



SEE IN FAITH (Week 1)

WELCOME: What part of the future are you most excited about?

WORSHIP: This new sermon series, *Envision Greater Things* is designed to help us grow in four areas of faith: **seeing in faith**, to **sowing in faith**, **speaking in faith** and **stepping in faith**. God is doing greater things around us and we want to pursue with greater passion, the greater things that God is doing. As we begin, let's sing **OCEANS** by Hillsong Worship (*if you don't have access to Youtube, a SmartTV or a computer, you may begin the study by praying, acknowledging that God is among you and that He's doing greater things in your life*).

WORD: The ability to "see" is one of the most fascinating natural processes! It involves light waves, chemical reactions, electrical impulses that all work together with split second precision. Our physical eyes are limited to seeing only physical things. We must remember that there is a spiritual side of life that is just as real as the physical side. According to pastor's sermon on Sunday, seeing with spiritual eyes means having the ability to perceive and understand the things of God. Read Psalm 119:18. Everyone has spiritual eyes, but not everyone can see spiritually (2 Corinthians 4:4a, *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers...*). Spiritual sight is activated by faith, but we need to grow in and get used to using that gift. Let's read Ephesians 1: 17-20 NIV:

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

How do we develop our spiritual vision?

1. See God for Who He is. It takes faith to activate spiritual vision, but it takes wisdom and revelation to develop it. Read verse 17 again.

- According to that verse, what do we need to know God better?
- What do you remember from Pastor's sermon about those two important words?

2. A personal revelation of God in your life. Revelation means *to unveil*. Having a relationship with Jesus is not just about head knowledge, it's experiencing His reality in our life.

- How can we have a greater revelation of God in our life? Read Psalm 63:1-4 and John 15:4-6.
- What are the benefits of having a personal revelation of Jesus in your life?
- "If you have genuine faith in Jesus, you can be shaken, but you are unshakable." Read Psalm 18:2.
- How real is Jesus to you? How real is God to you? Is He a theory or is He a person?

Our ability to see in faith is strongly tied to your personal revelation of Jesus.

3. Seeing in faith reveals the greatness of calling. We need to be able to see in faith so that we may know our calling and the power that is available to us when we pursue the calling God has for us. Read 18-20. Seeing in faith allows us to see our twofold calling: *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which he has called you,*

- A. A heavenly destiny (eternity with God) ...*the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,*
- B. An earthly mission (making disciples in power)...*his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

What happens when you start using your spiritual vision?

It's good that you have the ability to see in faith, but it's important to understand how *seeing in faith* works in your everyday life.

The example of the apostles. (Read Acts 4:18-20). The disciples of Jesus were unstoppable because they knew that a power much greater than anything else in heaven or on earth is accessible to them—through the resurrection power of Jesus working in them, they did not see limitations and boundaries, but chose to see opportunities in which they could glorify God—by planting churches, performing wonders in Jesus' name, bringing people to faith. They gave themselves fully to their calling because they saw in faith what is yet to be—the greater things that God was doing. We can see in faith the way they did; we can access the same power that was available to them!

- What is your vision for your life and ministry?
- Are God and His church part of your future plans?
- What areas can you exercise your faith in?
- Do you see yourself as a visionary or a drifter?

A different way to see.

Pastor quoted, *"What you magnify, you get more of."*

- How would you consider yourself, are you generally positive or do you highlight the negative?

When you see in faith, you see situations, things and people the way He God sees them. When you see in faith, you see purpose and potential. However the situation presents itself, no matter how bleak the situation looks, when you see in faith, what you see are purpose and potential. You see roads in the wilderness and you see streams in the desert (Isaiah 43:19) because you believe that God is able to do immeasurably more than you could ask or imagine (Eph.3:20).

Seeing in faith is the having ability to find purpose for every situation, thing or person—and seeing the God-potential for every situation, thing or person. You look at people in your life, and you see their purpose and potential, not their past and their failures.

- Do you have a difficult time seeing or finding the good (the purpose and potential) in people, things and situations?
- Do you see purpose and potential or do you feel stuck in limbo?
- Read Philippians 4:8-9
- Do you want to have borderless and fearless kind of faith?
- What do you choose to see?

God brought you here; and He did not make a mistake in calling you. He can turn an empty and barren place into a fruitful and prosperous place--if you're willing, He can even use you to transform the place He has placed you at. Read Jeremiah 29:7.

Embrace the pioneer spirit. A pioneer is an innovator, trailblazer, ground-breaker, spearhead, a world-changer—a pioneer is someone who goes ahead of the rest—and others follow! When you see yourself in faith as a pioneer you begin to see things that others don't. We need to discover the pioneer inside of us. We must break the ground, plant your roots deep and begin to see in faith the fruit that is yet to come.

Read Isaiah 60:1-2.

Those verses are an invitation. It is God is saying, "I want you to rise above all the darkness you see, and see in faith that the Lord is rising upon you, and His glory—His radiance, His light shines over you."

This is an invitation from God—

- Will you be a part of what I am doing? Will you be a part of what I am accomplishing?
- Do you want spiritual eyes of faith to see greater things that are taking shape right in front of you?
- Do you want to see miracles in your life like never before?
- Then it's time for you to start rise, and see in faith the glory of God rising over you!

ANNOUNCEMENT:

FALL BAPTISM BASH – OCTOBER 23 (Right after Sunday worship at the Microtel Inn swimming pool)

If you have received Jesus as Lord and Savior and you want to take your next step of faith, **SIGN UP FOR BAPTISM!**