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Rev. Dr. Hae-Jeong Yoon

Let's Dream God's Vision!

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Have you ever dreamed about your life? Of course! Without dreaming, hope for the future, we do not have the energy and meaning of life. The Book of Proverbs says that without vision, people perish. What hope do you have? The hope for your dream is like oxygen. If you do not have that hope, you cannot live. People must dream. Without God's wisdom and guidance, we dream false dreams that eventually lead us to death. What vision should we dream of?

As a child, I grew up in a family that did not know God. I did not hear about spiritual life at all. When I closed my eyes, I saw myself at a desk with piled books. Where did that vision come from? I am sure it was a part of who I am created to be. It thought I would become a professor and that would satisfy me, and my life would be fulfilled. How simple a thought is that? Did you experience something similar? I will go to a certain college, graduate, get a job, and marry a man God has prepared for me. Etc! Did your life go as you desired? We all know life took us down different paths.

But I was called by the Lord when I was 12 years old, as a middle school child. I did not know what the meaning of the calling was. A bell from a nearby church rang, touching me deep inside. The sound was like a human voice, "Come! Come!" I knew that white small building with a cross belonged to me, or I belonged there. I went to the church and knocked on the door. The pastor came out, opening the big door, and asked me, "What brought you here?" I did not have a prepared answer, but a word popped up, "Do you need a musician? I can volunteer if you need one." The pastor's eyes became wide, and he said, "Oh, God sent you to us. We were praying for a musician." I became an accompanist in the worship service the following Sunday. A beautiful passion enveloped me, and I dedicated myself entirely, even though I did not fully understand what it meant. Later on, I realized that the passion that enveloped me was not mine, but God's passion. No one taught me that I should seek and follow God's plan for my life. Unfortunately, I chose what I wanted. It made a big, a very long round way to come to the place God has planned for me long time ago.

What plans does God have for your life? Let's refer to the scripture. The Bible states in **Ephesians 2:10, "God made each of us what we are, and he created each of us for a life of good works, which he prepared in advance for us to do."** God created each of us with a special gift and purpose. He knows how we can reach our fullest potential. While we may have our own dreams, God also has a plan for us to fulfill. This plan spans every stage of life - isn't that amazing? God, as our creator, knows us best. In **Jeremiah 29:11**, God declares, **"For I know the plans I have for your life." He adds, "My plans for your life will give you great hope and a wonderful future."**

If there is a plan from God for you, will it be ordinary or extraordinary? Yes, of course! It will be extraordinary. In God's plan for your life, there is wisdom, empowerment, called grace, and protection from God.

What does God want from your life? He wants you to know him. He wants you to grow in him. There is great joy as well as a challenge. He wants you to love him; he wants you to love his family. He wants you to serve him. He wants you to share what you have received. But the dreams that God has for your life change with age, change with stage, change with maturity, change with growth and change with how obedient you are to the previous dream that he gave you. It will let you live the best version of you, far beyond what you can imagine. It is an amazing life. It is a life filled with meaning and power. There is no exception! It is for each and every one of you! Will you follow God?

The requirement is that you have a personal relationship with God. This does not mean you simply attend church. You must open your heart, and wait quietly until you receive nudge of God in various ways. You should accept God's word into your heart. This involves having a deep connection like an intimate friend or lover. Your heart should be familiar with God; it is a committed relationship like that of lovers. Lovers constantly think of each other! What great joy emerges in that loving bond! You will hear guidance that tells you to go left or right from behind! Like the prophet Isaiah said in his book.

When you have communion with the Lord, God will reveal the path for you to follow. He will open a door for you and guide you towards the future. When the door is open, it is important to step forward in faith. Otherwise, you may miss out on God's plan for your life.

I once seriously missed God's guidance and chose the wrong path. I had to take a long detour for a couple of decades. Have you ever experienced this? These days, I pray, "Lord, please redeem my lost time." Time is sooo precious; each day is like a diamond. We will stand before God and have to give an account of our lives. I do not want to be ashamed before our Father, our great God.

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God also prepares a vision for a faith community. I, by myself, can't do much. However, together we can move mountains. One drop of rain doesn't make a difference, but a million drops of rain can transform a desert into a garden. God will use you in ways with others that he could not do on your own. We aspire to dream the kind of dream God has for us. I pray deeply and hope that we, as a church, will experience this miracle from God as a faith community. It all comes from our united hearts and love - in this, we can uplift and glorify our amazing God.

We could think differently but work harmoniously and lovingly in unity. Jesus talks about this inner preparation just before his arrest and crucifixion. It is the prayer for you and me. There is **an inner preparation** as a church to fulfill the dream of God for us. **It is to love each other and find unity in the Spirit.** It means harmony for the glorious message of God, the gospel! Although we may have different thoughts, we are called to work together harmoniously and lovingly in unity. Jesus speaks about this inner preparation shortly before his arrest and crucifixion as he prays in **John 17:9 and 11 say, "I pray for them. I am not praying for the**

World, but for those you have given me ... Holy Father, protect them by the power of[a] your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are." It is the prayer for you and me. **Jesus' standard of our love is the Trinity God's relationship;** Jesus sets the standard of love based on the relationship within the Trinity, where the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit love each other wholeheartedly and submit to one another completely. By giving and receiving love wholeheartedly, there is an ever-increasing joy, alongside eternal humility. God created us to reflect this beautiful humanity. Very unfortunately, we fell into sin in the Garden of Eden with our first parents. The world has been plagued by prejudice, violence, war, and hatred. Jesus had to pay the cost to redeem us.

Can we live that Jesus' dream in our faith community? I feel that Fifth Avenue faith community is like that community. If the Spirit's love is in us, we can. The Holy Spirit will become the love and unity of the first Christian Church. Do we want that beautiful church in the perfect relationship like the Trinity's? What, then, will this unity bring? The Bible says that we will win people from the World. And we can make them disciples of Jesus as he commanded. It starts from our heart, connected to the reservoir of love. People will know who we are by our love. It is the inner condition of a church. **It was Jesus' primary vision for his disciples.**

Only through a personal relationship with God and allowing His reign in your heart can you truly live out God's dream as a community. This requires letting go of our selfish tendencies, worldly values, prejudices, and the impulse of hatred caused by the evil Spirit, which leads to division. By allowing God to reign within us, we can become a true church, fulfilling Jesus Christ's ultimate desire for us to mirror the relationship of the Trinity God.

If we are filled with the Spirit, the Spirit will reveal God's vision to us. The door will only be opened if we are in communion with the Lord. The Holy Spirit will empower, encourage, inspire, lead, and safeguard us as we journey on the path that God has set before us, as a church.

As a church, we can expect great things from God. We should become vessels to receive the Spirit and reign of God. The process may be challenging for us, but our Creator God is always greater and bigger than any challenge. We need the empowerment of grace.

Believe in God for a little, even if you have little in your life; believe in God for more, and you will have more. Believe in God for great things, and God will do great things in your life and in our church. Believe in God for big dreams, and God will fulfill big dreams in your life and in our church. According to your faith, it will be done for you and for us. A dream helps us to keep growing.

What dreams do you have for your life?

What dreams do you have for our faith community?

Let only the Spirit reveal the best version for your life and West Bend Church.

We will only need to walk through the open door in faith. Are you ready?