

# Church Vision

Adapted from Senior Pastor Niko's sermon in June 2009

## Introduction

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)*

Those were the last words of Lord Jesus before He ascended to Heaven. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel said, *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."* (Act 1:11)

Now, Lord Jesus is in Heaven, seated at the right hand of God. What does Lord Jesus do there? What does it mean for us if Lord Jesus is in Heaven?

## Sharing

### 1. Lord Jesus prepares a place for us

*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God<sup>1</sup>; trust also in Me<sup>2</sup>In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going." - John 14:1-4*

Are there any of us whose hearts are troubled because of the problems and pressures that we are facing? Let this Word of God comforts us and encourages us. All of the problems, pressures, difficulties that we are facing are temporary. Our Lord Jesus will come back and bring us to be with Him forever, and there will be no more sorrow.

Entering year 2009, our Senior Pastor received very strong message from the Lord, even stronger than before, saying "I'm coming back soon! I'm coming back soon!" The first coming of the Lord will be on the clouds where He will take His Church to be with Him in Heaven. After that, Lord Jesus together with us will come back to the earth, where He will rule as King. Amen!

How many of us long to be part of the rapture? God wants us to be ready for rapture. Please read together Matthew 25:1-13 – The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins. Who are these 10 virgins? They are the believers of God. The 5 Wise Virgins always ready with the oil for their lamp, and they are the ones who were ready with their lamp on when the bridegroom came to be with them. The lamp with the oil means to keep our spirit burns like Fire for God. That we will always be passionate and enthusiastic about Him, and love Him with all of our hearts, our souls, our strengths and that we love others as we love ourselves.

In our life, there will be bound to be ups and downs. But one thing we have to remember that don't stay 'down' for too long. When we start to experience 'down' in our walk with Christ, where we do not want to read the Bible, do not feel like praying, worshipping or praising God, we have to quickly find out the root cause and come back to Him.

God also want us to multiply the talent He has given us. Serve Him, built intimate relationship with Him, be on guard, let our lamp be full with oil. Let us prepare ourselves to be ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **2. Lord Jesus intercedes for us**

*Therefore he is able to save completely<sup>1</sup> those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”- Hebrew 7:25*

Jesus is the way for us to receive perfect salvation. Jesus constantly intercedes for us. He taught us also to intercede for others. God does not desire to see anyone to perish but desires all to come to repentance (2 Pet 3:9). It is the desire of all believers to see their family receive salvation in Christ and knowledge of the truth! When Senior Pastor Niko was asked to start a prayer tower about 12 years ago, the Lord spoke to him to evangelize through prayer. The late Pastor Rohim in Jakarta often prayed at the Prayer Tower that may God appear to those who have yet to know the Lord and true enough that really took place! It happened not only in Indonesia but in many other places! People were visited by God and they started to turn to Jesus as their Savior!

God is teaching us to be ‘intercessors’ for the people. It may take time before something happens but we must not stop praying. When we pray God responds accordingly. Pray for your loved ones, friends, colleagues, neighbors and others. At times when you do not know specifically on how to pray, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in praying for the Holy Spirit will help us to intercede (Rom 8:26). This is where we pray in tongues. When we are unsure if what the Lord has placed into our heart is really from the Lord or not, we should pray in tongues. Continue to pray until something happens.

When we pray the Lord will reveal to us how to reach out (it may not be immediately but sometimes it may be over a period of time). We may not be able to grasp it at first but when we obey, we see God’s plans being unveiled (just like how it was revealed to evangelize through prayer). Prayer is one of the keys in reaching out to the people successfully.

## **Conclusion**

When Lord Jesus ascended to Heaven, He has also promised us the Holy Spirit who will guide us and bring all of God’s teachings to pass. Through the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). As Jesus is in Heaven to prepare us a place and to pray for us, let us continue to walk steadfast with the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us at every point of our lives (like the 5 wise virgins) and seek the Lord always. Then we are ready when Jesus comes again. Amen!