

CHURCH OF HOPE 17 WEEK EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE



STUDY GUIDE: WEEK FOUR (POWERPOINTS)

**TOPIC FOUR: *THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A CLEAR
GOD GIVEN VISION AND BEING CONTINUALLY
FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT***

I will begin with the words of the LORD to the discouraged Prophet Habakkuk,

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.” (**Habakkuk 2:2-3**)



INTRODUCTION TO WEEK FOUR:



- Over the past three weeks we have looked at the importance of having a lifestyle of prayer (week 1), building our life on the Word of God (week 2) and last week the importance of all that we do in life and ministry being undergirded by love (week 3).
- This week's teaching will focus on two very important aspects of our life and ministry that will help us to live fruitful lives in the times that we are now living in. **(2 Timothy 3:1-5)**

The Apostle Paul wrote in relation to the times that we are now living in, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)



- Like never before there is a great urgency to equip and empower all Christians to be strong in their walk with the Lord and in encouraging all believers to help lead others to Christ.



- The message of the gospel is good news and there are so many people that need to be reached with the gospel message.
- The two areas that I will be covering in this study guide are keys to helping us to remain FOCUSSED and EMPOWERED in our walk with the Lord.

- For this week's study topic other readings can also be read to compliment the teachings in this study guide.



- These readings cover this topic in more detail. This study guide however highlights the major things to consider in relation to this week's topic as well as several key Scriptures.
- Again the additional teachings for this week's study come from the Pastors Workshop Guidelines and teachings manual that can be downloaded from the Church of Hope website DOWNLOADS page: www.coh.org.au/downloads

- We will begin by looking at why having a clear God given vision for our life and church is so important, as well as some things to consider in relation to knowing God's will and plan for our life and in seeing His destiny for our lives and churches coming to pass



1) **HAVING A CLEAR GOD GIVEN VISION FOR OUR OWN LIFE HELPS US TO STAY FOCUSED IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD.**

- The enemy will continually try and distract and discourage us from following God's plan for our life.
- Having a clear God given vision for our life is crucial when we are going through the storms of life.
- With a clear vision for our life and churches, we get up each day with a clear focus and purpose.



- However, without a clear God given vision for their lives, people can make wrong choices in life and live undisciplined lives.



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint;
But happy is he who keeps the law.” **(Proverbs 29:18)**

- **Each day once gone can never be regained.**

2) HAVING A CLEAR GOD GIVEN VISION FOR OUR CHURCH WHICH THOSE IN OUR CHURCH CAN READ AND PARTNER WITH.



- It is so important that church leaders spend time with the Lord to seek His strategy for their churches in reaching out to their communities with the gospel.
- Having a clear written down vision for our church also helps to attract people to be a part of the church's mission.

- Leaders of successful and active churches have the ability to clearly communicate the vision of the church to those who attend and to encourage people to become **CONNECTED TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**
- When God puts a vision on a leader's heart, it is easy to communicate that vision to others.
- God's work done in His way will bear much fruit.
- This is why seeking the Lord for His vision and direction for our churches is crucial.



King Solomon wrote,

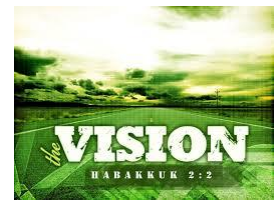
“Unless the LORD builds the house, They labour in vain who build it; ... “ (**Psalm 127:1**)

Again the LORD said to the Prophet Habakkuk,

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.” (**Habakkuk 2:2a**)



3) AS A CHURCH WE NEED TO HAVE A CLEAR VISION FOR REACHING THE LOST IN OUR COMMUNITY (*Mark 16:15*), FOR MAKING MATURE DISCIPLES (*Matthew 28:19-20*), FOR TRAINING AND RAISING UP LEADERS WHO CAN TEACH OTHERS ALSO (*2 Timothy 2:2*) AND FOR HELPING TO ENCOURAGE ALL CHRISTIANS TO FLOW IN THEIR MINISTRY GIFTS AND CALLINGS



- The role of the five-fold ministry is to help equip and to edify all believers to be fruitful in their walk with the Lord and to use their gifts to help see God's Kingdom advanced here on earth.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **EQUIPPING** of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” **(Ephesians 4:11-13)**



- Every believer has a unique ministry.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**



Having a clear vision for reaching the lost in our community and making mature disciples and leaders enables us to;

- i. Preach relevant sermons and messages,
- ii. To set up small groups for leadership development and to meet the pastoral needs of those in our church,
- iii. To set up ministry initiatives to reach out to the community with the gospel and
- iv. To develop ministries to meet the needs of the children and youth in our church (Proverbs 22:6)



4) WE MUST PRAYERFULLY MAKE PLANS TO SEE THE VISION COME TO PASS (Proverbs 16:3) (Proverbs 3:5-6) MAKING PLANS AND SETTING GOALS HELPS TO SEE THE VISION COME TO PASS IN GOD'S TIMING



- Making plans and setting goals helps us to achieve more each day and to be fruitful in our life.
- Making plans and setting goals helps us to stay focused so that God's vision and plan for our life is accomplished.

