

1 Vision, Purpose, & Prayer

- Seeing the Big Picture

2 Father's Day

- Tribute to David Gichuru . . .
 - Who died last week carrying out his duty and responsibility of a father.
 - Forsaking his own security and safety battled dangerous “rip currents” to save one of his sons.
 - While the son was saved, David gave his life that another may live.
 - May his sense of duty and responsibility to save his family be an inspiration to all us fathers Tonight.

3 Vision Statement

- To bring Glory to God by showing forth the faithfulness and power He gives to those who carry out the Words of His Son Jesus Christ and in so doing provide evidence for others to believe and put their trust in the living God.

4 Restatement

- The purpose of Ekklesia and any church for that matter is to give witness to the lordship of Jesus Christ who has been given all authority and power.
- This revelation occurs when the church—a collection of disciples of Jesus' teachings, prays and sees supernatural manifestations of God's glory—that is His ability to fulfill what He has promised.

5 Restatement

- However, if people in the church are not holding to the teachings of Jesus Christ and are still supporting the values and ideals from the “dominion of darkness” from which they came,
 - God's glory will not be manifested.
 - Their prayers will be hindered because the conditions to the promises of God's Kingdom have not been fulfilled.
 - Christ's name will be dishonored.

6 The Devil's Schemes

- “forgive . . . in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” (2 Cor 2:11 NIV)
- Cause friction, strife, discord, dissension, and misunderstanding to produce disputes, division and conflict in the church.

- Why? To keep us from fulfilling the Great Commandment so that we may fail to glorify God's name through answered prayer.

7 Dominion of Darkness

- “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.
- All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.
- Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath” (Eph. 2:1–3 NIV)

8 Purpose

- So for us to be successful in bringing God glory we must . . .
 - Stop following the ways of the world.
 - Stop listening to Satan.
 - Be self-controlled over our flesh.

9 Out of Darkness

- “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,” (Col 1:13 NIV).
- “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,” (Eph 2:19 NIV)

10 Out of Darkness

- “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light” (Eph 5:8 NIV)
- “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” (Eph 5:11 NIV)

11 Reality

- As believers, we now belong to a new country and kingdom.
- To be blessed citizens of this country we must hold fast to its values, customs and ideals.
- We must no longer support the values and customs of our old country. If we do, our citizenship in God's Kingdom won't mean a thing.

12 Reality

- So Satan's strategy is to encourage us to continue to follow the values of our old country so that we'll continue to give in to the lust of the flesh and our selfish egos.
- When he accomplishes this, God's promises won't be realized in our lives and we will not bring glory to the name of Jesus.
- Instead, God's name and the name of His Son will be dishonored and blasphemed.

13 Values

- So where are the values of this world (dominion of darkness) promoted?
 - Television, Movies, Radio, and Secular Books
 - Citizens of the Dominion of Darkness
 - Secular Educational System
 - Worldly and Compromised Christians
 - False Prophets and Teachers

14 Prayer

- At our Prayer, Praise, and Worship services; I would like to see us praying with understanding.
 - Pray for Unity and Harmony in our church.
 - Pray that the Devil's schemes to bring division would be overcome with wisdom and grace.
 - Pray that God would help us to value the values of heaven and be good citizens of His Kingdom.
 - Pray that we would bring glory to the name of His Son—Jesus Christ by answering our prayers.

15 Corinth

- A church that was rich in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but had many who were weak, sick, and some who had died. Why?
- According to the Apostle Paul, they failed to discern the Body of Christ.
- In other words, they still valued concepts and customs of their old country.
- They failed to see that the church was the new incarnation of Christ and so didn't fully appreciate and value each member. Instead they showed favoritism.

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