

# VISION FOR THE NEW YEAR | Special Message | Pastor Mark Bofill | 01/01/2022

I. Requires Retrospection. | II. Requires Recognition. | III. Requires Readiness

**INTRO:** So here we are, the first day of 2023! Are you excited and looking forward to the coming year? Or do you feel a bit cloudy or lost because 2022 left you without a clear focus in life? – Whatever the case, I want you remind you today that God has a distinct vision and purpose for each of His children. – Because God desires to use you greatly, **His vision and purpose is to be sought after with diligence!** (2 Chron 16:9a), *For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him...* (Do you want to be used of God in 2023?)

- **So how can we focus mentally to receive God's Vision and Purpose for in 2023?** – Know that it... I. Requires Retrospection. | II. Requires Recognition | III. Requires Readiness

**I. REQUIRES RETROSPECTION** (What God Has Done) – (Psalm 105:5) says, **“Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders and the judgments of His mouth...”** (Looking back if often frowned upon in scripture but taking the time to reflect on the wonderful works of God, it is beneficial!)

**A. Historically: His Works of Old** (Psalm 66:5) **Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing towards the sons of men.** **Stop and think about God’s Vision.** He had a purpose and plan...

- **What God did at Creation:** *Let there be Light, Sky, Ocean, Mtns., Deserts, Trees, Streams, HUMANKIND etc. – It was Good!* (Until sin entered in, even then He protected mankind from an eternally fallen state, **Gen 3:22-24**)
- **How God Chose His People:** *Divine selection! Through blessings and hardships, to prepare for His redemptive plan. - READ (Psalm 106:1-8) (Our fallen nature feeds our propensity to sin causing us to rebel against His goodness!)*
- **That God Offered His Son:** *To be born, to show the way, and to die for our sins to redeem all of mankind. – READ (Titus 3:4-7), But when **the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy... He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.** (I got choked up thinking about this!)*

**B. Personally: His Works in our Lives** If we acknowledge Him or not, He always works to bring out goodness in our lives. (Psalm 66:10-12) **For You, O God have tested us...refined us... imprisoned us... afflicted us...humbled us; but You brought us out to rich fulfillment!** (Can you identify with this?)

- **What God Delivered you from:** *Take a moment right and think about this. **Where would you be if you continued “with that” or even “in that?”** Some of us knew that we needed to be delivered, so we asked and He acted on our behalf (Psalm 34:17). – Others, had to have it divinely removed from their lives because it would have destroyed them; yet they still long for it or them! (2 Pet 2:9)*
- **How God has Provided for you:** *One of God’s many Titles: **Jehovah Jireh (Gen 22:14)** How often do you stop to think about what you have. What are the important things to you and how did you obtain it? (Sight, Health, Breath)*
- **That God would Claim you as His own!** *You! Yes you! **Why You?** (Eph 1:4-5) “...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will ...”** (Eph 2:10). “For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**” (God’s Purpose & Plan reveals His Vision for all mankind!)*

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** Retrospection should lead us to Adoration! (Ps 107:1-3 ESV) *Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands...*

- Failing to identify the good things that God has done in your life, can easily begin the downward spiral of despair in your life, causing you to lose focus or vision for 2023!

## II. **REQUIRES RECOGNITION** (Focusing on what God is Doing) – (John 5:17) *“My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”*

A. **Historically: The Calvary Chapel Movement** – What has God done through Calvary Chapel? [Calvarychapel.com](http://Calvarychapel.com) provides **a brief summary** which I would like to share with you...

- “In 1965, Pastor Chuck Smith began his ministry at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa with just 25 people. From the beginning, Pastor Chuck welcomed all, young and old, without judgment, placing his emphasis on the teaching of the Word of God. His simple, yet sound, biblical approach drew **25,000 people weekly**. – With a sincere concern for the lost, **Pastor Chuck made room in his heart and his home for a generation of hippies and surfers, generating a movement of the Holy Spirit** that spread from the West Coast to the East Coast, and now, throughout the world. What began as a small local church has now grown into an international ministry of over 1,800 fellowships throughout the world.”
- There is much information online about the Calvary Chapel movement and its impact historically, which you can research if you would like to. (*Some great books: Reproducers, Distinctives, etc.*)
- **Being a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Calvary Chapel pastor, I would like to testify what this movement of God did for me!** // I got saved in 1991, through a radio ministry, but after one year my wife Mary was invited to a Somebody Loves You Crusade with pastor **RAUL RIES**. Mary got saved that night, and we started attending Calvary Chapel Pasadena with **Pastor XAVIER RIES**, who taught the Word of God expositively. // I couldn’t get enough of God! I began serving as an usher...expound!
- For **over 30 years now**, Mary and I have been heavily involved with Calvary’s, simply learning the importance of what it means to **Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples!** (*Desired here!*)

