5*

Sometimes, this calling will unfold slowly, as it did for Nehemiah. Other times, the calling will suddenly knock you off your horse, as it did for the Apostle Paul. It might be a miraculous calling, or just a gut feeling about what God wants you to do.

Schedule at least an hour of uninterrupted time for this section.

Prayerfully look back over your past (p. 5), your mentors (p. 6), your identity (p. 7), and values (p. 8). A picture should be starting to emerge about God's vision for your future. On a separate sheet of paper, write down everything that may be a clue to your calling.

How has God used you in the past?

What events or people inspired you to give your best to God?

What calling did you have that you pushed away?

Write a rough-draft Calling Statement:
I believe God is calling me to...

Test the calling:

Can you see it? Is it bigger than you? Would you do it even if you didn't get paid? Will it make a difference for God's Kingdom? How is it different than what you're already doing?

Write a rough-draft Calling Statement on p. 10.

Personal Vision Statement: Putting It All Together

Identity *(from page 7)*:

Values *(from page 8)*:

Calling *(from page 9)*:

God's Vision in Your Calendar

Too often, God's vision is pushed aside because we don't put it into our **calendar** – we don't make it part of our **routine**.

*“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”
- Psalm 90:12*

We can't go on pretending that God's vision will simply manifest itself in our lives without our involvement. We need to number our days so we can make **wise use of our time**.

Think about the upcoming year:

What will you need to read or learn to follow God's vision?

Who will you need to talk to or recruit for your vision?

Who else needs to know about this vision?

When will you take a day or more for a planning/prayer retreat?

Are you fitting in time to grow with God every day?

What would you like to have done in 6 months? (goals)

What would you like to accomplish within 12 months? (goals)

Sabbath is a perfect time to sit down and plan God's vision into your next week's calendar. Make a habit of taking **15 minutes** every Sabbath afternoon to look at your vision, your goals, and your calendar.

Accountability

God never intended us to be loners. We need others to pray for us, encourage us, challenge us, and keep us honest. That's why Jesus sent out the disciples **two-by-two**. That's why Paul had Silas and Moses had Aaron.

*“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”
- Proverbs 27:17*

While Proverbs 27:17 *isn't* true about Superbowl parties, it is true about accountability relationships. When **we ask someone** to keep us accountable, **God uses that relationship** to make us better than we could ever become by ourselves.

New Year's resolutions are 10 times more likely to fail if you haven't asked someone to keep you accountable.

Note: Christian accountability relationships should **always** be male-male and female-female.

Ask God to lead you to the right accountability partner.

Brainstorm at least 3 people you know who can keep a secret.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Choose one and ask if they are willing to keep you accountable.

Give them a copy of your workbook pages 3, 4, and 11.

Meet for about an hour at least once per month for accountability.

If you're willing to share with the church, I would love to have a copy of your workbook page 10. It would be amazing to see what God is calling all of our different church members to do and be.