

## THE LOCAL CHURCH

### The Vision Of The House-Grow Spiritually

**Foundation Statement:** The vision of Northsmoke Church is to help you grow spiritually, be used of God mightily and to flourish personally in every area of your life

#### I. What is the perfecting of the saints? Do the saints really need to be perfected? Why do we need it?

- **Eph4:8,11-16**-Wherefore he says, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men...11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love
- A. Jesus gave these gifts for the perfecting of the saints-In His final ascension he gave gifts unto men and His purpose and aim in doing that was the perfecting of the saints
- B. To be perfected is maturity and skill-The maturity of the inner man & becoming more skillful in spiritual things
  1. Perfecting-(1) Complete furnishing-to equip, to fit for an expedition, to supply (2) Equipping-Supply with things necessary (3) Fit, To Fit Out-Prepare; To put in order for; To furnish with things proper or necessary; To qualify, i.e. fit for war, to prepare (4) Make perfect; To render, sound, complete (5) To strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be
  2. **AC**-The perfecting and full equipping of the saints; **EHV**-Training the saints; **ERV**-To prepare; **PH**-Properly equipped for their service; **NMB**-Have all things necessary to work and minister; **VO**- Thoroughly equipped; **CEV**-Learn to serve; **WE**-To make God's people better able to do their work for Him
- C. Do we really need to be perfected? Ep4:11-16 (AMP) --- **1Tm4:7-EXB**-Train yourself to serve God; **Hb6:1**-Let us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings and doctrine of Christ, advancing steadily toward the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity
  1. One thing that should be happening all throughout the body of Christ is the saints should be being perfected-There is an epidemic of unperfected Christians (Fleshy, priorities out of wack, carnal)
  2. Being saved does not equal being perfected-You can be an unperfected believer (not even in the process)
  3. Salvation is an event, being perfected is a process-After the event the process of perfecting must begin
- D. Being perfected is the most important thing after salvation-After salvation there is a very real perfecting that must take place and this should be the most important thing in your life after you get born again
  1. Spiritual training is profitable unto all things-It even has affect beyond this life
    - a. **1Tm4:8-AC**-Spiritual training is useful and of value in everything and in every way; **TL**-Spiritual exercise is much more important and is a tonic (increase strength) for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually, practice being a better Christian b/c that will help you not only now, but in the next life too
    - b. Many believers live there lives unaware of the reality that they are supposed to be developing and many others if they do know they're supposed to be developing don't really care about it all that much
- E. The level of your development affects: 1) The level of life you live 2) The level to which God can use you
  1. If you're weak/immature spiritually and lack skill in spiritual things you'll live a defeated and low level of life
  2. If you're weak/immature spiritually and lack skill in spiritual things God won't be able to use in a mighty way

a. Fit you out before we send you out-It's similar to the military but our perfecting is a lifetime process

## II. There's more going on in the Body of Christ than just the work of the ministry; There's the perfecting of the saints so that the work of the ministry can be done effectively, powerfully and correctly

A. Part of the great commission was to go teach-You could say go train, perfect the saints, equip

1. **Mt28:19-20**-*Go ye therefore and teach (make disciples) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost*
2. Teach-G3100-Become a pupil; To disciple, that is, enroll as scholar – Be disciple, instruct, teach; *Thayer*-(1) To be a disciple of one (a) Follow his precepts and instructions (2) Make a disciple (a) To teach, instruct; From *G3101*-A learner, that is, pupil, disciple; One who follows his teaching; From *G3129*-To learn, understand; *Thayer*-Increase one's knowledge; We get discipline from it
3. Teach and make disciples is the same word-You make disciples (people who actually follow Jesus's teachings and instructions) by teaching

B. The perfecting of the saints fuels the work of the ministry-The work of ministry suffers if saints aren't perfected; The saints must be perfected otherwise the work of the ministry will not be fueled

1. Magnitude of your ministry-Is determined by the depth of your development; The more you'll let God train you up, the more He can send you out to do

C. Should the only focus in the Body of Christ be the work of the ministry?-Many think the only thing going on and the most important thing going on in the body of Christ is the work of the ministry (saved, feed, clothe, help)