*Requires Recognition...*

B. **Congregationally: Calvary Chapel Venice Founder: Pastor Bob & Barb Wulfinf** likewise found that the community and teaching at Calvary was superb to their former church experiences. He just wanted to start a Bible study and was sent here to Venice, Florida, where they served faithfully for over 22 years. (*Many of you have been here to witness, many have moved on...it’s okay! (It’s a Moving Bus!)*)

- **Why do I mention all this?** Because Recognizing what God has done, provides us with **great hope as to what God is currently doing!** – It also encourages us to **step out in faith** to see God do new things; (Isa 43:19), *Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.* – By faith I believe that **God has called Mary and I**, along with many others who have come alongside; to keep pouring into the lives of you all here at CC Venice. – **GOD IS DOING SOMETHING NEW RIGHT NOW!** – The **VISION** is *Resurrection and Revival!* – The **WORK** is *Renewal and Redemption in the lives of many who are broken, oppressed, desperate, lonely, outcasts, hungry, poor and needy!*

Requires Recognition...

**C. Personally: Your Own Spiritual Journey** – Whether you’ve been raised in a Calvary or not, doesn’t really matter, but the New Year prods us to assess our own spiritual journeys. **It’s a good practice then to seek the Lord for New Vision in 2023!** – Vision, mixed with God’s Word, Prayer and Faith will embolden you to inquire **how God can use you right now!**

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** Someone once said that **Vision is Hope with a Blueprint.** I like that definition! **Spiritual Hope is “Confident Expectation” in the Lord** — It’s the assurance that God is at work in our world and in our personal lives. The blueprint for our hope is God’s Word which, when we study it faithfully, and apply it consistently can give us a vision for what God has done, is doing, and will do, in and through us in our world.

Vision for the new Year...

**III. REQUIRES READINESS** (*Anticipating what God Desires to Do and Jumping in*) – I call this **Active Vision!** – Every Christian should possess this **Readiness of mind (Rom 12:1-2).** Stated in more simplified terms: **Every Christian should Pray Up, Suit Up, then Step Up!** (*How do we do this?*)

**A. Your Availability:** Am I willing to serve others this year? – Do I realize that being a servant is the way to greatness? Jesus told this to James and John, **“...Whoever would be great among you must be your servant” (Matt 20:26).** Jesus also practiced what He preached: **(Mark 10:45) “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”**

- Many people want to do great things for God, but fewer people want to do mundane things for God. The fact is... servants are often called to the mundane–boring work that nobody wants to do. Being a servant is not glamorous–in a worldly sense.
- **“If servanthood is beneath you, leadership is above you.” - Pastor Jeff Bogue**
- Serving the Lord in your local church causes you to grow in ways that you are not aware of: **“God changes caterpillars into butterflies, sand into pearls and coal into diamonds by using time and pressure.** (*Submission to God and His people in ministry, will transform, and mature you!*)

**B. Your Commitment:** **Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble. (Prov 16:3-4)**

- **Not sure where to start Serving?** – **H. Blackaby** said, **“Find out where God is working and join Him there.”** – That is what I want to challenge you with today—**to find where God is working—**Catch a vision of His will and His work so that you can join Him there.

**C. Our Expansion and Focus** (*A few announcements for you to be aware of*)

**Our Vision Implementation Begins Tomorrow!**

## Important Ministries and Announcements for the New Year

- Office Open (M – Th) 10am – 4pm (Mary and I will be in office)
- **Prayer Nights** (Tuesday Nights Bi-monthly) Beginning Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>
- Children's Ministry needs to be reborn! (*Ready the Rooms, Curriculum, Recruit Servant-Leaders*)
- Cornerstones & Evangelism Classes
- Thursday Night Men's and Women's Bible Groups will resume.

## Communications for the New Year

- New Website ([www.calvarychapelvenice.org](http://www.calvarychapelvenice.org) or simple [www.ccvenice.org](http://www.ccvenice.org))
- **Church App is now Live!** (Downloadable for IOS and Android)
- **Online Giving** (is on the webpage, app, in-house, mail – Your offerings are part of it all!)
- Church Database
- We want to be accessible to you! (*Pastoral Care - Counseling, Prayer, Weddings, Funerals*)
- We desire you to be informed of what's happening here at CC Venice (Come and See!)

**CLOSING THOUGHTS:** P/A: **He is about to Return!** Understanding God's overall **Vision** and **Purpose** for mankind will help shape our own personal visions for the new year.

**What are God's Plan in the Future? (1 Sam 12:24) *Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.***

## COMMUNION

## PRIESTLY BLESSING

- Prepare yourself to receive His vision by asking Him to show you His plan for your life.
- Commit to God in this coming year to accept His vision for your life so that you may bring glory to Him.