

Whittling In The Church

A story was told by Don Southerland in his book *Transitioning* about two boys, Travis and Garrett, which were each given a block of wood and a pocket knife. Both boys began to carve away at their block of wood.

It is called whittling if this seems strange to you. It was a common practice in the 20th century.

Both boys were working hard, enjoying the task and serious about their work but when they each finished their block of wood the results were completely different.



Travis carved a boat and Garrett simply carved a pile of shavings.



What was the difference?

The answer is Travis had a **vision**. He could see the end result. He knew from the start what his block of wood should look like. He knew from the start where he was going with his whittling and how to get from where he was to where he wanted to be. He had a purpose, a target, and a strategy for getting there. Garrett, who worked equally hard, ended up with just shavings. He was just whittling.

I am afraid that most of our churches are just whittling away with no purpose, target, or strategy - yet **very** busy. How would you answer if the Lord asked you to explain *what* you are "whittling"?

Have you discovered His plan for your ministry? If you have discerned His vision for your ministry do you know how to get from where you are to where He wants you to be? These and other questions need to be correctly answered or you may just be "whittling" away the opportunities God has entrusted to you. Who do you most resemble, Travis or Garrett?

God has put a church in your hands, what is it going to look like when you are finished ministering?

Think hard about that one, Ministry Leader!

We are burdened and want to help you discover God's plan for your ministry. Let us help you discern God's vision for your ministry so you can whittle with purpose and design.

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