

THE EXPLOSION OF VISION WITH-IN

Introduction – Using the same analogy from last Sunday where we spoke of IED’s (from my TSA days) and the acronym, P.I.E.S. (Power Source, Initiator/Detonator, Explosion, Switch), we now turn our attention to the explosion itself – THE VISION! Once it kicks in, it’s a mighty explosion both with-in and outside the church walls that forever changes the landscape. This morning we will look at the explosion with-in.

*REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. How would the first message, **THE NECESSITY OF VISION**, fit into this whole analogy of terrorism and explosives?
2. What three components of I.E.D.’s are pictured with last week’s message, **THE SOURCE OF VISION**? Why is this so critical to the actual fulfillment of the vision?

PROVERBS 29:18 (K.J.V.) – “Where there is **NO VISION**, the people **PERISH...**”

*Springing from an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ (and each other), **OUR VISION** is the restoration of (culturally relevant), yet authentic New Testament Christianity and the evangelization of the world. Furthermore, it is **OUR CONVICTION** that it is God’s will and desire that every lost person be saved, and every saved person become a disciple, and that every disciple go on to leadership (productivity).*

***OUR VISION IS THE RESTORATION OF AUTHENTIC N.T. CHRISTIANITY...**

1. RESTORATION

** Acts 3:21a – “He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to **restore everything...**”*

- A. REMOVAL – UNBIBLICAL / RECOVERY – BIBLICAL
- B. AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY v BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY
- C. A KEY TO BRINGING ABOUT THE END TIMES

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

1. Define Biblical restoration. Why would this be like an “explosion” changing the very face of American Christianity?
2. According to the Word what is restoration directly tied to? Why do you think this is?

2. AUTHENTIC NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

A. PATTERN v POPULAR

Heb 8:5 – “They serve at a sanctuary that is a **copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned .. ‘See to it that you make everything **according to the pattern shown you...**’”*

1 Cor 3:10 – “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. **But each one should be careful how he builds.”*

Acts 2:41-47 – “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. **They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple*

courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

- **TEACHING**
- **PRAYER**
- **PRAISE**
- **MIRACLES** *DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO
- **EVANGELISM**
- **FILLED WITH AWE**
- **DAILY GETTING TOGETHER**
- **SHARING WITH EACH OTHER**
- **FELLOWSHIP & EATING TOGETHER**

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

3. What are the two patterns we can conform to?
4. How are they in contrast to each other?
5. Discuss the New Testament pattern described in Acts. How do we stack up?

B. POWER v PERFORMANCE

**2 Tim 3:1,2,5 – “...in the last days people will ... have a form of godliness but deny it’s power.”*

- **WE ARE GOOD AT PUTTING ON ELABORATE PERFORMANCES**
- **POWER TO: SAVE, DELIVER, HEAL, MIRACLES, GIFTS**

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

6. Is there anything wrong with putting on the best performance possible? Any merits?
7. When does it become wrong?
8. Discuss the New Testament pattern and it’s use of power. How do we stack up?

C. EQUIPPING v ENTERTAINING

**Eph 4:11-12,16 – “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ... From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*

**1 Cor 14:26 – “What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.”*

- **SAINTS WATCHING A SHOW > SAINTS EQUIPPED TO SERVE**
- **E.M.I. – EVERY MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**
- **T.E.A.M. – TO EVERYONE A MINISTRY**

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

9. Once again, how does the typical American church differ from the Biblical model?
10. What is the emphasis of this point? Again, how do we stack up?

CONCLUSION: Since Authentic New Testament Christianity is very different from what many people are used to, as we move closer to it as a church, what should we be prepared to do as people visit?