- **Acts5:42-7:7**-*And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ; And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. <sup>2</sup> Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. <sup>4</sup> But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. <sup>5</sup> And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: <sup>6</sup> Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.<sup>7</sup> And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*
1. 42-1-The disciples were being multiplied because they were teaching and preaching the Word, but the work of the ministry was being neglected and apparently some suggested the 12 leave the Word
  2. 2-They wouldn't leave the ministry of the word and perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry; They actually said it's not right (fit, right, pleasing) for them to do that
    - a. As a minister you have to have some resolve, I'm not leaving prayer and the Word
  3. 3-4-The work of the ministry was also important to so they appointed others to do that; You can see the model: We are here to train you up, you are here for the work of the ministry
  4. 7-Disciples (Learners, pupils, people that follow Jesus' teaching) were multiplied because the Word kept being taught and preached
    - a. They are investing a lot of time and placing a huge priority into the ministry of the Word – This is the perfecting of the saints NOT the work of the ministry

## III. How do the saints get perfected?

A. You will not be perfected apart from these ministry gifts-If God designed for you to be perfected this way, then this is the way you're going to be perfected; It's didn't say by reading your Bible, praying or devotion time

B. The foundation to your development is the teaching you receive-The disciples were multiplied through teaching and when the Word increased

1. Teach and make disciples is the same word; A disciple is one who follows Jesus' teaching, a learner and then there is no learning without teaching
2. People say you can't produce disciples from the pulpit – Not according to these verses in Acts 5:42

C. Hear, do, develop-You are perfected through these gifts ministering the Word to you and then you practice it

1. You hear, do and develop; I'm anointed to say something so you can hear something, do it and develop
2. What I'm anointed to say you won't get any other way; You sit under anointed teaching and preaching, you do what you hear, you develop
3. A low level of teaching can't take you to a high place of development

#### IV. Northsmoke is representative of highly trained group of people sent by God, walking in victory

A. Is14:28:31-Smoke from the north-A perfectly trained army that was going to defeat the enemy

1. 28-The year Ahaz died was the first year of Hezekiah's reign – Hezekiah began His reign as King
2. 29-The Philistines were triumphing in the death of King Uzziah (leprosy) because Uzziah was the rod that had smitten them-**2Ch26:6-He went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, among the Philistines**
3. 29-Ahaz was a bad king so the Philistines took many of the cities of Judah (**2Ch28:18-The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the low country, and of the south of Judah, and had taken Bethshemesh, Ajalon, Gederoth, Shocho with the villages thereof, Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo also and the villages thereof: and they dwelt there. For the Lord brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the Lord**)
4. 29-Out of the serpent's root-Ahaz was a serpent/bad king but out of his root is going to come Hezekiah and he was the cockatrice (A.Hebrew-What comes out of the Father) and fiery flying serpent to the Philistines; **2Ki18:8-He rebelled against the King of Assyria, and served him not. He smote the philistines**
5. 30-Destroyed by famine and by war-God said He would do the famine but (He) Hezekiah would slay the remnant (rest) of the Philistines - **Is14:31-AC-Hezekiah's battalions**
6. 31-Announcement-From God His enemy that you are finished; This was the Word of the Lord
  - a. *You are dissolved*-We can say this to the enemy; Jesus brought him to naught (Heb2:14-Destroyed)
    1. **TLB-Weep, Philistine cities you are doomed. All your nation is doomed. For a perfectly trained army is coming down from the north against you.**
  - b. This smoke from the north meant the enemy's demise; It would slay whatever part wasn't destroyed by the famine and the oppression of God's people will stop and the hand of this smoke from the north
7. This smoke from the north was a perfectly trained army (TLB-Perfectly trained army)
  - a. 31-None shall be alone-Divide, solitary, straggler-wanderer, rover; Their unity made them strong

B. Smoke was representative of a highly trained army

1. **Sos3:6-Who is coming out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, With all the merchant's fragrant powders? Behold, it is Solomon's couch, With sixty valiant (champion, mighty, strong, excel) men around it. They all hold their swords, being expert in war. Every man has his sword on his thigh b/c of the fear of the night.**

