

Vision Statement who we are in GI (2019)

"We are an End-Time Church, House of Prayer, and Bride of Christ in preparation: in intimacy, character and power; to stand with Israel and to bring in the harvest of the nations for Jesus' glorious return."

1. We are an End time church, House of Prayer (Matt 24-25)

- a. End time church embracing the prophetic urgency of the last day and the ultimate destiny of the church (John 17:20-26; Eph. 1:10, 3:9-11; Ezk 36-39; Zech 12-14; Rev 1-3, 12).
- b. House of Prayer (a.k.a. Tabernacle of David) – important role of intercession & worship, reaching the weak marginalised (Is 56:3-8; Mk 11:17; Amos 9:11-12; Acts 15:16-17; Mal 1:11; Rev 5:8, 8:3-6).
e.g. Vision of bowl of incense

2. Bride of Christ in preparation (Rev 19:7-9)

- a. **Intimacy** (Jn 14:21-23)
 - (1) Extravagant devotion to Jesus Christ as the life goal. E.g. David, Paul, Mary of Bethany (Phil 3:10-11; Luke 14:3-9; Ps. 27:4)
 - (2) Following Jesus by embracing the cross (Luke 9:23)
- b. **Character** (Romans 8:28-29)
 - (1) Commitment to life of personal holiness & obedience - Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-25);
 - (2) Character before gifts in ministry: humility, faithfulness, and love (Is 66:2; Phil 2:1-11; Matt 11:25-30; Rev 14:1-5)
- c. **Power** – Gifts of the Spirit; Power of the ages to come in Word & Spirit; Sevens Spirits of God. E.g. Elijah & John the Baptist (1 Cor 12:4-11; Heb. 6:6; Rev 4:5; 5:6; Is 11:1-2). E.g. Prophecy of the 7 lamps burning and encounter on 7 Spirits of God.

3. To stand with Israel, and to bring in the harvest of the nations for Jesus' glorious return (Matt 13:39)

- a. Mandate to become a friend to Israel in the time of persecution and restoration (Jer. 30:7; Zech. 12-14; Rom 11:11-36; Eph 2:14-18)
- b. Harvest within Australia and among the nations of the world (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21; Rev 14:14-16)

“We are an End Time Church, House of Prayer, and Bride of Christ in preparation: in intimacy, character and power...”

1. **Recapitulation** from last week: **The heart of the House of Prayer is ‘ministering to the Lord.’**
 - a. ‘Ministering to the Lord’ is ‘intimacy-based’ prayer; primarily not need based prayer for result focused prayer. ‘love based’ rather than ‘power based.’ The focus of prayer/ministry is the Lord Himself. Why would anyone come to prayer/worship session over & over again except for love & quest for intimacy?
 - b. The very highest level of the grace of God is released when God’s heart is reach in a deep way. That’s what happened in Acts 13:1-3. It was said of the early church, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.” (Acts 17:6) The last day church will also have the same testimony as ‘having turned the world right side up!’
 - c. How? The same way as the early church. The end time church will touch the heart of God so deeply as they ‘minister to the Lord’ (in a way only the Bride of Christ could), the Lord’s heart will be so moved to release the greatest grace & power the world has ever witnessed!
 - *They sing in heaven (during tribulation): “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Rev 7:10)* – There is no shortage of power from God’s end to save. It’s the releasing of it in the church that was problem. That’s how the end time harvest will be brought in.
 - Note: 7 Pictures of God’s People in Ephesians: (1) Church; (2) Body; (3) Workmanship; (4) Family; (5) Temple; (6) Bride; (7) Army. [ID 5-7] – notable in ID in Revelation.
 - If you make room in your life to ‘minister to the Lord’ as a lifestyle you are doing yourself a great favour!
2. **Bride of Christ in Preparation (Rev 19:7-9; Rev 21-22)**
 - a. **This is the greatest & ultimate destiny of the church!** To be married to Christ (spiritual reality for both men & women). This is the passion of God’s heart (Rev 4:3 – ‘burning in red’) which is called a great mystery in the Bible (Eph 5:32). There are many mysteries, but the mystery of the Bride of Christ is a ‘**Great Mystery**’ not yet unfolded thus far.
 - Rev 19:7-9 – Only when the ‘Bride as made herself ready’ (trigger event), Jesus returns on the white horse as the Judge (& defeat antichrist/false prophet), and the new heaven/new earth follows. *There is ‘no higher priority’ in the heart of God!* Perfected Bride is God’s unchanged goal of salvation all along even prior to the fall. Until we understand this truth, we can never understand our true value & purpose of salvation.
 - The truth that God has a Son was a ‘mystery’ only revealed as NT revelation (1 Tim 3:15 – ‘*Great is the mystery of godliness: ‘God was manifested in the flesh’*’) - i.e. Our God is triune/relational God! But the story doesn’t end here, because God had a plan (great mystery) – i.e. to prepare a bride for His Son out of His creation! Crowning moment of history which the angels/creation longs to see – for both Jews & Gentiles in Jesus!
 - Gen 22 parable of Abraham sending his servant to get the bride from faraway as the summation of human history – nameless servant being the picture of the Holy Spirit. Consider Rebecca’s response of faith & the test of the choice of the bride’s! (Camel drinks ~200L each)
 - b. However, we are **the Bride of Christ in preparation now.** (2 Corinthians 11:1-4; Rev 19:7-9) We are living in a time between betrothal (espousal), and marriage supper of the Lamb. Jewish marriage custom was that a young couple were betrothed ~1 year before marriage ceremony before they move in together. Meanwhile the bridegroom prepares bride’s home, and bride prepares herself for the wedding day (C.f. Matt 25:1-13) – the lesson on Matt 25:1-13 is the preparation of the “**oil of intimacy.**” Matt 24 is Jesus’ greatest teaching on the end time & Matt 25 on how to prepare for the End time.

