

## Thermometers and Thermostats, A Vision Series: Part 2

### May 25-26, 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- We will look at the Vision Statement through the lens of Thermometers and Thermostats.
  - o Can you tell that this world is messed up? That you have issues? Etc?
    - Then you are a thermometer! You can tell the temperature. Hopefully accurately!
  - o But, are you an agent of change or just a silent witness?
    - We don't need angry thermometers. Way too much of that!
    - A thermostat can change the temperature! This is what God calls us to do.
- 3 Parts of Vision Statement: Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out
  - o Reach Up: A real relationship with the Living God is available to you!
    - Start the connection through salvation.
    - Maintain it through your prayer/worship life, devotional life, and walking in obedience.
  - o Making a difference (thermostat) starts with connection with God. **John 15:4**
  - o Last week we talked specifically about connecting with God through worship in song.
- This week:
  - o Rise Up: A real relationship with the Living God will change you!
  - o Discipleship Pathway: Rise Up is parts 3-4.
    - Rise Up out of destructive life patterns into a spiritually/emotionally healthy lifestyle.
    - Rise Up out of lies that you believe into understanding and believing the truth!
    - Rise up out of inner turmoil and unforgiveness into a peace that passes understanding!
    - Rise up out of a selfish and self-centered life into a life of eternal purpose!
  - o Rise up out of **Galatians 5:19-21** into **Galatians 5:22-25**.
- That's nice, but how?
  - o Everyone wants to change the world for the better, but you must change yourself first.
    - Hurt people hurt people. Healed people heal people. (**Romans 12:21**)
    - Order of the Vision Statement.
    - Rise Up is the hard work part of following Jesus. Many just don't! \*Garrison, 178.
      - It's hard because it is a heart issue. Behavior is an overflow of the heart.
  - o There is a great negative example I'd like to look at in **James 1:13-15**.
    - Evil desire => bad life pattern => quite a bad result.
      - I think foolish or unhealthy desires fit here too. Evil=worthless; Sin=miss the mark.
      - The word "sin" has been embellished like the word "saint" over time.
      - Thoughts on **James 2:8-11**. Favoritism may not be "evil," but result is the same.
  - o How do we rise up out this that progression? Start at the beginning and turn it for good!
    - Godly desires => healthy life patterns => a good result!
    - Take the positive side of **Galatians 6:7-10**.
- Since this is a heart issue, let's start by inviting Jesus into your hearts. **1 Peter 3:15**
  - o This was written primarily to those who already believed. Keep inviting Jesus into your heart!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!