

Vision Series

1- Where Are We?

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sunday, Jan.11, 2015

'Big Rocks' we stand on at Grace Fellowship Church:

- Bible
- Grace
- Missions
- Equipping Believer
- Prayer
- Small Groups
- God-focused Worship
- Sovereignty of God

These 'Big Rocks' serve as the foundation for everything else we do.

Our **Mission** is summed up in our 3Gs that keep us aimed in the right direction and keep us from getting rigid and stagnant and comfortable.

- Gathering together in truth to worship God
- Growing together by grace to become more like Christ
- Going together with the gospel to the Tri-state and the world

I. What is the Vision I'd like us to embrace?

Vision – 'That God would raise up a generation of Christians who have the courage to stand, the confidence to speak up, and the heart to sacrifice because they're committed to the truth of God's Word, the mission of God's church, and the mercy of God's Son – Jesus Christ.'

II. Where Do I See Any of this in the Bible?

A. The Courage to Stand - Eph. 6:10-20

This passage uses the word 'stand' 4x:

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. **19** Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

B. The Confidence to Speak Up – Acts 4:1-33

This passages uses the words:

- Speak / Word / Taught – 8x (v. 1, 2, 4, 17, 18, 20, 29, 31)
- Name of Jesus – 6x (v. 7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 30)
- Boldness – 3x (v. 13, 29, 31)

C. Committed to the Mercy of God's Son – Jesus Christ – I Tim. 1:12-17

“12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

We're here to feed you, equip you, and pray for you as we send you out into the neighborhoods, the marketplace, the campus, the gym, and beyond.

Ways we've been aiming to equip you for that so far:

- Putting together a fall training conference to equip you to help real people with your Bible!
 - Small groups where you can grow with other believers at close range
 - Free biblical counseling and discipleship for people that are hurting
 - Preaching and teaching that's practical and applicable for everyday life so that you can be equipped and excited to bring your lost friends!
- Are you willing to risk for Christ, to speak up and speak out, and do you have the eyes to see people all around you that desperately need the mercy of our Savior – Jesus Christ?