

September Development Guide

SUBJECT: VISION RETREAT



CORE VALUE: Surrender to the Holy Spirit

A Vision Retreat is an intentional time away from our normal routines and activities to be in God's presence. It's a time to hear from God and obtain His plans and vision for our future. A Vision Retreat also helps us surrender to the Holy Spirit—one of the core values we hold as a church family.

Let's review a few scripture passages which share the importance of knowing God's vision for our lives.

Proverbs 29:18 (Amplified) says: *Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he.*

Habakkuk 2:2 reads: *Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.*

Finally, **Isaiah 46:10** declares: *I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, "My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."* This same verse from the New Living Translation reads: ***Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass.***

A Vision Retreat is simply a process to intentionally put ourselves in the presence of the only one who can tell us the future before it happens.

THE FIVE VIRTUES OF VISION (from *Lifelong Love Affair* by Jimmy Evans):

1. Clarity as opposed to confusion

Clarity of vision is simply understanding what your purpose is and what you are trying to accomplish. Taking time in God's presence provides this clarity.

2. Energy as opposed to apathy

A clear vision from God provides energy and excitement to move into His plans for our lives, but when we lack vision it's easy to become hesitant and apathetic.

3. Purity as opposed to sin

By having God's vision for our lives, we're able to keep the enemy from putting negative thoughts or desires into our minds.

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We know that any thought that does not line up with God's Word is not from God, and we need take those thoughts captive.

4. Unity as opposed to division

Let's take a moment to talk about two words: **provision** and **division**.

The word **provision** means "for the vision." There are a lot of people who are seeking God's provision before they ever spend time seeking His vision. When we have God's vision for our lives, for our marriages, and for our families, we can be assured of His provision.

Now, the word **division** simply means "two visions." Luke 11:17 tells us any kingdom, divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.

Going all the way back to Adam and Eve, division is ultimately Satan's goal for any God-centered relationship. Having God's vision for our lives, marriages, and families allows us to walk together in unity with Him and each other. Avoiding the ruin caused by division.

5. Victory as opposed to defeat

Look at Proverbs 29:18, this time out of the Message paraphrase: ***If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.***

Satan wants us to live ineffective and defeated lives by "stumbling all over ourselves," but when we attend to what God reveals, we'll live victorious lives!

PREPARE FOR YOUR VISION RETREAT:

The word **retreat** means: a period of withdrawal from normal activities, often to a quiet and safe place for reflection, meditation, or relaxation.

1. In the week leading up to your time away, intentionally pray, asking:

- Is there anyone I need to forgive or ask to forgive me?
- Have I knowingly or unknowingly been walking in any sin which I need to repent of?
- Is there anyone around me God desires me to be a witness to?



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If you'd say "yes" to any of these questions, take time to address them. Being obedient to God's correction positions our Spirits to hear Him more clearly.

2. Next, take time to fast—especially from social media.

Turning off worldly distractions and putting the flesh under by fasting, quickens our Spirit man. Replace the time you'd normally be on social media with prayer.

3. Lastly, plan how you'll intentionally spend time in God's presence.

Every day, spend half the day in prayer, reflection, and discussing the questions in the Vision Retreat booklet, and spend half your day doing fun activities. Just be sure the time you're spending with God is when you're at your best.

What about children? It's not recommended to take your kids with you on your Vision Retreat. See the definition of "retreat" (above) for further clarity. 😊 But, if you have children, be sure to take time to discuss each one individually. God has entrusted your children to you, and each one has a distinct personality. God also has a distinct vision for each of your children.

Write down specific goals, plans, and most importantly, the vision God gives you. Don't be in a rush. Enjoy this time and allow God to speak to your heart.

Here are a few final tips for you to get the most out of your Vision Retreat:

- Plan 3-5 days away from home for your Vision Retreat.
- Enjoy this time in His presence—slow down and be refreshed.
- Be expecting to hear from Him.
- Write down the Goals, Plans, and Vision.
 - For your convenience, consider using the Vision Retreat workbook.
- Spend half your day doing fun and enjoyable activities.
- Each month, look back at what you wrote down.
 - Reflect upon what God has shown you and where you are currently at in walking out the goals and vision.
 - Make any necessary adjustments to keep on track.

We pray this month's teaching blesses you, and we pray God's continued favor over you and your family as you intentionally seek His plans for your life!

