

2020 Vision - Part 6
Christian?

- What are you?
- How would you identify yourself?
- American
- Parent
- Friend
- Daughter
- Are you a Christian
- If I wanted to be one what would I have to do
- Repeat the Salvation Prayer
- Be good
- Get Baptized

Acts 11:25-26 (ESV) So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Acts 6:7 (ESV) And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 9:26 (ESV) And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.

Acts 9:36 (ESV) Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.

Acts 26:28 (ESV) And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"

Matt. 22:36-40 (ESV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

- You can't be right with God and wrong with people
- Our connection with God slowly changes our connection with people

Col. 3:1-4 (ESV) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

A Disciple Learns To:

1st) Understand **MINDSET**.

Col. 3:1(ESV) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

- Seek first the kingdom

Matt. 6:33 (NIV) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- Grace produces generosity
- Grace changes our focus
- The shift is in your heart not in your actions
- How can I serve
- How can I contribute
- What can I give to others

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above,

- I don't do it to be raised with Christ I do it because I've been raised with Christ

"God, give me the knowledge of your will for this moment and the strength to carry it out."

2nd) Understand **SETTING** your mind.

Col. 3:2 (ESV) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- Jesus said "Do not worry"

Romans 6:1-2 (ESV) What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Romans 12:2 (ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect

- A big part of mindset is dealing with the everyday trials of life
- Patiently endure problems
- How I understand and deal with suffering has a huge influence on the person I will become, and the real question with problems, pain, and suffering is not... Will it happen?
- The question is...Does it mean anything?

James 2:2-4 (NIV) "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

- James doesn't say, "If you follow Jesus, nothing bad will happen to you."
- He says, "When something bad is happening to you something good can be happening in you."

Col. 3:16 (ESV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

How to develop a biblical mindset:

A) Remember that God's plan is **GOOD**.

Jer. 29:11 (NIV) For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Gen. 50:20 (NIV) You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.

Isaiah 38:17 (CEV) It was for my own good that I had such hard times

Heb. 12:10 (MSG) God is doing what's best for us, training us to live God's holy best

2 Cor. 12:9 (NIV) "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

B) Rejoice and give **THANKS**.

1 Thess. 5:18 (NIV) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- Notice it's not for all things but in all things

Phil. 4:4 (NIV) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

C) Refuse to **GIVE UP**.

3rd) Understand the great **EXCHANGE**.

Col. 3:3 (ESV) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- Transformation
- Are they consistently moving toward the center of spiritual life or away from it?
- Love God and Love People
- The Righteous were more damaged by their righteousness than the sinners were by their sin