

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...”

- End time – ‘...unique time frame upon which the very definition of the church would change...’
1. **Recap of House of Prayer & Tabernacle of David in Jerusalem Council Acts 15** – early church struggled to know the true identity of the church!
 - a. Identity of the church slowly developing with Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) which shed significant light on who the church is – i.e. ‘God restoring the tabernacle of David.’
 - b. What Tabernacle of David did for Israel (Ps 132:13-18) – When the worship in the right place (v.14), it causes cascading effect of revival in economic (v.15); religious (v.16); military (v.17); political (v.18) arena. a.k.a. ‘golden era of Israel’ (It is David era, not Solomon era!). ‘*spiritual acceleration for blessing*’ was highest during David’s reign! Solomon’s success as afterglow.
 - c. Why such an open heaven? “But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.” (Ps. 22:3) connection between God’s throne & Worship/Prayer. This is the function of the church Jesus promised to build! – i.e. *Church on earth exercising full authority of the kingdom on Christ’s behalf.*
 - “The LORD said to My Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion” (Ps 110:1-2 c.f. Heb. 12:22-24) – Now Christ doesn’t rule direct. When church prays the rod of authority is sent out of Zion for Christ to rule in the midst of His enemies.
 - d. Jerusalem Temple destroyed in 70 AD. Temple & identity of Church decoupled from it. But Paul more fully developed what church is. Then what did church decoupled from the physical ‘temple’ looked like? Is there a scriptural picture of what it looks like?
 2. **Antioch Church (Acts 13:1-3)** – unique composition of mainly ‘gentile church’ – big deal to have gentile majority church! (formerly part of Syria, but now part of Turkey, Antakya)
 - a. **International constituency of leadership** from diverse background (Jew/Gentile barrier actually down!)– (1) Barnabas’ (Levitical Jew, Acts 4:36); (2) Simeon called Niger (black); (3) Lucius of Cyrene (Libya), (4) Manaen who was brought up (foster brother of, RSV) with Herod the tetrarch (Herod Antipas, the husband of Herodias, son of Herod the Great who built the temple). ‘Prophets’ & ‘Teachers’ are not easy to bring them together! Disciples called ‘Christians’ in Antioch (Acts 11:26)
 - b. **Key Concept of the House of Prayer/Tabernacle of David** – **“Ministering to the Lord”** (x3 in NT) - ‘λειτουργέω’ [Note: Acts 13:2 (spiritual); Rom 15:27 (financial); Heb 10:11(priestly)]. How did they ‘minister to the Lord’ with ‘fasting’? **How do we ‘minister’ to the ‘All Sufficient God’?** (c.f. Ps 50:10-14 – ‘If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine and all its fullness.’). How do we minister to the Lord? What is the role of fasting in ministering to the Lord? (C.f. Luke 5:33-35)
 - c. Acts 13 & 15 – ‘dual hinge’ on Acts! **The greatest world evangelism/mission move came out of ‘ministering unto the Lord’, not in the boardroom discussion!** This is also the heart of the House of Prayer (Is. 56:8) & the Tabernacle of David (Acts 15:17)! As the leaders of the Antioch church ministered to the Lord, the Holy Spirit spoke, and the 1st apostles (Not the original 12) were activated and sent out!
 - d. What did 288 singers (1 Chr 25:7) & 4000 musicians/gatekeepers (1 Chr 23:5) do 24/7 in David’s Tabernacle? What do 24 elders before the throne of God do? E.g. “Learn from the fathers...” (Corey Stark) → ‘ministered unto the Lord’ **How? Worship/prayer fuelled by the beauty of the LORD! – ‘prayer & fasting’ arising out of love of the Lord rather than felt need as driving engine of all church ministry/activity!** In a nutshell this is the key concept of the House of Prayer; Tabernacle of David; New Testament Church on earth as God defines it!

- e. *Do you as a Christian make room to 'minister to the LORD' in your lifestyle?* It is God's heart to bless all His children, but when Jesus said He will build His Church He had more in mind than just making us live blessed life individually.
- f. *Why is God doing it this way? (inconvenient)* Ultimate destiny of the church → 'The Bride of Christ.'
 - Note: House of Prayer ('ministering to the Lord') prepares the way to the spiritual formation of the Bride of Christ!
 - e.g. 7 Pictures of God's People in Ephesians: (1) Church; (2) Body; (3) Workmanship; (4) Family; (5) Temple; (6) Bride; (7) Army. [5-7] – notable in ID in Revelation.

