

# PRAYING THE VISION

PCF-LA Sermon Slides  
Sunday June 30, 2023  
Pastora Venida Antonio

Being in the right frame of mind effects just about everything we do. This is certainly true when it comes to prayer. Peter exhorts us to prepare our minds for action with our vision focused on the appearing of Jesus (and His kingdom)

1 Peter 1:13 (NASB) Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Imagine you have a blindfold over your eyes, and you are crossing a deep ravine on a narrow footbridge that has no restraints or handrails. Strong winds are gusting making it very difficult to keep your balance. One misstep, one moment of lost balance, and you will fall to your death! This is the picture that comes to mind when we read ***Proverbs 29:18 which says, "Where there is no vision the people are unrestrained."*** But the person with vision (revelation and insight) has the blindfold removed, chooses a bridge with handrails for restraints, and locks his eyes on the other side of the ravine.

It is amazing how prone we are to losing focus and allowing our vision to fade. One day we may be focused on the destination and make great progress, but the next we can feel quite aimless. ***Clear vision requires diligence.*** Jesus knew this and that is why He taught his disciples the vision practical examples, plain statements, and parables which were easy to recall. But He also taught them to "***pray the vision.***" He gave them a vision for His coming Kingdom AND He taught them to pray that vision as well — "Thy kingdom come." ***Praying the vision is an effective way to maintain clear focused vision.***

# Various Kinds of Prayer

As we prepare to pray the vision, we should consider that there are different kinds of prayer. A simple understanding of the kinds of prayer below will help prepare our minds for action in prayer.

# Various Kinds of Prayer

## ***1) Praise & Worship***

Praise and Worship is often thought of as a time of music and singing which is part of our church meeting, but it is much more. In God's presence is where effective prayer happens and *we enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise (see Ps 100:4)*. A genuine experience and awareness of His presence should always be the aim of praise and worship in our gatherings and in our personal times of praise and worship.

# Various Kinds of Prayer

## 2) *Meditation*

Meditation is musing, processing, or rethinking thoughts. After a worshipful time when the presence of God is manifest, or after reading a passage of scripture. it is a good time to meditate and listen for the Lord's voice.



# Various Kinds of Prayer

## 3) Petitions

Petitions is probably the most common mindset regarding prayer. Other words used for petitions include supplications and requests. These are simply the things we ask God for. We are encouraged to do this with thanksgiving as we see in *Philippians 4:6* which says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests (petitions) be made known to God.”

# Various Kinds of Prayer

## 4) *Confessions (and Declarations)*

In the broader sense confession means to say the same thing as or to verbally agree with God. Confession is commonly thought of in the context of confessing sin which is when we agree with God that certain thoughts or actions are sinful and receive His forgiveness. But confessing or agreeing with scriptures is also a positive, faith-building part of prayer. Examples of a positive confessions or declarations of faith include Romans 10:9, which says, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord...", and Philippians 4:13 where Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." God makes declarations, calling things that be not as though they were (Rom 4:17) and so should we!

# Various Kinds of Prayer

## ***5) Proclamations (Declarations and Decrees)***

Proclamations and decrees are faith-filled statements that are like confessions but are often understood to be more authoritative or prophetic in nature. Whereas confessions tend to be more faith-building, proclamations and decrees tend to be more governmental and authoritative, proceeding from faith that has already become operative. Binding and loosing would fit well in this category.

# Various Kinds of Prayer

## 6) Intercession

To intercede is to stand in the gap or to stand between someone and the trouble they are facing. It is an act of loving commitment. The ultimate intercession was when Jesus took our sins upon Himself and went to the cross. *Holy Spirit intercedes for us (see Romans 8:27)* and likewise, Jesus is alive and continues to make intercession for us at the right hand of God (see Heb 7:25).

# Various Kinds of Prayer

## ***7) Praying in the Spirit***

Praying in the Spirit, also known as praying in other tongues, is a powerful way of praying. Scripture teaches us that it is a supernatural means of praying by allowing the Holy Spirit to pray through us when we do not know how to pray according to our natural understanding (see Rom 8:26; I Cor 14:14).

# Motivation for Prayer

When it comes to what motivates us to pray, there are many answers. When we feel in danger, we pray for protection.

When we lack money, we pray for financial help.

When we consider the horrendous nature of abortion, we pray for abortion to end.

When we feel sick, we pray for health and healing.

When our hearts break over lost the lost, we pray for their salvation, etc. All these things could be categorized as felt needs. Habit, discipline, and sense of duty also play a part, but I think it is safe to say that most of us are motivated to pray by felt needs.

