



Vision for Venture Christian Church

August 29-30, 2015 • Chip Ingram

Could God Be Up to Something Big at VCC?

“Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law.” *Proverbs 29:18 (NASB)*

How do you get “a word from God?”

1. **Look Up** - Claim His **PROMISE**. *(John 7:17)*
The question to ask – “What does God want us to do?”

2. **Look In** – Discover your **PURPOSE**. *(Ephesians 2:10)*
The question to ask – “What has God gifted us to do?”

3. **Look Back** – Review your **PAST**. *(Proverbs 20:5)*
The question to ask – “How has God prepared us to do it?”

4. **Look Out** – Identify God’s **PROVIDENCE**. *(Romans 8:28)*
The question to ask – “Where has God prepared for us to do it best?”

Venture exists to be a catalyst to transform the Bay Area from a place of spiritual darkness to a global strategic teaching and discipleship center for the gospel of Jesus Christ;

by partnering with Living on the Edge and like-minded churches,
to produce Romans 12 Christians... here, there and everywhere.

The Clarity Of Our Vision Will Determine The Severity Of Our Impact

How Does God Measure Success?

“A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity – all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:43-47 (NLT)

Characteristics of a Successful Church:

- A high view of God
- Supernatural power manifested
- Deep interpersonal relationships
- Radical steps of faith / selflessness
- Sacrificial giving to meet needs
- A commitment to corporate worship
- A commitment to small group meetings
- Great joy, fun, winsome generosity
- An excellent reputation among non-believers

How Does God Supernaturally Produce A Church Like Acts 2?

- It begins with a “supernatural **SEED**.”

“For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”

1 Peter 1:23 (NIV)

- It grows “in and of itself (Mark 4:28) by the **SUPERNATURAL** power of God. 1 Corinthians 3:7

- It requires a special spiritual **ENVIRONMENT** conducive to personal growth. *Acts 2:41-42*

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church – about three thousand in all. They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord’s Supper and in prayer.”

Acts 2:41-42 (NLT)

- When we draw near to God, He draws near to us and instructs us in His ways for our lives.

James 4:8

Psalms 32:8

Personal Growth Requires A “Spiritual Greenhouse . . . “ Acts 2:42

1. Instruction in the truth - “**The Apostles Teaching**”
Action = *Commit to attend our 6 week Holy Ambition Series beginning Sept 13*
2. Deep interpersonal relationships - “**Fellowship**”
Action = *Commit to host or join a Small Group this Fall*
3. A Christ-centric mindset and lifestyle of service
“**The Lord’s Supper**”
Action = *Commit to join the Venture family, Sept 27, 4-7pm*
4. A dependent, personal devotional life and regular corporate worship - “**The Prayers**”
Action = *Commit to practice B.I.O. daily*

Conclusion

God is not impressed with HOW MANY people attend Venture Christian Church; but He is deeply concerned with WHAT KIND of people are being produced by Venture Christian Church.

Application

1. On a scale of 1 – 10 (1= low, 10 = high), how conducive is your present lifestyle to personal, spiritual growth?
2. What specific step do you sense God would have you take to “cultivate an environment for personal growth?”
3. When and how will you do that?



Going Deeper This Week:

Take time to review and reflect on this message. You can find it on the **Venture App** from the App Store or Google Play, as well as online at venturechristian.org/teaching