2. Solomon's couch-Litter- A vehicle formed with shafts supporting a bed between them, in which a person may be borne by men or by a horse; **ERV**-*Travelling chair*; **GNT**-*Carried on his throne*; **TLB**-*Chariot of Solomon*; **MSG**-*Solomon's carriage*; **NIRV**-*Moveable throne*; **NLV**-*Wagon*
3. Why smoke?-When an army traveled across the wilderness/desert smoke/dust would be produced
  - a. *Wilderness*-Uninhabited land, desert; It was uninhabited because it was dry, no water
  - b. *Smoke*-**M.Henry**-Vast army raising a great dust; **KJV***DictionaAV1611*-Raise dust/smoke by rapid motion; As the army mobilized and moved it would raise dust/smoke in the desert and you could see an army coming from way off
4. Pillars of smoke-Specially trained, highly skilled soldiers
  - a. **CEV**-*Surrounded by sixty of Israel's best soldiers*; **MS**-*Sixty of Israel's finest, All of them armed to the teeth, trained for battle, ready for anything, anytime*; **NIRV**-*Chosen from the best warriors in Israel*; **TP**-*Surrounded by sixty champions, the mightiest of Israel's host, are like pillars of protection.*
  - b. Expert-Skillful, taught, trained; **CS**-*Skilled with swords, trained in warfare*; **CJ**-*Expert fighters*; **ER**-*Trained fighting men with swords at their side, ready for any danger of the night*; **NET**-*Well-trained in the art of warfare*
5. Holding swords-The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit; This is a Word ministry; Our calling is to teach, train and develop people who are skillful in the Word
6. Expert in war-We want to be experts in our fight which is the faith fight; Faith marks this ministry
- C. Smoke also represents the glory-**Rev15:8**-*The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God*; **Sos3:6**-**TPT**-*Who is this one ascending from the wilderness in the pillar of the glory cloud?* – This army was a glory cloud, highly trained glory could, glory smoke army
  1. The more trained you are in the Word the brighter you shine in the glory
  2. **M.Henry**-A smoke that is the indication of devouring fire at hand; This glory is a devouring fire to the enemy
- D. David's mighty men-We want to raise up mighty believers-2 Samuel 23
  1. There are special forces in the army of God – David was type of Jesus and he had mighty men
  2. Mighty men (Champion, excel, emphasizing strength or ability to fight; **ERV**-*Special soldiers*; **ISV**-*Special forces*)
  3. **8-Adino**-Slew 800 men with his spear at one time-**CJB**-*He came against 800 men, whom he killed in a single encounter*
  4. **9-Eleazar**-The men of Israel were away and he, David and 2 others defeated an entire army; **CEV**-*He had David dared the Philistines to fight them*; **MSG**-*When the Philistines drew up for battle Israel retreated. But Eleazar stood his ground and killed the Philistines right and left until he was exhausted but never let go of His sword. A big win for God that day. The army then rejoined Eleazar, but all there was left to do was clean up.*
  5. **11-Shammah**-When others retreated he didn't; **TL**-*Once during a Philistine attack, when all his men deserted him and fled, he stood alone at the center of the field of lentils and beat back the Philistines; and God gave him a great victory*
  6. **14-17-3** of David's mighty men came to visit David in a cave when the Philistines had taken over Bethlehem; David said something of, "Some water from that well in Bethlehem would be nice." There was so much honor for the one in authority over them they risked their lives in attempt to honor him and broke through the Philistines and got water
  7. **18-Abishai** slew 300 with his spear; **TL**-*Took on 300 of the enemy single-handed and killed them all*

8. 20-Benaiah slew 2 of the best soldiers in Moab; He went down into a pit where a lion was and killed him; An Egyptian soldier had a spear, he only a staff, he took it from the Egyptian and slew him with it
  - E. Herb Brooks-This cannot be a team of common men because common men go nowhere; You have to be uncommon
    1. From milk to meat, from carnality to spirituality, no babying, stretching, training, equipping
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NOTES: Perfecting-G2677-Complete furnishing (objectively): - perfecting; Thayer-Complete furnishing, equipping; G2675-To complete thoroughly, that is repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust; - Fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect, prepare, restore; Thayer-To render, sound, complete, i.e. to fit (qualified), To mend (what has been broken or rent), to repair, to complete, To fit out, equip, put in order, arrange, adjust, prepare, To strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be)