



VISION 2020

“Growing Deeper”

Hebrews 5:11-14
February 8, 2015

THE CHALLENGE: A Renewed Vision - Transformation
We desire to be radically transformed by God into a people He can use to transform others.

The CRITERIA: **Grow** in a Deepening Relationship With Christ

THE CALL – A DNA Shift: A Call to Grow Deeper

God’s Part in Our Growing Deeper

- ✓ The Lord Desire & Command Is for Us To Grow Deep – To Mature (2 Peter 1:8; 3:18; & Hebrews 5:11-14 & Colossians 2:6-7; Romans 8:29; 2 Peter 2:1-3)
- ✓ The Lord Causes the Growth to Happen (1 Cor.3:5-9)
- ✓ The Lord Desires That We Grow Together (Col.2:19)

Our Part in Growing Deeper

- ✓ Put Myself in the Right Place (Heb. 10:23-25)
- ✓ Put Myself in the Right Position (Col.2:6-7; Eph.3:14-19)
- ✓ Put Myself Around the Right People (Eph. 4:15-16)
- ✓ Involve Myself in the Right Process (Col. 1:28)
- ✓ Have the Right Perspective (Eph. 4:13-15)
- ✓ Develop the Right Patterns (1 Timothy 4:7)

What Happens When We Grow Deeper

- ✓ A Healthy Church
- ✓ Healthy Groups

- ✓ Healthy Leaders
- ✓ Healthy Christ Followers

MINISTRIES ALIGNED

- ✓ ReFuel on Wednesday Nights
- ✓ LifeGroups
- ✓ Age Group Ministries (Preschool / Children / Students / Adults / Singles / Sr Adults / Special Needs)
- ✓ Small Accountability Groups (Men’s/Women’s Ministries)
- ✓ Class 201

TARGETS TO LOOK TOWARDS

- ✓ LifeGroup Attendance would be 85% of Our Average Worship Attendance by 2020 (*We are at 72%*) That would be an attendance of almost 400
- ✓ Each Life Group Would Have the Right DNA – (Shared Leadership & Desire to Multiply)
- ✓ Reproducing Leaders – Have a Clearly Laid Out Plan That Trains and Mentors New Leaders
- ✓ To See 10-20 New LifeGroups Added Over the Next 5 Years → We Will Have to Have More Space
- ✓ Develop a Overall & Yearly LifeGroup Curriculum Plan & Implementation of That Plan
- ✓ Accountability – Small Groups by Men/Women (4-5 people) – 50% of Those Attending Worship
- ✓ Develop or Provide Resources to Encourage Deep Spiritual Growth for Our Church Family
- ✓ Discipleship [Staff] – Children’s/ Preschool/ Discipleship

TEAMS TO CONNECT WITH

- ✓ Age Group Ministry Teams
- ✓ LifeGroup Team
- ✓ Curriculum Development
- ✓ Resources Team – Growth Resources
- ✓ Accountability Groups Team

VISION 2020

“GROWING Deeper”

Hebrews 5:11-14

February 8, 2015 AM Service

The Challenge – A Renewed Vision – Transformation

We desire to be radically transformed by God into a people He can use to transform others.

It firsts start with our transformation in every area of our lives. This is the prerequisite and the requirement before we can do anything.

Once we allow the Lord to do this transformational work in our lives then the Lord can begin to use us to be a conduit, a vehicle through which He can move in the lives of people so their lives transformed as well!

The Criteria

- ✓ **Connect** Yourself & Others to Christ and the Church
- ✓ **Grow In a Deeping Relationship with Christ**
- ✓ **Commit** Your Time and Resources to Serve Christ & Others
- ✓ **Go** Share the Love of Christ With Everyone Everywhere
- ✓ **Resources**
- ✓ **Praying for leaders for each of these teams**

The Call – A DNA Shift

- ✓ A Call to Connect Deeply
- ✓ **A Call To Grow Deeper**
- ✓ A Call to Commit Sacrificially
- ✓ A Call to Multiply Rapidly

The Chart – A Transformation Journey

It's a process – it designates movement – We are never called to stand still – we are called to mature, to grow in our walk and as we do that we share the love of Christ with others and then help them walk that same path.

