

A Vision for Revival

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” –Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

“And the Lord answered me, and said, ‘Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.’” –Habakkuk 2:2 (KJV)

What is the vision of Grace Fellowship?

Vision is the revelation of God’s redemptive plan for our time. The vision, which God has given us at Grace Fellowship, can be summarized by two key words: **Revival** and **Restoration**.

1. REVIVAL

- a. **Revival** is the result when backsliding Christians repent of their sin and return in full devotion to Him
- b. **The need for revival**
 - 1) God’s people have disregarded His lordship over their lives and lived according to their own selfish desires (Matthew 7:21-27; Luke 6:46)
 - 2) God’s people no longer walk in the fear of the Lord or strive to be holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:16-17)
 - 3) God’s people no longer esteem the Word of God as the final standard for determining right and wrong (Isaiah 5:20)
 - 4) God’s people worship Him with their lips but their hearts are far from Him, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men (Matthew 15:1-9)
 - 5) God’s people have a form of godliness but deny His right and power to operate in and through their lives (2 Timothy 3:5)
 - 6) God’s people are unfamiliar with Him and are unable to discern His voice and activities (Luke 19:41-46)
 - 7) The church, the bride of Christ, has prostituted herself with the world’s system of values, priorities, and methods instead of preparing herself for the wedding feast at Christ’s second coming (Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:7)
 - 8) God’s house is not known as “a house of prayer for all nations”, but has become a center for man’s activities and corruptions (Matthew 21:13)
 - 9) Many leaders remain in personal sin and disobedience (Jeremiah 23)
 - 10) Many leaders are promoting and walking after visions of their own heart and not speaking a true word from God (Jeremiah 23)
 - 11) Many leaders are using, abusing, and neglecting the flock of God rather than leading with a true shepherd’s heart (Isaiah 56:9-12; Jeremiah 23)
 - 12) Because of our sin and impurities, God is bringing judgment on America and on His church by removing His hedge of protection and giving us over to the consequences of our sin (Isaiah 5; Amos 4:6-12)
 - 13) Unless we repent, the severity of God’s judgment will intensify with each passing day as He has begun to pour out His wrath in turning us over to the curse (Deuteronomy 28:15ff; Ezekiel 7:1-14; Joel 1)
- c. **The promise of revival**
 - 1) God has promised the former and the latter rain to His people, i.e. a mighty outpouring of His Holy Spirit upon His people in the last days to overcome a resurrection of worldwide paganism and one world order (Hosea 6:1-3, 10-12; Joel 2:23-32; Acts 2:16-21)
 - 2) God has told us that great spiritual darkness upon the earth’s inhabitants and a revival of God’s people will occur simultaneously in the last days (Isaiah 60:1-3)
 - 3) God has promised to judge and cleanse His church before He returns so that she will not be condemned with the world (1 Corinthians 11:32; 1 Peter 4:17)
 - 4) God has promised that Christ will present to Himself a glorious rather than a backslidden bride (the church) at His return (Ephesians 5:22-27)
 - 5) God has told us that as it was in the days of Noah, so it will also be before the Second Coming of the Lord. (Matthew 24:39) Before God destroyed the earth in the days of Noah, He had Noah prepare an ark for the salvation of his household and a remnant of

- creation. (Genesis 6) Even so now God is calling His people to come out of this world system unto Himself before the coming final judgment, this time with fire. (2 Peter 3)
- 6) God has promised revival to His people if they will meet His conditions (2 Chronicles 7:14; Joel 2:12-17).

2. RESTORATION

- a. **The biblical concept of restoration** not only means to bring something back to its original condition, but also includes the idea of being increased, multiplied, or improved so that the latter condition is better than its original condition. (Job 24:10-12; Joel 2:21-26; Haggai 2:9)
- b. **The need for restoration**
- 1) Jesus came to save and restore lives twisted and broken by sin
 - 2) In order to restore families, individuals within the family must be restored
 - 3) In order to restore churches, families within the church must be restored
 - 4) Restored churches are needed to facilitate the salvation and restoration of individuals, families, and churches
- c. **The individual and restoration**
- 1) Deliverance from the power of sin and the curse (Romans 6:1-14; Luke 4:18-19; Galatians 3:13-14)
 - 2) Deliverance from the power of the past (Isaiah 43:18-21; 61:1-3, 7; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
 - 3) Restored in position and purpose (Ephesians 2:6; Isaiah 61:4; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Philippians 3:12-14)
 - 4) Restored unto relationship with the Father and the Son (Ephesians 4:6; Galatians 4:6; 1 John 1:3)
- d. **The family and restoration**
- 1) The restoration of God's role in building the family (Psalm 127:1)
 - 2) The restoration of godly marriages (Malachi 2:13-16; Ephesians 5:22-33)
 - 3) The restoration of generations (Malachi 4:5-6)
 - 4) The restoration of biblical order, pattern, priority and blessing within the family (1 Corinthians 11:3-16; Ephesians 5:22-6:4)
 - 5) The restoration of the biblical concept of children being a blessing from the Lord. The Lord gives us children as a heritage and as an entrustment so that they might become a godly offspring unto Him (Psalm 127:3-5; Malachi 2:15)
- e. **The church and restoration** includes the return of the church to New Testament
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| 1) Purity | 6) Purpose |
| 2) Prayer | 7) Pursuits |
| 3) Power | 8) Patterns |
| 4) Praise | 9) Principles |
| 5) Position | 10) Passion |
- f. **The promise of restoration**
- 1) The scriptures have foretold the restoration of *all things spoken by the prophets* before Christ returns (Acts 3:20-21)
 - 2) The ministry of restoration is the heritage given to God's people (Isaiah 58:12; 61:4)
 - 3) The restoration of the church as a glorious bride is the objective of Christ before He returns (Ephesians 5:27)
- g. **The process of restoration**
- 1) People must repent and submit wholly to God (2 Chronicles 7:14)
 - 2) God allows shaking and refining to take place so that everything that has not been ordained and built by Him will fall. Only those things that cannot be shaken—those eternal things of the kingdom—will remain and be refined (Jeremiah 1:10; Matthew 21:12-16; Hebrews 12:27-28)
 - 3) God calls and prepares instruments of restoration (Isaiah 58:12; 61:1-4)
 - 4) God releases His Holy Spirit in the lives of His people to heal, rebuild, and restore (Isaiah 61:1-4; Joel 2:28-29; Zechariah 4:6; Luke 4:18; Acts 1:8)