

I. Vision

- A. At the beginning of the year, the elders felt they had been given a vision of the church leaders checking the armor on the church family. They felt strongly that the Lord was prompting them to make sure the foundations of the church family's faith was strong and stable.
- B. Through this series, we will be shoring up the foundational aspects of your faith with a strong emphasis on the day-to-day practical practices and expressions that the scriptures put forth as essential practices for every believer to be established and built up in their faith. Our desire as a leadership team is to build you up and equip you; not just to stand, but to overcome, and to overcome with a vibrant heart fueled by a wholehearted relationship with Jesus.

II. Biblical Promise and Expectation

- A. Establishing a Goal for this Series - A major aspect of establishing a vision is knowing what the goal is or what success looks like. It's also important to know that the goal is obtainable or realistic. It has been my experience that most people set their expectations based upon their experience rather than the solid exhortations and promises of the word. To this end I would like to set some expectations in your hearts based on the clear promises and expectations given to you through the word.
 - 1. Vibrant Wholehearted Love - The scriptural idea of “loving God” or having the “love of God” on the inside is far more than just the sentiment of emotion or feelings, (though that is part of it). It also speaks of deep relational knowledge, of being confident in who God is, of what He is like, and what He is doing or saying. Lastly, it speaks of having the fruits of the Spirit so established in us that we function out of them rather than pursuing them and trying to walk in them. This vision of having love for God is not spoken of as something that is for the age to come but rather something that is available and accessible in this age for everyone everywhere.
 - 2. Unshakable Faith - The word also promises that the church of Jesus can and will have unshakable faith. Many believers feel as if their faith is only enough for the troubles of today, and they are fearful that some future crisis will dismantle them and their family.

This is not the biblical hope or vision for the believer. We are promised that God will so establish us in our faith that we not only stand through the darkest of times, but overcome those dark times and bring true glory to God and a strong witness of our faith to all of those around us.

3. Mature Spiritual Gifts - Having an entire church family that is not only functioning in the gifts of the Spirit but functioning in confidence and power is not a novelty. It's a promise. The seeking, activation, functioning, and growing spiritual gifts for every individual in the body is mandated and promised in the scripture. The promise or vision put forth in the bible is an entire church family made of young and old, men and women, brand new believers, and age old saints all walking and growing in spiritual gifts, without fear or shame, not for themselves but for the health and growth of their church family.

III. Process

- A. The fullness of the goal of the equipping of the saints in the practicals of their faith will introduce you to an intentional lifestyle where the sojourner chooses daily to implement these practicals. Then, day-by-day they move from one level of faith to the next in an ever upward climb into the fullness of love, faith, and ministry.
- B. That being said, I want you to set your heart to the vision of walking in the practicals of your faith. These are practicals you can start and implement instantly! The end goal of which, however, is formed through a long term process. It is established through the bliss of encounters with God, the difficulty of testing, the encouraging ministry and faithfulness of friends, and the power of heart that chooses life in the mundane rhythms of the day to day. It's a process by God's design for the sake of relationship.
- C. Practicals that will be covered in this series include....
 1. Giftings and Callings
 2. The Gathering, Equipping, and Commissioning of Believers
 3. Studying the Word
 4. Activating the Gifts
 5. True Discipleship
 6. Spiritual Discipline of Solitude
 7. Gift of Prophecy

8. Gift of Healing
9. Deliverance Ministry
10. Spiritual Discipline of Prayer
11. Spiritual Discipline of Worship
12. Gift of Evangelism
13. Gift of Tongues
14. Resolving Conflict

IV. Setting Our Hearts

- A. Our elders have set this vision and goal for our church family based on what they feel is God's leadership for the next few months. However, having God's leadership, great messaging, clarity, and even practical opportunities for growth is not enough for this vision to become reality. We must voluntarily partner with it. We must set our hearts to do our part, which is to put these practical aspects of our faith into practice as a lifestyle.
- B. The challenge of this leadership to you is to set your heart to hear and receive the messages, encouragements, and opportunities that will be put forward in this series. If and when a practical is put forward that you are not participating with in your life, we implore you to implement it! When an invitation is given to participate with a ministry, we ask that you say yes!