



April 2008

Salt & Light

I want to touch on a few different things that are bouncing around in my head today.

The process of hearing and obeying the call of God is simple and yet complex. Most of the vision that I communicate comes progressively through a myriad of conversations and daily interaction with both God and man. The vision that God would place in my heart for my future is intricately interwoven with the vision that God has given me for the church. It is, at times, difficult to identify the difference between what God is doing in me and what God is doing in our church. The things that I preach and teach each Sunday are a reflection of what God is doing in my own heart. To imagine that I am merely passing information from the text to the church dispassionately is to miss the point. I am the messenger carrying the message not just in my head but also in my heart. In a sense, I am the message as well as the messenger—not in messianic sense, but rather in the sense that I tend to live out the message each week as it is prepared in my heart. Everyone and everything that enters my life throughout the week is the message. My study time and me recreation time are each important components in the message that is presented on Sunday.

I have several things that I am very eager to share with you that I believe God has placed upon my heart. Some deal with me personally and others are more church-focused. Now is not the correct time to disclose these potential transitions—though I would like to. Let me just say that God continues to be up to something bigger than all of us and we're getting closer. In the coming months I will be sharing with the Leadership, Deacons, and Trustees many of these ideas and I will be asking for their input as we sort through "what's of God" and "what's of Dave".

Pastor Eric has now completed his third year with us. Easter each year marks his anniversary at Cornerstone. It's with that thought in mind that I have asked Eric to bring the message on Sunday. Eric has just returned from Seattle where he was attending a conference on youth ministry led by some of the leaders of the nation's largest youth ministries. The excitement of the event and the touch of God overflows from Eric as he shares of the experience and what God is teaching him. I am extremely proud of Eric and the great work that he is doing among the youth of Windsor. He serves passionately and with great care. Our youth and their parents are blessed to have someone of Eric's stature leading them. I know—because both of my children are plugged in and are thriving under Eric's pastoral care. Be sure and give a word of thanks to Pastor Eric over the next few weeks. It never hurts to bless financially as well if God should put that upon your heart. *"Elders who do their work well should be paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching."* (1 Timothy 5:17, NLT).

Tina will be stepping away from leading worship for us in May. She continues to have many opportunities to lead worship and teach in other places. As I've said before, she isn't stepping away from being my wife, and so I would expect that we will still have Tina leading us in worship occasionally when she is available. The Search Team that brought us Pastor Fernando will go back to work to look for someone to replace Tina. Pastor Fernando's employment with our state convention does not allow him to take on any more responsibility than what he already has. Begin praying for God to direct us to those leaders that He would have lead us in worship at Cornerstone. Ours is a great church and much of what identifies us is what happens during our worship services. We want to prayerfully move forward looking for God's clear direction.

I am looking forward to worshipping with you this Sunday. We're back to three services at the Cornerstone Campus: 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am. Bible study will resume at 9:30 each Sunday morning.