

***Fanning it into Flame***  
**Sunday, March 21, 2010**  
**Vision Sunday**

Vision is such an important aspect of our life. Our natural eyes enable us to see where we are going, enjoy the beauty that surrounds us, and observe the many plights of mankind. Our spiritual and personal vision also enable us to do similar things, yet offers an added dimension of giving us the fuel that feeds our mind, will, and emotions. My desire for us today is to establish the basis and the heartbeat of our vision.

The following is copied directly from our Mission Page on our website: [www.graceassemblyofgod.com](http://www.graceassemblyofgod.com)

## **Our Mission**

From our very beginning we had a saying, "***We don't go to church. We are the church.***" Our desire is to be the kind of church Jesus had in mind when he said that he was building his church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. The Apostle Paul revealed in his letter to the Ephesians that the church was the body of Christ and we are members of that body with Jesus as the head.

Therefore our mission is to be a tangible demonstration of the life of Christ touching our society. Jesus said, "***As the Father has sent me so I am sending you.***" When the world looks at us we want them to see him. When people come to Grace we want them to be filled with the **hope and expectation** that God is going to work supernaturally in their lives because he is the same now as he was then. He never changes.

In Acts 2:17-19 Peter quotes the prophet Joel telling them: "***In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.***" God was telling us that he was going to let us see things from a divine perspective. What a vantage point! Jesus set the example for us on how to live the Christian life, not out of a set of rules and regulations, but being in an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father. Jesus only did what the Father taught him. In John 8:28 he said that he did nothing on his own. Yet understand here that this was not a reluctant servant we're talking about. It was the son of God who loved his father and delighted in doing his will. The fruit of a genuine relationship with God will produce that same kind of attitude and lifestyle. We were made for this. The works he did we can do. How awesome is that!

I don't like a program driven church that people have to plug into. Anytime you have a gathering of people there needs to be some structure to facilitate a proper flow and provide order and direction. However, the real essence of what we do and why we do what we do must come from a heartfelt conviction motivated by what drives you. Jesus wanted to save the world. He came obediently desiring to do what he did because of who he was. His will was to do the Father's will. God is looking for us to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. We will do what he did because we want to do it too. There will be an internal drive that resonates to the core of our being. God cares about the poor, the downcast, and the brokenhearted. It was even revealed in the first message we are told Jesus gave when he launched his public ministry by opening to the scroll of Isaiah. I'll include the text from Isaiah 61:1-4 ***The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.*** Jesus came with a compassionate heart and did all that he did from the same. I believe we are to be so touched by God that we are transformed into his likeness, not from trying to observe a set of rules or live up to obligatory prerequisites. Rather, we become like Jesus, listening for the voice of the Father and doing what that internal longing demands.

What is it that you are drawn to do to satisfy that spiritual yearning within your heart? When you know what it is speak to me about it. Let me hear your passion. Let's brainstorm on how it can be accomplished. Then let's see who else feels the same way. A ministry birthed out of this kind of vision is the one that will succeed. God is sending the winds of revival and change and is waiting for us to say "Yes" to who we really are in him. Let's rebuild those ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated.