

Jeremiah 28:2,3

The people are listening to a false vision

See verse 15

Jeremiah 28:15 ¹⁵ Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, "Hear now, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, but you make this people trust in a lie.

The real pursuit of vision

Jeremiah 29:4-13 ⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and dwell *in them*; plant gardens and eat their fruit. ⁶ Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters -- that you may be increased there, and not diminished. ⁷ And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. ⁹ For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD. ¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

I do not believe it is safe to rely on anything except when the will of God is submitted to the church.

Vision

Vision is not a program for how we'll do something.

Vision is the clear mental image of God's preferred future for His church in the context of the leader.

That vision is powerful...

Yes, the word vision is used in different ways.

Now, where does vision come from?

Not from the congregation or pastor, but from the Holy Spirit.

Vision comes from God.

When Jesus finished His earthly ministry, He promised to be present with us—thru the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Now, who is the Holy Spirit with?

The Pastor?

Only as he seeks the Holy Spirit.

Is the Holy Spirit with the Pathfinder director or elder?

Yes, as these individuals commune with Him.

Does the Holy Spirit inspire vision?

The role of the pastor is to have a connection with the Holy Spirit that powerfully brings vision into the life of the pastor.

God > Pastor > Congregation

This is the process.

The ministry of Jesus flows out of the character of God.

The powerful working of the church in mission today is revealed in the planting of the church thru Jesus and His followers.

Skip looks to a theology of the priesthood of all believers.

I look to how Jesus sent the disciples out two by two.

I'm going to look to the way the apostles planted churches.

Choose from among yourselves gifted men/women.

Looking to NT images: what about those images helps us to understand.

1 Cor 12 is one of the best—the giftedness of every member.

The role of the pastor is for the pastor to build up the body of Christ until we all become ministers.

Each member is empowered by the Holy Spirit: no one stands between that member and God.

The idea of a succession of priesthood I reject.

Not only do I reject that, but the Bible reveals that God has called the whole body.

The whole body is to be trusted more than single persons.

That's a Protestant theology.

Everybody receives a gift.

What saves the Body from fracturing in a 100 different directions?

The gift of pastor/shepherd is not elevated above the other gifts in scripture.

The calling of the pastor: teacher/pastor or pastor/shepherd

Now, what keeps us all on one vision?

If we pray earnestly and constant submission to the Holy Spirit, God will inspire a common vision for His church.

A praying pastor and a church that waits to see what the pastor will bring out of his prayer closet is not good theology.

We need to send our churches like Jesus sent the disciples to the Upper Room for prayer.

Far more powerful than a charismatic pastor.

Who receives the vision, the pastor or the congregation?

No, the vision comes from God—not the call of the pastor to write a new word, but the call of the pastor to unravel what God's Word has said.

Your prophetic ministry as pastor is to clearly teach and preach the Word.

The reason God works thru the body is because God knows best.