GROW

God's Part in Our Growing Deeper

We all have a tendency to get comfortable, at ease, at rest when things grow and if we are not careful we can let the weeds grow as well and we don't tend to the garden like we once did and the growth will go for a while but it eventually will stop and the weeds can take over and all of

sudden we look up and wonder what happened and why we plateaued and now even why we are declining either personally or corporately. For many of this this will be our greatest challenge and the most important one for if we make a commitment to grow deeper then quite frankly the rest of this process will come naturally and be a part of our passion.

✓ **The Lord Desire & Command Is for Us To Grow Deep – To Mature To Grow Up!** (*2 Peter 1:8; 3:18; & Hebrews 5:11-14 & Colossians 2:6-7; Romans 8:29; 1 Peter 2:1-3*)

It is not optional though many in Christendom today think that I don't have to grow, get my fire insurance ticket if that is even a possibility and live like I want to doing my own thing, moral for the most part, showing up to church some, giving some money and that's all that is required. Never what Christ intended. I would say is that how we treat our jobs? Is that how we treat our families? Is that how we treat ourselves? NO way! We are made to grow! The greatest plague in churches today, the measles of the church, the Ebola, whatever you want to call it is believers who are not growing, who don't think it is necessary to grow and that is the real reason why we aren't impacting our culture the way that we once were. There are some who are and it shows, it is reflected in who they are. But many aren't growing deeper. Many of us aren't growing at all, and many are still stuck where you were when you first became a believer or your faith from when you were a teenager. Never what Christ designed for us!

2 Peter 1:8 “The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. NLT

2 Peter 3:18 “8 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” NASU

Heb 5:11-14 “11 There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. 12 You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. 13 For someone who lives on milk is

still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. 14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.” NLT

1 Cor 3:1-3 “1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? NASU

Rom 8:29 “For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” NLT

1 Peter 2:1-3 “2 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.” NASU

✓ **The Lord Causes the Growth to Happen** (*1 Cor.3:5-9*)

We understand it is a process and doesn't happen overnight. And I cannot cause the growth to happen – only God can. But I do have a role to play and we will talk about that in just a moment. But understand, you can't make yourself grow nor anybody else.

“5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.” NASU

✓ **The Lord Desires That We Grow Together** (*Col.2:19*)

We don't grow on an island. To refer back to last week, we are called to be connected – to be part of that body but not superficially connected, but deeply connected and part of that is not only growing deeper privately but growing together in Christ.

“19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. NASU”

Our Part in Growing Deeper

✓ **Put Myself in the Right Place** (*Heb. 10:23-25*)

“23 Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed, because we can trust God to do what he promised. 24 Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds. 25 You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming. “ NCV

Bottom line, we have to place a premium on being in the Lord’s House with the Lord’s people, in a Lifegroup and serving. We have to be here, physically and then deeply connected. It’s like saying well I am going to grow this seed, but I am going to leave it on my desk. NO way it grows! Notice, the call as the days draw nearer to the end – we must not forsake meeting together yet that is exactly what is happening in the church in America today and there are tons of stuff that now the church competes with that it once didn’t. It’s time for Believers to stand up and clearly say, Sunday is the Lord’s day!

✓ **Put Myself in the Right Position** (*Col.2:6-7; Eph.3:14-19*)

The Sun, the Soil, the Showers (Rain), the Temperature

IN order to Grow, our roots must go down deep into. This is where our part comes in. We have to put ourselves in the right position to grow. How deep are your roots this morning. Why so many struggle when the storms of life come and blow we fall over because our roots are shallow. Yes we want the Lord to grow us wide – meaning we grow numerically but far more important is that we are growing deep.