# Motivation for Prayer

God cares about our felt needs, and we should certainly pray regarding such things. But because our feelings can deceive us and lead us astray, vision is a motivator that must not be overlooked and should probably be our primary motivation for prayer. Prayers motivated by felt need are usually reactive to past or present circumstances, but prayers motivated by vision are forward looking and preemptive in nature

# Motivation for Prayer

In the scripture, we see Jesus responding to felt needs, but we also see that He was motivated by Kingdom vision. In Luke 9:59-60, when Jesus commanded a person, "Follow Me," the person requested to bury his father first. That seems like a strong felt need. Jesus responded, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." In Hebrews 12:1 we see how Jesus denied His own felt need when He chose to endure the cross because of the joy that was before Him. His work on the cross was a difficult part of His mission, but He endured it because He was able to look past the present and see the fulfillment of the vision



# Content of Prayer

Vision should motivate us for prayer, and it should also guide the content of our prayers as well. If we look to our felt needs to shape our prayers, there is a good chance we will pray wrongly. Just because we feel a need to pray for something does not automatically mean we know how to pray. What we think should be done about our felt needs, and what God thinks, may not be the same. We might know the will of God and we might not. James warns about this when he says: "*You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures*" (James 4:3). If Jesus had allowed felt need to determine the content of His prayers, He would have prayed for deliverance from the cross. But instead, He prayed for the will of God to be done, not His own will (felt need).

# Content of Prayer

It has been said "If you know His word, you will know His will."  
Therefore, because the word of God reveals the will of God, we should allow the word of God to shape our prayers and determine the content of our prayers

# Content of Prayer

1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

# Content of Prayer

Prayer according to God's word accesses God's power for God's plan. Prayer based on His word is powerful, because we know that His word is according to His will. We acknowledge our need for God's help and activate His power to accomplish our mission by putting words which align with and agree with His Word into the spiritual atmosphere. This is why the Pray the Vision is built around praying the Scriptures.

# Five Things that Happen When We Pray the Vision

## 1) We Show Up for Work

Prayer need not be hard work, but it is work, nonetheless. Words describing God's desired outcome need to be spoken and put into the spiritual atmosphere. For this reason, prayer is not based on feeling or emotion, but on vision, purpose and responsibility. Prayer must be seen as part of our job, and like any job, we must show up for work if we expect to get paid or rewarded. The Bible puts it this way: "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2)

# Five Things that Happen When We Pray the Vision

## 2) We Stay Focused

Vision is essential. Jesus imparted a vision for the kingdom to His disciples and then taught them to pray for that vision in a model prayer which we generally refer to as The Lord's Prayer: "Thy kingdom come." The principle here is that praying the vision keeps us focused on our purpose and keeps our prayers on track. It is a rare person who stays focused without a model or guide to follow. This is the idea behind the Pray The Vision prayer guide

# Five Things that Happen When We Pray the Vision

## 3) We Are Acting as God's Agents on Earth

The heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth He has given to the sons of men (Ps 115:16). Therefore, praying in agreement with God's will opens the legal channels for heavens power to manifest on earth. This is why Jesus said, whatever we bind or loose on earth shall be, because it is first done in heaven (see Matt 16:19). This is why "...if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven" (Matt 18:19)

# Five Things that Happen When We Pray the Vision

## 4) We Activate Angels

Consider these verses: Hebrews 1:13-14 (KJV) But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?



# Five Things that Happen When We Pray the Vision

Psalm 103:20 (NKJV) Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word

The angels are workers on our behalf. They hear us and take action when we speak according to God's Word. Since angels are not omniscient and cannot read our minds, and since they heed the voice of His word, our prayers should be verbalized and according to God's will so the angels will know what to do on our behalf. As Peter wrote: "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Peter 4:11).

# Five Things that Happen When We Pray the Vision

## 5) Unity Happens

It has been said that those who pray together stay together. Those who pray the vision will find themselves melding together into a powerful unified force for kingdom preparation. If we pray according to different visions, our impact is spread out and is not as effective at penetrating the darkness. But when we are praying according to the same vision, we achieve greater "spiritual mass" and the power to pierce the darkness and destroy evil.

# Points to Ponder

What is your vision for yourself according to God's word?

What is your vision for our church according to God's Word ?

What is your vision for the community according to God's word?

Praying the Vision is what we need to experience the Provision of God

In so many ways

Do it

And

Be bless by it !!!