

Growth Points

with Gary L. McIntosh, Ph.D.

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Finding Personal and Corporate Vision

There has been much talk about the need for a church to have vision. What is vision? How does a leader discover it?

Vision is **NOT** a spiritual gift, although it is related to faith. Vision is not a natural tendency, although some leaders seem able to discover it easier than others. Vision is not motivation, although it does motivate followers. Vision is not energy, although it does empower people.

Personal vision and corporate vision are often intertwined.

Vision **IS** a picture of a preferable future for a person or group of people. From where does such a picture come? John Vawter, a pastoral coach, suggests vision comes from evaluation.

Think Through Self

Before a leader can have a vision for a church, he must have one for himself. Vawter recommends asking and answering the following questions.

1. What does God want to do with your life?

Think through what God may be doing with your life. What special training, experience, or background has God allowed you to know? What might this say about your future?

2. What do you want God to do with your life?

Think through your own hopes and dreams for the future? God has likely been speaking to you about your personal vision for many years. What would you personally like to do or achieve?

3. Are you willing to pay the price for what God wants you to do?

Think through what you're willing to sacrifice, such as, investment in more education, training, or coaching. Are you willing to invest the time, money, or effort to reach your goals?

4. If your giftedness were maximized, what could happen for God?

Think through your personal gifts and abilities. If you paid the price to maximize your gifts, what could happen? What is the best you could achieve?

5. What does Ephesians 3:20 mean for your life?

Check out Dr. McIntosh's new website for additional articles.

New website address:

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What does God want to do in your community?

Why did God begin your church?

This verse reminds us that God is able to do far more than we can ask or think because his power is working in us. How might this apply to your own life?

After thinking through these questions, take time to write out a vision statement for your own life. Make it less than twenty-five words.

Think Through Church

1. Why did God begin your church?

Think through the history of your church. What were the dynamic reasons the church began? Which ministries have been the most fruitful over the years? What special DNA appears to be in the church?

2. What does God want to do in your community?

Think through the needs in your community. What challenges are people facing? What dreams do they hope to achieve? What concerns them the most? What might God want to do in your community to meet some of these challenges, dreams, and concerns?

3. What price are you willing to pay to see this happen?

Think through your church's background and the community's needs. Where do the two coincide? That may be where God is pointing the future of your church's ministry. Are you and the other leaders of your church willing to pay the price to make the connection?

4. What does Ephesians 3:20 mean for the life of your church?

This verse reminds us that God is able to do far more than we can ask or think because his power is working in our church. How might this apply to your church?

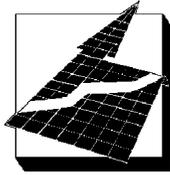
After thinking through these questions, take time to write out a vision statement for your church. What is God calling your church to do in its community in the coming years? This is your church's vision.

After writing your personal vision and church vision, give serious consideration to the following principles. First, recognize that living out your vision will not be easy. However, if you remain persistent, God will bring it to pass. Second, realize a price will be paid. It will take time, money, effort, and faith. Third, remember that personal and corporate visions are intertwined. God most often puts us where our own vision fits a church's vision. When the two match, we can be sure we're in the right place.



Gary L. McIntosh is editor of *Growth Points* and speaks at several leadership events each year.

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One Size Doesn't Fit All

Ministry Insights for Church Leaders

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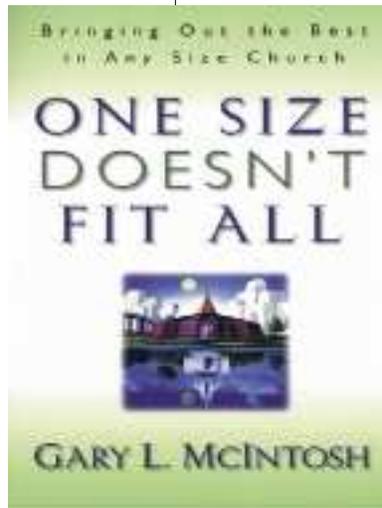
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