

**“I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be,
I am not what I hope to be in another world;
but still I am not what I once used to be,
and by the grace of God I am what I am”**

— John Newton (author of the hymn, Amazing Grace)

The following is designed to be a grace-filled, Spirit-led, joyful process of clarifying where you are spiritually and where you would like to be. It is meant to provide you with an horizon to focus on as you move forward in faith. We want to be more faithful, more obedient, more holy, more loving — more Christlike! — a year from now. People do not drift effortlessly toward spiritual maturity. It doesn't happen by accident. This is designed to help us to be more intentional about where we are headed.

The eight statements below are the vision statements that I preached through at Terranova Church on 10/11/15 - 11/29/15. They are listed on the back of our Connect Card every Sunday and I seek to highlight where we see God working in these ways. They are meant to reflect both who we are as a church, as well as who we are becoming. For this to be a reality, then our becoming must also happen as individuals. — Kyle

***Read each of the eight statements below
and thoughtfully consider the four options that follow,
selecting the ONE BOX that BEST describes your CURRENT state in regard to that statement.
Each four options are meant to represent a progression of maturity in that area thus,
for example, if you can check the third box that most likely means
that the previous boxes are true for you as well.***

1. I am making much of God!

- I have embraced the realities of my sinfulness in light of God's holiness and have embraced God's gospel plan of reconciling us to Himself by turning from my sin and trusting in Jesus alone and His work on the cross.
- I am beginning to know God (not just more about God) by spending time with Him in the Word and prayer and I am worshipping Him alongside other believers as God's truth is preached, prayed, read, and sung.
- I am prioritizing time alone with God regularly (whether it is convenient or not) and finding myself increasingly speaking of God in my conversations with others in ways that show my genuine and expanding adoration of who He is.
- I am intentionally praying God-centered prayers dripping with praise for who He is and thanks for what He has done. I am seeking to magnify God through my behavior and in my conversations with others. I have embraced the sovereignty, goodness, and holiness of God thus finding God totally trustworthy. As a result, because of time spent with me, people are thinking of God more frequently and being reminded that He is in control and can be truly trusted.

*** Clarifying comments (optional):**

*** What is one action or new habit that, relying on Christ, you could implement into your life that would help you take a strategic step forward in this area?**

2. I am making disciples of Jesus!

- I have become a disciple of Jesus Christ by placing my faith in Jesus alone to save me from God's holy wrath that I rightly deserve for my sins. I am happy and honored to call Jesus my Lord and Savior.
- I am learning more about Jesus through His Word as well as learning to rely on Him more consistently as I step out in obedience, following His lead.
- I seize opportunities to come alongside others as needs arise so that I can offer them biblical counsel and cheer them on in their following of Jesus.
- I am intentional and delighted about inviting people to come alongside me for a period of time as we grow together, shoulder-to-shoulder as disciples, with the express purpose of helping them come to a place of making other disciples as well.

* Clarifying comments (optional):

* What is one action or new habit that, relying on Christ, you could implement into your life that would help you take a strategic step forward in this area?

3. I am trusting in, clinging to, and relying on Jesus to live through me!

- I have become a disciple of Jesus Christ by placing my faith in Jesus alone to save me from God's holy wrath that I rightly deserve for my sins. When this happens, I trust God's Word that I not only became a follower of Jesus, but I was indwelt by His Holy Spirit who will help me trust and obey Him.
- I am beginning to understand and practice the ongoing concepts of denying myself (flesh) and relying on God's Spirit. I'm starting to wrestle with the implications that fully following Jesus has on my habits, leisure, health, finances, and relationships.
- I am increasingly denying myself and intentionally relying on Jesus — multiple times each week. As I seek to obey Jesus, I am conscious about not leaving Him behind; Instead, I step out in faith, remembering His presence and relying on His power. I am not merely seeking to obey God's commands, but I do so in reliance on Him to enable what He has commanded.
- I am very aware of my weakness and God's strength and have an increasing "big God, little me" mentality. Though not perfectly, I am consistently saying "no" to my flesh for the delight of a greater "yes" to God. I am helping others around me to more fully and joyfully rely on Jesus.

* Clarifying comments (optional):

* What is one action or new habit that, relying on Christ, you could implement into your life that would help you take a strategic step forward in this area?

4. I am loving and living the truth of God's Word!

- I have a Bible (in print or phone) and I bring it to church with me where God's Word is preached.
- I read the Bible on my own occasionally, and am becoming familiar with its structure/layout. I've sought out other believers with whom I can study the Bible.
- I am in the Word with God multiple times a week, genuinely seeking to hear from God and faithfully obey, trusting that His way is best. I find God's truth overflowing into my conversations with others in natural ways as I humbly delight to highlight God and His truth, rather than merely holding and giving a worldly (godless) perspective.
- I have read the entire Bible and am gladly in God's Word daily: observing (What does it say?), interpreting (What does it mean?), and applying (How will I live this out?) with good hermeneutics (solid biblical interpretation skills). I am genuinely desiring to fight my sin and to be obedient to God in all areas that He has revealed to me. I love the Bible because through it I see the beauty of Christ. I speak God's truth more and more naturally, in genuine love to others multiple times each week, as God gives me opportunity.