Col 2:6-7 “6 And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. 7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, & you will overflow with thankfulness.” NLT

Eph 3:14-21 “14 When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, 15 the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. 16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you

with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. 18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”
NLT

✓ **Put Myself Around the Right People** (*Eph. 4:15-16*)

Our Growth helps others to grow (Ephesians 4:15-16)

This is being in a LifeGroup – and again not just attending one but deeply connected to one and even further that we see our people connecting in even smaller groups throughout the month sharing life together and holding each other accountable.

“15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. NLT

✓ **Involve Myself in the Right Process** (*Col. 1:28*)

Our LifeGroups having the right DNA – structure and also a deep desire and understanding that our group is called to grow and multiply – if our group is staying the same, something isn't right.

“We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” HCSB

✓ **Have the Right Perspective** (*Eph. 4:13-15*)

Our Growth helps us to know what is true and right and not be carried away.

“13 And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature. 14 Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind of the teaching of deceitful people, who lead others into error by the tricks they invent. 15 Instead, by speaking the truth in a spirit of love, we must grow up in every way to Christ, who is the

head.” GNT

✓ **Develop the Right Patterns** (*1 Timothy 4:7*)

It takes works – we must develop the habits – A daily quiet time- time spent reading the Word of God, digesting it, applying it to myself, praying, listening, mediating, fasting, fellowshiping, giving.

1 Timothy 4:7 "Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit." "Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness."

What Happens When We Grow Deeper - See Goals

✓ **A Healthy Church**

Our Growth helps to expand the Kingdom (*2 Corinthians 10:15-18*)

“15 We're not barging in on the rightful work of others, interfering with their ministries, demanding a place in the sun with them. What we're hoping for is that as your lives grow in faith, you'll play a part within our expanding work. 16 And we'll all still be within the limits God sets as we proclaim the Message in countries beyond Corinth. But we have no intention of moving in on what others have done and taking credit for it. 17 "If you want to claim credit, claim it for God." 18 What you say about yourself means nothing in God's work. It's what God says about you that makes the difference.” THE MESSAGE

Think about it – what if most of the people attending this body were growing during the week and they come here – it will lift the roof off of this place. It will mean we will have even a more healthy church and one that can withstand challenges and conflicts, and even have a huge impact on its community.

✓ **Healthy Groups**

LifeGroups that are growing, those that are functioning the way they were intended and thus multiplying and taking care of each other.

✓ **Healthy Leaders**

We see more and more leaders rising up and being trained and mentored and taking the roles of leadership and that the leadership doesn't depend on the few but the many.

✓ **Healthy Christ Followers**

Perhaps this should have been first and the rest flows from this – growing believers are healthy ones because that's what healthy things do – they grow!

MINISTRIES ALIGNED

We want every ministry to line up under the vision and every ministry sees where it falls and how it helps to fulfill the vision. We are all on the same page and understand that any ministry we are involved with and in needs to fall under this Vision. So what falls under this particular part of the Vision. Let's see...

- ✓ **ReFuel on Wednesday Nights**
- ✓ **LifeGroups**
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- ✓ **Accountability Groups Team** (Including Men's & Women's Ministries)

Our Contribution & Commitment

Take the Next Step for The Sake of the Call

- ✓ Commit to Praying every day for Vision 2020 and your part in it
- ✓ Identify and Take the Next Step in Each of the 4 Areas
- ✓ Take the Next Step and Commit to serve on one of the 4 Teams
- ✓ Take the Next Step Up on the Generosity Ladder
First Time – Occasional – Intentional - Tithing – Extravagant

All this will come together on Sunday, February 22 and March 1st. On the 22nd and March 1st we will have our 3rd Annual Ministry/Missions Fair but this one will be bigger than all the others combined. And also March 1st will be our Commitment/Generosity Sunday where we will commit to Vision 2020 our time, resources, and financial commitments and we will bring the 1st ones on that day. Then that night we will come back and celebrate the outcome. It's going to be a huge day!