

**Vision: Our purpose is to connect people with God and others, leading them to become fully devoted followers of Christ in the Kingdom of God, who are expressing His life in their world through serving, encouraging, bringing hope, and impacting our community.**

**Mission: Love God. Love People. Equip and Serve.**

**Creating Vision:**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| *Vision is Gods idea.                   | Matthew 28:18-20 |
| *Vision will be written.                | Habakkuk 2:2-3   |
| *Vision determines values and strategy. | Acts 1:4-8       |
| *Vision will affect the future.         | Nehemiah 2:1-5   |

**Vision is Gods Idea:** Great Commission

**Vision will be written:**

Written vision is clear. Verse 2: ...make it plain on tablets.

Written vision details the future. Verse 3: ...yet for an appointed time...

Written vision comes to pass. Verse 3: ...at the end it will speak and it will not lie...

Written vision will set the agenda. Verse 3: ...it shall surely come, it will not tarry...

**Vision will affect values and strategy:**

Value: Values flow out from the vision. They reflect the core guiding beliefs and directions of the organization. In the written form, they flow from vision.

Strategy: Strategy flows from the vision and values. It quantifies and verifies the implementation of the vision and values. It includes goals, action plans, planning, and time schedules.

**Vision will affect the future:**

Nehemiah was captured by vision. It was a vision of a restored Jerusalem.

Vision affects your future, those about you, and the nation.

(1:2) Vision that affects the future will see a need...*asked them concerning the Jews...*

(1:3) Vision that affects the future will have a clear starting point...*the wall of Jerusalem is broken down...*

(1:4) Vision that affects the future will affect the leader...*I sat and wept...*

(1:5) Vision that affects the future will focus on the greatness of God...*great and awesome God...*

(1:6) Vision that affects the future will ask for help from God...*may hear the prayer of your servant...*

(1:7) Vision that affects the future will involve deep leadership reflection...*acted corruptly against you...*

- (1:8) Vision that affects the future will draw from past promises...*remember, the word...*
- (1:9) Vision that affects the future will draw on future promises...*yet I will gather them from there...*
- (1:10) Vision that affects the future will consider the team available...*these are your servants and your people...*
- (1:11) Vision that affects the future will be birthed and kept in prayer...*let your ear be attentive...*
- (2:1) Vision that affects the future will deeply touch the leader...*I had never been sad in his presence before...*
- (2:2) Vision that affects the future will affect powerful people...*the king said to me...*
- (2:3) Vision that affects the future will tell the need...*gates are burned with fire...*
- (2:4) Vision that affects the future will encourage significant support...*What do you request...*
- (2:5) Vision that affects the future will request significant support...*send me to Judah...*
- (2:6) Vision that affects the future will have a set completion date...*I set him a time...*
- (2:7) Vision that affects the future will mean leaders will gain necessary authority...*must permit me to pass...*
- (2:8) Vision that affects the future will require a specific strategy of support...*timber to make beams...*
- (2:9) Vision that affects the future will need protection...*sent captains of the army...*
- (2:10) Vision that affects the future will recognize a number of specific enemies...*they were deeply disturbed...*

Vision from God has a dynamic effect on the leader and the destiny of the organization.

A leader facing challenges will refer to the vision of the church. This will help identify and rank the challenges faced importance and if it will hinder the overall plan.

**Key points to remember:**

- \*The leader will refer to the vision in times of challenge
- \*The vision will be written and made clear to all the team
- \*The vision should have a dynamic impact on the future
- \*Challenges will reflect on the power of the vision so that the challenge has a reason
- \*The vision will help to organize a flow through to planning and scheduling
- \*Vision should be big enough to create some significant challenges that are worthy to fight for

# PRAYER IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

By Mark E. Moore, PhD

The book of Acts is, in many ways a blue print of how to "do church." Prayer is an excellent example. Prayer is mentioned in one form or another 10 times in Matthew, 12 times in Mark, and 5 times in John. But Luke mentions it 19 times in his gospel and 32 times in Acts. Look up the following Scripture passages and see if they don't give you some practical guidelines for prayer.

- I. What happened after the church prayed?
  1. Pentecost (1:14)
  2. Earthquake and Evangelism (4:31; 16:25)
  3. Resuscitation (9:40)
  4. Miraculous Release (12:5)
  5. Healing (28:8)
  
- II. What did the church pray for?
  1. Its leaders (1:24; 6:6; 14:23\*)
  2. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit (8:15)
  3. Sinners to Repent (8:24; 26:29)
  4. Missions (13:3\*)
  5. Physical safety (27:29)
  6. Healing (9:40; 28:8)
  
- III. When did the church pray?
  1. In times of Crisis (7:59; 12:5, 12; 16:25)
  2. When making decisions or establishing leaders (1:24; 6:6; 14:23)
  3. When repenting (8:22; 9:11\*)
  4. When saying "Goodbye" (20:36; 21:5)
  
- IV. The church prayed habitually:
  1. The whole church (2:42)
  2. The Apostles (1:14; 6:4) & Leadership (13:3\*)
  3. Peter (3:1; 10:9; 11:5)
  4. Paul (22:17)
  5. Cornelius (10:2, 4, 30-31)
  6. Jewish Women (16:13, 16)
  7. Actual prayers (1:24-25; 4:24-31)

\* Accompanied by fasting