* Clarifying comments (optional):

* What is one action or new habit that, relying on Christ, you could implement into your life that would help you take a strategic step forward in this area?

5. I am growing and guarding loving relationships within the church!

- I have been adopted into the family of God through faith in Jesus and I regularly gather with other believers for worship.
- I attend a small group with others from my church, genuinely building relationships as I seek to know others and to be known by them.
- I have become a member of Terranova Church, glad to commit myself to other believers and live out the many "one anothers" of the New Testament together. I am increasingly aware of my need for them and for their need of me as we all seek to play our roles in the Body of Christ. I refuse to gossip about others.
- I regularly go beyond the surface in conversations with others in our church, willing to be transparent and vulnerable so that our relationships can be real. I actively seek to help others reconcile when relationships become fractured and model this myself. I am receiving and giving accountability as we seek to fight our sin together and lovingly grow in holiness, obedience, and faith.

* Clarifying comments (optional):

* What is one action or new habit that, relying on Christ, you could implement into your life that would help you take a strategic step forward in this area?

6. I am prizing and prioritizing prayer with our sovereign, holy, & good God!

- I pray to God multiple times each week.
- My prayer life is becoming more balanced and less self-centered with multiple facets such as the A.C.T.S. guide: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication (requests for others and self). I'm beginning to grasp the New Testament pattern of praying to the Father in the name of Jesus as equipped by the Holy Spirit.
- I am having both spontaneous and scheduled times of prayer throughout the week. My prayers are increasingly God-centered, making much of Him and asking based on His character, name, and glory. I am more regularly asking others to pray for me and am becoming more comfortable in praying out loud with others.
- I enjoy the discipline of daily protected times of prayer and am intentional about intercession (regular prayer for others). I seek and seize opportunities to pray not only for, but with others. The regularity and urgency of my prayers reflect a "big God, little me" mentality, revealing a desperate dependence on Him.

* Clarifying comments (optional):

* What is one action or new habit that, relying on Christ, you could implement into your life that would help you take a strategic step forward in this area?

7. I am seeking and seizing opportunities to generously serve others!

- I am beginning to notice the needs of others as God, by His grace, helps me become less self-centered and more alert to others around me.
- I am occasionally doing more for others than is asked or expected, desiring to not merely do the minimum, but to also go the extra mile.
- I am weekly choosing to serve my family members and close friends, generously and with no expectation of applause, desiring to selflessly serve them as an expression of my service for God. I am willing to be inconvenienced as I see ways around me to help others. I'm increasingly seeing these less as "interruptions" to my schedule and more as "invitations" to join in what God is doing.
- I am regularly and gladly seeking and seizing opportunities to serve others. I am experiencing the joy of living generously (with my time, energy, money, love, etc.). I find myself more easily putting others before myself, consistently willing to be "inconvenienced". I am truly happy to be a secret servant where people often don't even know what I did for them, truly doing it for the Lord. I find delight in mobilizing others around me to actively see and generously meet needs as God enables us.

* Clarifying comments (optional):

* What is one action or new habit that, relying on Christ, you could implement into your life that would help you take a strategic step forward in this area?

8. I am enjoying evangelism — convinced of the gospel, concerned about others!

- I believe that Jesus is the only way to God and I have embraced the gospel of Jesus Christ that: God is holy, I am sinful, separated by my sin. Jesus died to bear God's wrath on my behalf and has given me life as I have repented and placed my lifelong faith in Him.
- I have written out my testimony (story of my life before Christ, how I was saved and understand the gospel, and my life since following Jesus) and I have shared it with other believers (in my Small Group, for example). I have read "What Is The Gospel?" and have a growing understanding of what all really happened when God saved me. I invite people to church occasionally.
- I have an increasing understanding of gospel truths; feeling a responsibility to share the gospel with others. I invite people to church often and am becoming more bold in asking people questions about where they are with church and God. I can easily articulate a brief summary of the gospel such as the "gospel in a nutshell."
- I enjoy gospel-seasoned conversations weekly with both believers and unbelievers. I personally know and am praying for multiple lost people by name. I invite someone to church almost, if not weekly. I share the gospel with someone at least once a quarter, much more alert to opportunities and more bold to talk about what really matters.

* Clarifying comments (optional):

* What is one action or new habit that, relying on Christ, you could implement into your life that would help you take a strategic step forward in this area?