“₁ I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. ₂ For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. ₃ But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. ₄ For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully. (2 Cor 11:1-4 NASB)

How does the Bride make herself ready?

- *Rev 19:7-9* – her wedding dress of fine linen is the ‘righteous acts of the saints’ – i.e. Righteousness of God worked into her. ‘Imputed’ or ‘imparted’ righteousness.
- *2 Corinthians 6:16-17:1* – moral, ethical, spiritual preparation for holiness paramount!
- *Eph 5:27* – a glorious church, without spot (unconfessed sin); wrinkle (relationship in order); without blemish (moral/character flaws).

Q: Will every believer be part of the Bride of Christ? I cannot answer, but apostle Paul didn’t consider himself as arrived. Is this your ambition in life?

- c. End time ministry of preparing for the Bride – John the Baptist who came in the spirit & power of Elijah to prepare the way of the Lord was the first person to see Jesus as the Bridegroom & the people as the Bride. What was John’s life & death like?
- 3. **Three major areas of preparation in the saints** (in GI): (1) Intimacy; (2) Character; (3) Power.
 - Note: Order is important! [focus on each element prepares the foundation for the next one. Reversing this priority always caused major havoc in Church history!]
 - End time unique dynamic (no other season like it!): (1) ‘Gross darkness in the world’; (2) ‘Promise of Power in the church! However, great power without deep Christlike character (incl. humility) always spelled ‘disaster’. (E.g. liken to high-powered electric line. What is Insulation? Cross worked into our flesh.) (2) Christlike character forms in us effectively when we have purposed in our heart for the wholehearted to pursuit of intimacy with Christ as the first priority of our life. (Questions of goal & motives of the heart). (Discipleship program without intimacy with Christ in the centre doesn’t produce the same result)
 - a. **Intimacy (John 14:21-23)** – Goal of Christian life not the means to achieve another hidden agenda. There is deep longing for ‘greatness’ in everyone’s heart! True ‘greatness’ need to be redefined radically. Extravagant devotion to Jesus Christ is the life goal! (*Phil 3:10-11; Luke 14:3-9; Ps 27:4*). In order to follow Jesus closely we must embrace the ‘cross’ – death to ‘flesh’ (Luke 9:23). Definition of Christian is one who follows Christ.
 - b. **Character (Rom 8:28-29)** – God’s priority is ‘maturity into Christlike character’ not ‘success’ as the world define it. ‘Secret of Christian life’? (1) Commitment to life of holiness & obedience to the Word – Fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-25). (2) Character before gifts/ministry – ‘Humility’, ‘faithfulness’, ‘love’ (heart to forgive) takes priority over ability or giftedness as this is God’s heart for all of us. How did the last days saints get the Christ-like character certified by heaven? By Following ‘the Lamb’ wherever He goes. (C.f. Rev 14:1-5)
 - d. **Power (Joel 2:28-32)** – Power of the Word & the power of the Spirit. E.g. John the Baptist & Elijah as model of end time prophetic ministry! E.g. Prophecy of 7 lamps burning. 7 Spirits of God in the last days upon the last day church of Christ (c.f. Is 11:1-2; Rev 4:5; 5:6)

A woman with long, dark hair, wearing a flowing white dress, walks away from the viewer towards a bright, hazy light source. She is barefoot and appears to be walking on a path or grass. The background is a soft-focus landscape with trees and a body of water. The overall atmosphere is ethereal and spiritual.