3. 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 which is called a great mystery in the Bible (Eph 5:32). There are many mysteries – e.g. mystery of godliness, mystery of Jews/Gentiles, mystery of lawlessness, but only one '**Great Mystery**' – i.e. **Bride of Christ!**
- 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 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 (Matt 25:1-13).
 - 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 life!
 - Eph 5:27 – a glorious church, without spot (unconfessed sin); wrinkle (relationship in order); without blemish (moral/character flaws).
 - 2 Corinthians 6:16-17:1 – moral, ethical, spiritual preparation.

4. Three major areas of preparation in the saints (in GI): (1) Intimacy; (2) Character; (3) Power.

- Note: Order is very important! [order of focus as one builds 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 (humility) spells disaster. (E.g. life high-powered electric line. Insulation? Cross worked into flesh.) (2) Christlike character doesn't form apart from wholehearted pursuit for intimate walk with Christ. (Questions of goal & motives of the heart.)
- a. **Intimacy (John 14:21-23)** – 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)
- b. **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.
- c. **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)



**GLORY
INTERNATIONAL
VISION 3:**

**BRIDE OF CHRIST IN
PREPARATION**

2019-04-28 Ps. Paul Kim

Vision Statement of Glory International

“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.”

Revision of GI Vision – ‘End time Church, House of Prayer’

- Early church struggled with identity of the church!
- **Jerusalem Council** (Acts 15) shed significant light on what the church is = *‘God restoring the tabernacle of David.’*
- **What Tabernacle of David did for Israel** (Ps 132:13-18) – When the worship in the right place (v.14), it causes cascading effect of revival in economic (v.15); religious (v.16); military (v.17); political (v.18) arena. a.k.a. *‘Israel’s golden era’*
- Why such open heaven? *“But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.”* (Ps. 22:3) - i.e. connection between God’s throne & Worship/Prayer.

Revision of GI Vision – ‘End time Church, House of Prayer’

- *This is the church Jesus promised to build!* – i.e. Church on earth exercising full authority of the kingdom on Christ’s behalf. Heb. 12:22-24 c.f. Ps 110:1-2.
 - *“The LORD said to My Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion” (Ps 110:1-2 c.f. Heb. 12:22-24)*
- *Jerusalem Temple destroyed in 70 AD.* Temple & Church identity decoupled from temple & Jerusalem. *Then what did the church away from physical ‘temple’ looked like?* Is there a biblical example what it looks like?

Antioch Church (Acts 13:1-3)

- (1) 'International constituency!' (2) 'Prophets' & 'Teachers' (3) 'Christians' in Antioch (Acts 11:26)
- **Key Concept of H.O.P: "Ministering to the Lord"** (x3 in NT) - [Acts 13:2 (spiritual); Rom 15:27 (financial); Heb 10:11(priestly)].
- (1) How did they 'minister to the Lord' with 'fasting'?
- (2) How do we 'minister' to the 'All Sufficient God'? (Ps 50:10-14).
- (3) What is role of fasting in ministering to the Lord? (Luke 5:33-35)
- **The greatest mission move came out of 'ministering to the Lord', not in the boardroom discussion!**
- This is also the heart of the House of Prayer (Is. 56:8) & the Tabernacle of David (Acts 15:17)! *As the leaders of the Antioch ministered to the Lord, the Holy Spirit spoke, and the 1st apostles were activated & sent out!*

Antioch Church (Acts 13:1-3)

- *Tabernacle of David* - 288 singers (1 Chr 25:7) & 4000 musicians (1 Chr 23:5) worshipped & prayed toward the Ark 24/7 as was 24 elders before the throne of God!
- *Worship/prayer fuelled by the beauty of the LORD! – ‘prayer & fasting’ arising out of love of the Lord rather than felt need was the driving engine of church ministry activity! This is the key concept of the House of Prayer; Tabernacle of David; New Testament Church as God defines it!*
- *Do you as a Christian make room to ‘minister to the LORD’ in your lifestyle?* God’s heart is to bless all His children, but when Jesus said He will build His Church He had more in mind than just making us live blessed life individually.
- *Why is God doing it this way? Ultimate destiny of the church → ‘The Bride of Christ.’*
- House of Prayer (‘ministering to the Lord’) prepares the way to the spiritual formation of the Bride of Christ!

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)

- **Greatest & ultimate destiny of the church!** - Passion of God's heart a great mystery (Eph 5:32) – **i.e. Bride of Christ!**
- However, we are *the Bride of Christ in preparation.*

Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. ² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the ^[a]simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! (2 Cor 11:1-4)

- In between **betrothal & marriage supper of the Lamb** (Rev 19:7-9).
- Jewish custom of betrothal (Matt 25:1-13).

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)

- *²⁷ that 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)*
- *⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸ And 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)*

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. live 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.)

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- **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.