

## Visions and Conversions *Acts 16:6-15*

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**God's vision for the church requires our obedience to bring it into being.**

**We are here because God wants us here**, and more than that, God has a dream for this church, and it is a contagious dream, and if we live that dream God will do more through us than we can imagine! There's only one problem! We don't know what that dream is!

**Paul had the same problem. God saved Paul for a reason.**

Then Paul and some fellow believers hit the road again but soon discovered that they did not know where God wanted to send them. **They knew God had another dream for them, but they didn't know what it was.**

**Every church shares the same mission**

Paul was clear about **his mission to bring the name of Jesus to Jews and non-Jews, rich and poor**. In short, his mission was the same as all Christians and all churches—to make disciples of all nations.

**God has a unique dream for every congregation.**

Knowing our mission is the easy part! Jesus gave it and it's the same for every church! **The difficult thing is to know what God's unique dream for a particular church.**

There are hundreds of status quo congregations, but few contagious congregations, and in my experience the characteristics that distinguishes the two has to do with dream or vision.

**Churches that latch onto God's unique vision** or dream for them, and then really give themselves to accomplishing that dream **are contagious!**

Let me remind you of what happened when Paul and company arrived at Troas. V.9

**The vision was clear**—there was no question about what God wanted them to do.

**The vision was compelling** –it was a call to meet specific, compelling needs and opportunities.

**The vision was consistent** with Paul's prior calling to make disciples—the mission of the church.

**The Vision will require change**—they had to cross the sea. *You cannot stay where you are and do God's will.*

**Contagious congregations act on the vision immediately.** They change their activity to the vision. They placed themselves and their resources at the disposal of God's vision.

Until we know God's dream for our church, we must obey his day-to-day will.

Paul didn't know where to go next—he didn't know God's new dream. But, Paul knew clearly what God did not want him to do.

**When we're obedient, God reveals his vision!**

Notice what happened next. The very night they arrived in Troas, "Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When we are obedient, God reveals his vision to us.

God's vision to go to Macedonia. Think about it: why would God give us a contagious dream for something he wants to accomplish through us if we are not willing to obey Him in the day-to-day things?

Even though we have not yet received God's contagious dream for our church, we seek to be obedient to what we do know because it is to obedient churches that God reveals his vision—his contagious dream—for their future.

**"When we are obedient, God guides our steps and our stops."  
CORRIE TEN BOOM (1892–1983)**