GLORY INTERNATIONAL VISION 4:

BRIDE OF CHRIST IN PREPARATION

2019-05-05 Ps. Paul Kim

Vision Statement of Glory International

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Revision of Last week – ‘End time Church, House of Prayer’

The heart of the House of Prayer is **‘ministering to the Lord.’**

1. ‘Ministering to the Lord’ is **‘intimacy-based’** prayer; The focus of ministry is the Lord Himself. Why would anyone continually come to prayer/worship session except for love & quest for greater intimacy?
2. *Highest level of God’s grace is released when God’s heart is reach in a deep way.* (c.f. Acts 13:1-3) ***“These who have turned the world upside down...”*** (Acts 17:6) so also the last day church have the same testimony.
3. How? *The same way as the early church. The end time church will touch the heart of God so deeply as they ‘minister to the Lord’, the Lord will be so moved to release the greatest grace & power the world has ever witnessed!*
 - ***“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*** (Rev 7:10) – There is no shortage of power from God’s end to save.
 - ***If you make room in your life to ‘minister to the Lord’ as a lifestyle you are doing yourself a great favour!***

Antioch Church (Acts 13:1-3)

7 Pictures of the Church in NT as God's People:

(1) Church

(2) Body

(3) Workmanship

(4) Family

(5) Temple

(6) Bride

(7) Army

Bride of Christ in Preparation (Rev 19:7-9; Rev 21-22)

1. Greatest & ultimate destiny of the church! - Passion of God's heart (Rev 4:4 'burning in red') a great mystery (Eph. 5:32) – i.e. Bride of Christ!

- Rev 19:7-9 – Only when 'Bride as made herself ready' human history ends (Jesus returns & new heaven/new earth) *There is 'no higher priority' in the heart of God! Perfected Bride is God's unchanged goal of salvation all along.* Until we understand this truth, we can never understand our true value & purpose of salvation.
- God has a Son was a 'mystery' (1 Tim 3:15 – 'Great is the mystery of godliness: 'God was manifested in the flesh'). But the mystery doesn't end here, because God had a plan (great mystery) – i.e. to prepare a bride for His Son! – the crowning moment of history!
- Gen 22 parable of Abraham sending his servant to get the bride from faraway as the summation of history. *Consider Rebecca's response & test!*

Bride of Christ in Preparation (Rev 19:7-9; Rev 21-22)

2. However, we are ***the Bride of Christ in preparation now.***

- We are living in a time between betrothal and the marriage supper of the Lamb. Jewish marriage custom was that a young couple were betrothed ~1 year before marriage ceremony before they move in together. Meanwhile the bridegroom prepares bride's home, and bride prepares herself for the wedding day.
- *Lesson on Matt 25:1-13 is the preparation of the “oil of intimacy.”* Matt 24 Jesus' greatest teaching on the end time & Matt 25 on how to prepare for it.

“₁ I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. ₂ For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. ₃ But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. ₄ For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.
(2 Cor 11:1-4 NASB)

Bride of Christ in Preparation (Rev 19:7-9; Rev 21-22)

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

***“I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”***

17 Therefore

***“Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.”***

***18 “I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.”***

7 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Cor 6:16-7:1)

Bride of Christ in Preparation (Rev 19:7-9; Rev 21-22)

- *²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph 5:27)*
- *⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev 19:7-9)*
- *Q: Will every believer be part of the Bride of Christ?*

Bride of Christ in Preparation: in intimacy, character,& power

- Order is very important! *One builds the foundation for the next one. Reversing this priority always caused major havoc in Church history!*
- End time dynamic:
 - (1) '*Gross darkness in the world*';
 - (2) '*Promise of Power in the church!*'
 - Great power without deep Christlike character (humility) spells disaster. (E.g. life high-powered electric line)
 - Christlike character doesn't form apart from wholehearted pursuit for intimate walk with Christ. (goal's in life& motives of the heart.)

Bride of Christ in Preparation: in intimacy, character,& power

- **Intimacy (John 14:21-23)** – Intimacy with Christ is the goal of Christian life not the means to another hidden agenda. There is deep longing for ‘greatness’ in everyone’s heart! ‘Greatness’ must be redefined radically. Extravagant devotion to Jesus Christ is the life goal! (Phil 3:10-11; Luke 14:3-9; Ps 27:4). In order to follow Jesus closely we must embrace the cross – death to ‘flesh’ (Luke 9:23). Definition of Christian is one who follows Christ. (Rev 14:1-5)

²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (John 14:21-23)

Bride of Christ in Preparation: in intimacy, character,& power

- **Character (Rom 8:28-29)** – God's priority is 'maturity' not 'success' as we define it 'Secret of Christian life'? (1) Commitment to life of holiness & obedience to the Word – Fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-25). (2) Character before gifts/ministry – 'Humility', 'faithfulness', 'love' (heart to forgive) takes priority over ability or giftedness as this is God's heart for all of us.
- **28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. **29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:28-29)

Bride of Christ in Preparation: in intimacy, character,& power

- **Power (Joel 2:28-32)** – Power of the Word & the power of the Spirit.
E.g. John the Baptist & Elijah as model of end time prophetic ministry!
E.g. Prophecy of 7 lamps burning. 7 Spirits of God in the last days (c.f. Is 11:1-2; Rev 4:5; 5:6)

“And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Bride of Christ in Preparation: in intimacy, character,& power

³⁰ “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:
Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

³² And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the Lord
Shall be ^[a]saved.

For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be ^[b]deliverance,
As the Lord has said,
Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.