

What Do We Believe?

Your Future, the Future of Wheat Street, Faith and Action

Wednesday with the Word @ Wheat Street
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Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Faith = Assurance

Faith = Assurance of things hope for - what are you hoping for

Fait = conviction or evidence of things not seen - what are you hoping for that you have not seen but your hoping helps you see it!

Your believing, hoping and working for what you see helps it come in manifestation.

Some of the keys here are your God inspired, God informed vision that shows you wha it is you are to be hoping for as God shows what is not seen and yet is seen in you by faith.

To answer the questions above we must answer the questions below:

What do we believe?

What do we value?

Where is God taking us?

What are the steps to being and doing what God would have us to be and do?

Are we growing?

In what areas are we growing?

What does good growth feel like and look like?

What is God's vision for you?

What is God's vision for Wheat Street?

What is the connection between faith, faithfulness and vision?

Vision and Faith Require Growth and Change

Everything that grows must change. It is amazing that we want growth but we tend to complain about change. How does change and growth relate to faithfulness and vision? If God has a vision for us and our church, then by definition God is taking us to a new place. If God is taking us to a new place we are going have to be new there. If God is growing us God is changing us. Does God force us to be changed?

Does God force us to grow?

Does God impose God's vision on us and we have to follow God?

What changes is God calling you to make in your life to be obedient to God's vision for your life?

What changes is God calling us to make at Wheat Street to make Wheat Street obedient to God's call for Wheat Street in 2017 and beyond?

Habakkuk 2:1-5

I will stand at my watchpost,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

2

Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

3

For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

4

Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

5

Moreover, wealth is treacherous;
the arrogant do not endure.
They open their throats wide as Sheol;
like Death they never have enough.
They gather all nations for themselves,
and collect all peoples as their own.

Write the vision:
What is God's vision for your life?
Where is God taking you?
What is God doing in you?

If you don't have a vision it can be hard for you then to see how your vision fits into what God is doing in the church and in you through the church.

A Vision Statement

A vision statement has at least seven elements:

1. It is future oriented
2. It informs how you can be better than what you are now as it extends our history into the future for the better
3. It is informed by our values
4. It sets a standard - for "excellence / excelling"
5. It clarifies our purpose and direction
6. It reflects our unique call as given to us by God
7. It pushes us to the next level in real and concrete ways

The Vision for Wheat Street Baptist Church

“We are a church with a rich history and an even brighter future.”

John 14:1-14

12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me or anything, I will do it.

We are in union with God’s liberative work in the world. We reach outside the walls of the church to be the church. We are committed to innovation and change as God’s calls us to reach and disciple people by doing ministry that makes a *real* difference 365. We get people closer to God, their community and God’s will for their lives and the church by keeping it real.

Our Core Values:

1. We believe that God’s Word is the authoritative guide for the work of God’s church.
2. We believe that the Holy Spirit is alive and well and speaks to and through the church and we will be led by the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus’ model of liberative daily ministry is the model of ministry we should embrace and practice.
4. We believe that God is doing liberative work in the world and our goal is to hear God and be in line with the mission and work of God in the world.
5. We believe that forming mature disciples of Jesus Christ is the primary work of the church.
6. We believe in an open door and an open table, in that all people are welcomed at Wheat Street and they are eligible to serve, worship and give because they are members of the family of God.

What we believe informs what we value.

What we value informs what we do.

What we do - Norms - really tell us what we believe and value. When you look at what you do it will tell you what you value. This is especially true when it comes to how you spend your free time.

Note: It isn't always about how much time but rather it is about the quality of that time and what it produces.

What is your vision statement for your life?

What do you believe?

Can you see your immediate future (visualize)?

Can you see your longterm future (visualize)?

Time & Resources: Vision and Realization

How we spend our time says a lot about what we value. If we say we want something or it is a part of our vision, how much time to we give to it.

How Do You Spend Your Time

Activity	Hours
Eating	
Watching Television	
Talking on the Telephone / Texting	
Shopping	
Praying	
Reading the Bible	
Meditaiton	
Silence	
Running errands	
Serving God at church or in the community	
Online Surfing	
Excercsing	
Visiting others	

Activity	Hours
Chores (cooking, cleaning, paying bills, etc...)	
Working / on the job	
Sitting in traffic / driving / commuting	
Medical appointments	
Working on my vision / dream	
Improving my skill set	
Reading / studying for improvement	
Listening to music, podcast or other audio broadcast	
Total	

How we spend our time, especially our free time, tells us what we value and says a lot about who we really are. What does your time say to you about you? What you do with your time says more about what you believe than what you say. If you say you believe one thing but spend your time and resources in a way that goes contrary to what you say then you are lying to yourself.

Values Conflict: Jesus and the Disciples

Mark 10:13-16

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. **14** But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. **15** Truly I tell you,

whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”
16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 6:34-42

34 As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. **35** When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; **36** send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” **37** But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?” **38** And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” **39** Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. **40** So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. **41** Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. **42** And all ate and were filled; **43** and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. **44** Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.