

## **Casting Vision For A Cell-Based Church**

Taught by Ron Myer

Please write your own notes and comments to the covered material.

Note: In this session, we use the terminology of senior elder to describe the primary leader of the cell-based church. Some churches may use the term senior pastor or another name.

Vision causes us to act – our actions show our vision.

### **I. Casting vision**

#### **A. Vision comes from values / Values Must Come From The Word**

Values must come from the Word of God.

You will never change structure until you've changed your values.

At the point of crisis, our values will always win out. This is because we naturally return to the things that are deep in our hearts.

Our values have to be determined by revelation from the scriptures. The scriptures are the standard for building the cell church.

Teach your values from the scriptures. Teach your vision from the values.

2 Kings 2:1-8, NIV – (1) *And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. (2) Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel. (3) Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!" (4) Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho. (5) Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!" (6) Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So the two of them went on. (7) And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. (8) Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.*

How hungry was Elisha for the vision?

## Class 130-2

"Vision is stretching. Vision is about stretching reality beyond the existing stage. It is not about status quo. " — George Barna

### B. Receiving a vision can be difficult

It's been said, the Lord gives you a vision and then takes you into the valley of adversity to conform you to that vision. It is in this valley of decision where the future of the vision is determined.

Whatever God is doing in your life today, He is preparing you for tomorrow.

If you can hear from God, you can go through anything.

Before you can cast your vision into someone else, it must be cast in you.

## II. The senior elder is the primary vision carrier in the local church

(Although sometimes the vision will carry you!).

The senior elder must accept the responsibility that what he judges to be valuable will be valuable. He is called and placed by God to establish the vision of the local church.

Numbers 27:16, NIV – (16) *"Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, (17) who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."*

Acts 20:28, NIV – (28) *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

As an overseer of a local church, he is to shepherd the church of God. He is called by God to give direction to the local church he oversees.

The senior elder must have the cell vision and be in a cell group himself. He must be convinced that this is the direction for the church to go.

## Class 130-3

### III. The senior elder must have a team around him

A senior elder must realize that he needs a supporting team around him. What God has called us to do, we cannot do alone. What the Lord wants to do is much larger than what we see. There is nothing impossible for the one who doesn't have to do it all by himself. A one man show will never take it as far as it can go. Strong leaders are important, and strong teams are important. It's both!

God does not bring other people on a team for competition, but for completion!

*Acts 13:13, NIV – (13) Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.*

#### A. Select and develop other leaders in order to expand the vision

You must develop them rather than just teach them. Teaching is an "impartation of information." Developing is "releasing people" of like vision. In order to release people of like vision, you must impart who you are. It takes relationship in order to impart who you are. You must build relationship with those you influence.

*Acts 20:20, NIV – (20) how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.*

*Acts 2:40-47, NIV – (40) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." (41) Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (42) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (43) Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. (44) Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, (45) and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. (46) So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

## Class 130-4

### IV. Being in unity with the cell vision (and the senior elder).

The senior elder's first task in undertaking vision for the cell church is to ensure that each team member has the vision in his heart. This needs to be in place before the vision goes out to the believers in the local church. It will take much time, energy, resource, trust, and patience to do this.

The team must be vision-driven.

Being driven by the vision means sacrificing things that should not be sacrificed.

If there is more than one primary vision in the house, there is division. As in the pouring of metal casting (when the molten metal flows into the shape of the mold), there needs to be a melting together of the team—everyone giving up their personal agenda for the purpose of the whole. Any unwillingness or doublemindedness will filter down to the people and breed rebellion and division.

David asked the following three questions of the Benjamites who were coming to join him (1 Chronicles 12:1-18).

*1 Chronicles 12:1-2, 16-18, NKJV – (1) Now these were the men who came to David at Ziklag while he was still a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war, (2) armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow. They were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren. ... (16) Then some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to David at the stronghold. (17) And David went out to meet them, and answered and said to them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if to betray me to my enemies, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look and bring judgment." (18) Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and he said: "We are yours, O David; We are on your side, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, And peace to your helpers! For your God helps you." So David received them, and made them captains of the troop.*

1. Have you come peaceably (What is your motivation)?
2. Have you come to help (Are there hidden agendas)?
3. Will you betray me to my enemies (What will you do with your issues)?

## Class 130-5

### V. Avenues for imparting the vision

#### A. Righteous Speech.

You must build through proper communication. Speak clearly and consistently what God is saying. Proper communication is encouraging! Encourage! Encourage! Encourage!

When you say, "I've heard this before", you cut off the Holy Spirit from working in your life.

Hebrews 3:13, NIV – *(13) but exhort one another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

#### B. The vision needs to be woven into all aspects of ministry

You need to publicly communicate the vision at least 20 times per year for people to grasp it. People need to hear it coming through sermons. It needs to be communicated in various forms of media. Write it in newsletters. Communicate it through testimonies. Declare it visually with banners and overheads. Jacob, in Genesis 30, set branches with white stripes before the flocks, and they reproduced according to the vision they saw. Reinforce the vision in every possible way.

### VI. Have training and equipping times

Meet together monthly with cell leaders and assistant leaders for training and impartation. Also meet with cell leaders individually to help them apply the vision practically for their cell group.

Try and not do anything alone.

#### A. Continue to provide training for the next step in the leadership process.

If the next step is not known, the leadership process will stop. People must know the next step. We must provide it for them—teaching in the classroom setting and, most importantly, on-the-job-training. A clear leadership track gives people incentive.

## Class 130-6

### VII. Building with good planning

Set clear attainable goals that can be checked to see if you are on target. It is hard to have unity when there is confusion.

Unity is not a by-product of confusion.

Be clear about direction and the speed at which you are going. Timing is the thing most often miscalculated in planning. Be realistic.

Good planning always included evaluation. Have times of evaluation while discerning if you are clearly communicating your heart.

Don't be afraid to ask the hard questions.

Rick Joyner – Listen to your enemies; they will tell you things your friends won't.

*Habakkuk 2:2-3, NIV – (2) Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. (3) For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.*

*1 Corinthians 1:10, NIV – (10) Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

*Luke 10:17-20, NIV – (17) Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." (18) And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. (19) Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (20) Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*