

CLASS 5

Identifying, Owning and Sharing Your Vision

CLASS OVERVIEW

In this class we will review:

- The meaning and definition of vision.
- The importance of a leader's vision.
- Biblical examples of leaders with vision.
- The importance of making the vision of the Kingdom *your own* and sharing it with others.

Opening Group Questions:

- What is vision?
- What is the vision of God's True Church?
- What is the vision of a true Christian?

I. Introduction

Vision is a fundamental quality of an effective and godly leader. Visionary leaders *think big* and see the *big picture*. They develop a mental image (a vision) of a possible and desirable future for themselves and others, and work to help others *capture this vision*. Great leaders attract and *inspire* followers by showing how their efforts can make a difference in solving real problems and meeting important human needs. Followers gain a sense of importance by engaging in a worthwhile project bigger than themselves. Leaders appeal to the emotional and spiritual needs of their followers by focusing on values, commitment and aspirations.

Source: Bennis, W., Nanus, B. (1985), *The Strategies for Taking Charge*. Toronto: Harper & Row.

Vision Defined:

- A mission, goal, purpose, objective
- A practical dream—a dream with a deadline
- Something you want to do or accomplish
- A strategic plan—a pathway to an achievable goal
- Something you can imagine really happening and being part of
- A goal you see in your mind and feel in your heart—something for which you will sacrifice

II. Vision of Biblical Church Leaders**Group Question:**

- Why *must* godly leaders have vision?

All Christians, and especially Christian leaders, should constantly work to develop the *gifts* of the Holy Spirit (Rom 12; 1 Cor 12). Additionally, we are to earnestly desire the *best* gifts (1 Cor 12:31). One of these excellent or best gifts is the "gift of exhortation" (Rom 12:8).