In the book of Proverbs we read, “The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” (Proverbs 21:5)

5) THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIFE IN EACH SEASON OF OUR LIFE.

- Maintaining an intimate walk with the Lord is crucial in knowing the will of God for our life and in seeing God's plan for our life unfolding.

King David wrote,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way.” **(Psalm 37:23)**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (**Ephesians 5:15-17**)



KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIFE IS CRUCIAL FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS;



- i. God's ways are higher than our ways. (Isaiah 55:8-9)
- ii. Fruitfulness comes from following God's plan for our life (There are different seasons in our life and ministry)
- iii. We will not waste our time in doing unproductive activities and we will delegate tasks that others should do
- iv. We are most anointed when we flow in our own unique gifts and callings (Romans 12:4-8)

- v. We see God opening up doors that no man can close and ministry is done without striving (Revelation 3:8) (1 Peter 4:11)
- vi. Provision and favour come from being in the centre of God's will for our life. God's will, God's bill (Matthew 6:33)
- vii. We will be the greatest blessing to the wider Body of Christ as we remain positioned where God has placed us in the Body of Christ (We all need one another and our God given destiny will always be worked out in relationship with others who God connects us with for His plan and purpose for our lives), and



viii. We will ultimately be rewarded for how faithfully we have done what God has called us to do for Him

(1 Corinthians 3:13-15)



Jesus Himself said,

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” **(Matthew 16:27)**

6) THE IMPORTANCE OF JOURNALING WHEN GOD SPEAKS TO US.



- To see God’s vision and plan for our lives and churches coming to pass, we need to continually seek the Lord for His ongoing directions and counsel (**Jeremiah 23:18**) so that we can gain His wisdom (**James 1:5**) and strategies to see the vision becoming a reality.

In the book of Jeremiah we read, “For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?” (Jeremiah 23:18)

- It is so important that when God speaks to us that we journal what He speaks to us so that we do not forget what He has spoken to us.
- When written down, we can remind ourselves of what God has spoken to and promised us, particularly when we are going through the more challenging times of life.



7) THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING ALL THOSE IN OUR CHURCHES TO KNOW GOD'S WILL AND PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE AND TO LIVE WITH ETERNITY IN MIND

- True joy and purpose for a believer only comes from them knowing Christ intimately and from pursuing God's plan for their life. **(John 10:10) (Matthew 25:14-23)**



- **AS A TEAM OUR CHURCHES CAN MAKE A GREAT IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST**

- As each believer uses their gifts we see growth in the Body of Christ (**Ephesians 4:16**) and communities being changed by the love of Christ as believers work together to serve the community.



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (**Ephesians 4:16**)

AND

8) A GOD GIVEN VISION HELPS OUR LIVES AND CHURCHES TO MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD

- In pursuing God's vision and plan for our life and churches, we will see God do incredible things in and through our lives and churches.



- Every God given idea and plan has the potential to transform the lives of many. We must not limit what God wants to do in and through our lives and churches.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” (Ephesians 3:20)

The LORD said to the Prophet Jeremiah in prison, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)



Following are three short teachings that relate to the topic of having a clear God given vision for our life that can be downloaded from our Church of Hope website: www.coh.org.au

- i. Every Great Christian Leader has a clear vision for their life and church,
- ii. An overview of what is important for all church leaders, and
- iii. The importance of setting goals



- **We will now finish this week’s study by secondly emphasising the importance of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit.**



- **As we give out to others we ourselves need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18)

In the book of Jude we read, “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,” (Jude 20)



The Disciples were Baptised in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **(Acts 2:1-4)**

- However after Peter and John had experienced persecution (Acts 4:14-21) following the healing of a lame man (Acts Chapter 3) they prayed for boldness and were again filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:29-31)



“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)

- The baptism in the Holy Spirit (The second experience of the Holy Spirit) empowers believers to be effective in witnessing to others and in preaching the gospel to others
- After the Apostles had experienced the new birth experience of the Holy Spirit on Resurrection Sunday, (John 21-22) Jesus asked them to tarry in Jerusalem until they would be endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49)



Jesus said to His disciples,

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” **(Luke 24:49)**



Jesus also said to His disciples,

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8)



Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit is a great key to being effective in witnessing to the lost and to living an overcoming Christian walk

- **The Apostle Paul prayed for the Holy Spirit’s power to fill every believer.**



We see this prayer of the Apostle Paul in the following passage of Scripture in the book of Ephesians,

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,” **(Ephesians 3:14-16)**

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)



“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” (Ephesians 3:20)

- **We will now finish with a suggested prayer to help people to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit**



“Dear Father God today I turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Today I ask that Jesus would please baptise me with the Holy Spirit and fire NOW I pray in the Name of Jesus, Amen.”