



## The Big Why

*I pray that they will all be one, Just as You and I are one—as you are in Me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe You sent Me.” John 17:21NLT*

*<sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.<sup>4</sup>For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. <sup>5</sup>There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. Ephesians 4:3-5*

**Raymond-ism:** “If your WHY is BIG ENOUGH, the HOW becomes easy.”

**Why:** Adverb 1. For what reason, cause, or purpose...Why are we doing this house church thing??

- As church leaders / members we understand and maintain various reasons of why we attend church.
- Many of us tapped out in life...end of our resources...church was a new beginning...
- Many of us landed in the messianic community because we wanted more of God.
- My sense today is God wants to expand the vision of our hearts...just a bit.

### Francis Chan: Rethinking church

Personal Experience: Lead Pastor of a 4,000 plus member church...success...entered a period of deep Spirit-led reflection...

1. He didn't hear Christians talking about the love of Jesus...esp. with passion.
2. At what point is standard church culture offensive to God...show up for the stuff. Not The Father!
  - Is God enough?
  - Strip away everything and just love and worship Him!
  - Are we devoted worshippers of Him...and just want Him!
  - Are we developing lovers / devoted worshippers or consumers?... (Ministry of Reconciliation).

**David Sliker:** “*It is important to understand the “bigger picture” of the eternal plan and heart of God for His people. We tend to think of God’s plans for the human race in terms of God’s salvation of the individual; therefore, we think in terms of sin, forgiveness, and obedience to God. However, the Pentateuch presents a familial, or national goal related to God’s desire and plan: To dwell in the midst of His people...much of the Bible revolves around Gen 1-11...the way the Pentateuch opens...the way Moses presents the initial information...the way he lays it out to us...tries to communicate...the bible is progressive in nature, so the starting point is important to understand...the plan of God is summarized at the end of the book of Revelation.”* And I heard a loud voice saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. (Rev 21:3)

**Reflection:** The Christians who are the most effective in this world, are the one’s who think the most about the next world.”

<sup>15</sup>So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup>Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup>Don’t act thoughtlessly but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Eph 5:15-17 NLT

**Pastor Rick Long Grace Fellowship:** “In light of my present situation, my current state of affairs and my future plans, is this the wisest decision to make?”

**Pastor Mark, Grace Fellowship:** “Wisdom is the ability to tell the difference between what is right and what is wrong, and then to be able to tell the difference between what is good and what is best, and then choosing to do the best.”

**Personal testimony:** Business to business sales for Qwest...my function was to enter a variety of business...get past the gate keeper...connect with a DM...persuade them to allow my company to review their phone / data records...convince them to sign a LOA...determine what their monthly rate is...and beat their current rate...and lock them into a 3 yr. commitment/contract...Expound...

**Problem:** Fear of...rejection...failure of purpose...disappointing others namely my new wife/family...process becoming routine / dry...myopic vision...Expound...

**Raymond-ism:** “When our WHY becomes diminished, the HOW becomes COMPROMISED.”  
“Don’t act thoughtlessly but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesian’s 5:17 NLT

**Dalton Thomas:** *“The most significant leaders of the harvest of this next generation are not even believers yet. What the Lord is doing, by de-centralizing, by distribution, by disrupting, and by de-centralizing is deploying “NOT YET” disciples into the fray...in the days ahead we will witness people who are “not yet” believers...play pivotal key roles in the great harvest global Body of Christ. All the D’s above are necessary to build-up an actual robust, biblical framework for them to function in. (Note a spiritual legacy-RF). It will look nothing like the current pop culture church economic model...this will be 24/7 365 day Kingdom church work...these guys about to enter the Kingdom, care nothing about sermon length...they want 24/7 365 day radical abandonment Gospel...they want a Kingdom message...will spill their blood for it and cover the Nations with the maranatha message and cry...they will give everything they got for the Gospel of The Kingdom...not here to build up popularity and social media influencer following...they are about moving the global Body of Christ into obsession and abandonment to King Jesus...who will come soon...establish His Government and Kingdom, His rule and His reign on the earth.”...The Lord God is the One defining the endgame for us!*

**Reflection:** Our why must be based solely on God’s terms and not ours.  
“Practice is Everything. This is often misquoted as practice makes perfect.”- Periander.

**Closing Reflection:** We must pursue, like our lives depend on it, a deeper intimacy with our Heavenly Father and with one another...Why?

- Our reason for being-see the 2 Quest of man-becomes more lucid.
- Our cause, what we stand for, live for and at some point, are willing to die for.
- Our purpose for being “rooted and established” in Christ is actualized...our why lines up with the heart of God and that of Yeshua...” God’s billion-year plan.” Mike Bickle

#### **Additional notes from “The death of Pop Culture Christianity.” Dalton Thomas**

*“Maranatha message, urgent and pressing...is moving us towards abandonment of the endgame of the maranatha cry. Maranatha means: The Lord has come, or Lord come, hasten The Day...by defining in the context of 1. Unreached people, the nations. 2. The maturity and unity of the global church and 3. The provocation of Israel...When all three of these groups cry maranatha...One DAY He Is Going to Come...as this gets into my bloodstream DNA. I start understanding...power of the maranatha message...everything changes! It’s no longer about Sunday services anymore, about being an influencer, having some sort of platform. Its about decentralizing. Distribute leadership across the decentralized global body of Christ, as we unify...we need to see the disruption of authority structures...so we can see the deployment of “NOT YET” believers into the fray...we need to see the demolition of the half gospel that’s predicated on JUST THE CROSS DEVOID OF THE CROWN. We need to have the plumbline of the definition of the message of our hope, MARANATHA! If we buck the system on this...VERY DIFFICULT TIMES IN THE DAYS AHEAD WILL BE OUR EXPERIENCE! We need to be bright-eyed, with full hearts confident, with steel spines, looking to the days ahead with vision and sobriety and jealousy for the GLORY of GOD and the good of men...opportunity to see rapid acceleration”*