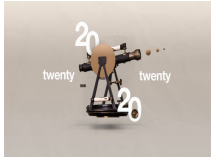
PEEPLES VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Together we are becoming!
One Spirit



THREE QUESTIONS TO DEVELOP A LIFE-LONG VISION

SERIES: VISION FOR 2020_03

Mission Statement
"Sharing God's Love One Family at a Time"

FEBRUARY 2, 2020 / 7 SHEVAT 5780 **SUNDAY MORNING**

Psalm 37:23-24 KJV

23 The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. (KJV)
23 If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; **(NIV)**
23 The LORD guides us in the way we should go and protects those who please him. **(TEV)**
24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him with* his hand. (KJV)
24 though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand. **(NIV)**
24 If they fall, they will not stay down, because the LORD will help them up. **(TEV)**

INTRODUCTION
What is David saying here? "The steps of a good man...."The **"steps"** refer to the everyday course of a man's life. This can refer to anyone, not just good men.
The word "good" does not appear in the Hebrew text. It has been inserted by the translators. The actual Hebrew reading is, "From the Lord, the steps of a man are established."
Steps are important, some more important than others.

- A baby's first step is a very special occasion.
- The steps a mountain climber takes on a cliff are very important too.
- The steps we take in the dark demand caution. If we are walking in dark circumstances, we need reliance upon the Lord or faith.
- If our steps have been influenced by distractions, then we need to refocus our mind and steps on proper goals.
- If our steps have been disobedient, we need to repent, lest we continue to get farther away from God.
- Keeping your steps in the right direction is vital for finishing your course in victory for Christ.

All of us wonder what the new year will bring. **What will happen in 2020?**
Will it be a good year or a bad year for us personally?
I've researched that question diligently and I know the answer:
Next year will be a lot like this past year. In some ways, it will be business as usual.

- You'll have good days and bad days.
- You have some victories and some defeats.
- You'll be sick for a while and you'll be healthy much of the time.
- Some of your prayers will be answered; some won't be answered.
- Some of your dreams will come true;
- some will be dashed on the rocks of hard reality.
- Some of your plans will come to fulfilment; others will remain undone.
- You'll discover that some of your friends will be there when you need them.
- Others will fail you when you need them most.

In many respects, life will be the same next year because we all face the same ongoing challenges in our walk with the Lord.
But know this:

Your steps in the coming year are "ordered" by the Lord.
He is in charge of the details of your life.

We can summarize the teaching of this text in two simple statements:

I. THE SETUP & STABLITY OF OUR STEPS—37:23a-b

1. Every detail of life is under God's control. **v.23**
2. God takes pleasure in our struggle to walk in Holiness. **v.23**

II. THE SUPPORT OF OUR STEPS BY THE LORD—37:24

1. God designs our trials so they will not destroy us. v.24
2. We will not utterly fall because God will not let go. v.24

Three Questions to Develop Life-Long Vision

1. What do I really _____?
2. What is the best possible _____ in every area?
3. What is most _____ of my best effort?

Conclusion

Here are three good mottoes for 2020: **Fight on! Hang on! Walk on!**
I close with this thought. God will not put you in an unbearable situation in 2020. But he may put you in a situation that seems unbearable so that you will turn to Him. Remember that God does not give his strength in advance but only when needed. Each day this year you will have what you need. We may therefore go forth into the new year with confidence, hope, and joy. And in the end we come back to the Lord Jesus and back to the cross.
If you want to meet Jesus, run to the cross. For those who don't know the Lord, the Bible says there is only one step between you and destruction. But there is also only one step between you and Jesus. It's the step of faith. Reach out to Jesus as Lord and Savior. He will come to you and your life will never be the same.

Living with 2020 Vision means that we are able to see, with precision and accuracy, who we are and where we are.

1) Your struggles are necessary – fight on!
2) Your Father has not forgotten you – hang on!
3) Your future is assured – walk on!

Our perfect vision comes through a process, led by the Holy Spirit. God has a plan for your life — a long-term, big picture vision for what he wants to accomplish through you. Before you can grasp this vision, you need to be able see — with accuracy and precision — who you are and where you are in this very moment.

From the Church on the Hill, that believes small things done with great love will change the world:

- **KNOW** the love of God in Jesus Christ
- **GROW** as disciples of Jesus Christ
- **GO** share the love of God in Jesus Christ

I. WANT II. OUTCOME III. WORTHY