

Our Vision; Empowered by the Spirit

- Mission and Vision statements can be confusing. What's the difference between them?
- Linda Buskirk explains it this way, "Simply put, a mission statement describes who you are and what you do. A vision statement describes your hope for the impact of what you do."
- At the prison where Roger Smith and I lead a bible study, the men recite the churches mission and vision statements before the service starts.
- Is there anyone here that is familiar with Brownsville's mission and vision statements?
- **OUR MISSION:** Share the Living God through worship, witness, service and discipleship in order to bring abundant life to all.
- **OUR VISION:** Empowered by the Spirit we will become:
 - - A people of grace, peace and love
 - - A people who live out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)
 - - A people who are growing in faith, and furthering God's kingdom
- According to Linda Buskirk's explanation of a mission statement we as a church should be sharing God through our worship, witness, service and discipleship. We should be bringing abundant life to all.
- That is our present but we have future outcomes that we hope for.
- Over the next four weeks we will be looking at the different areas of our vision statement.
- Remember a vision statement is our hope for the impact of what we do.
- The first line in our vision statement is Empowered by the Spirit we will become.
- To become what God wants us to be we have to put ourselves aside and understand where our strength comes from.
- We are going to take a look at how the Spirit works now and how he worked in the Old Testament.
- We see that the Holy Spirit was there with God the father and the son at the time of creation.
- **Genesis 1:1-2 (NLT)**
- **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.**
- Like God the Father and Jesus the son, the Holy Spirit was there in the beginning of creation.
- The Holy Spirit had shown himself differently in the Old Testament.

- The Holy Spirit would indwell or come upon individuals for a certain task.
- **Numbers 27:18 (NLT)**
- **18 The LORD replied, “Take Joshua son of Nun, who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him.**
- **1 Samuel 16:12–13 (NLT)**
- **12 So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes.**
- **And the LORD said, “This is the one; anoint him.”**
- **13 So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.**
- **1 Samuel 10:10 (NLT)**
- **10 When Saul and his servant arrived at Gibeah, they saw a group of prophets coming toward them. Then the Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul, and he, too, began to prophesy.**
- We see that these individuals received God’s Spirit and that Spirit gave them the power to do the task that God gave them.
- **Exodus 31:2–5 (NLT)**
- **2 “Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3 I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. 4 He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze. 5 He is skilled in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft!**
- Leaders, Kings and craftsmen were given power, knowledge and skill to do the tasks that God has called them to do.
- What about now. How does the Spirit work?
- **Acts 2:18 (NLT)**
- **18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy.**
- On the day of Pentecost God fulfilled His promise in Joel to pour out His spirit on all people.
- The Holy Spirit gives guidance. He led Jesus.
- **Acts 10:37–38 (NLT) — 37 You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. 38 And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus**

went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

- Jesus promised to send the Spirit, the counselor. Greek- par-ak'-lay-tos; one who helps, by consoling, encouraging, or mediating on behalf of 'Helper, Encourager, Mediator.
- That same Spirit guides us as believers.
- **Romans 8:14 (NLT) — 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**
- **Galatians 5:18 (NLT) — 18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.**
- God's Spirit guides us through His word.
- **Isaiah 59:21 (NLT) — 21 "And this is my covenant with them," says the Lord. "My Spirit will not leave them, and neither will these words I have given you. They will be on your lips and on the lips of your children and your children's children forever. I, the Lord, have spoken!**
- The Spirit helps us pray when we don't have the words.
- **Romans 8:26–27 (NLT) — 26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groaning's that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.**
- We are led by the spirit in living the Christian life.
- **Romans 8:14 (NLT) — 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**
- **Galatians 5:25 (NLT) — 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.**
- The Spirit guides us in witness, in ministry and in the knowledge of truth.
- **1 Corinthians 2:13 (NLT) — 13 When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.**
- **Acts 20:22 (NLT) — 22 "And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me,**
- **John 16:13 (NLT) — 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.**
- When we look at our vision statement and see that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit we see all these things that the Spirit will do for us.

- To be empowered we must be willing to be led and guided by God's Spirit.
- We must humble ourselves allowing God to work in us.
- We must learn to hear His voice.
- We must allow God to shape us.
- Are you ready for His Spirit to work through you?
- Are you ready to commit all to God?