**Vision Document #15 – The Sunday Morning Seven Atmospheres**
This is the atmosphere we seek to create on Sunday Mornings and in other important gatherings. This is what we want to people to sense, feel, and pick up on when they are present. We intentionally build and establish this atmosphere. There are seven parts that all overlap and flow into each other.

1. Celebratory and Thankful
We fill the air with declarations of thankfulness, joyful praise, and celebration. We want God to receive the highest praise and for people to hear and feel this as they drive into the parking lot. Praise is strategic because it is the doorway into God’s presence. “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name” (Psalm 100:4). “God inhabits [sits, remains, dwells] in the praises of His people” (Psalm 22:3).

2. Faith-filled
By setting the focus on God in praise and worship we are stirring up faith in our hearts and in the atmosphere. Praise combats unbelief and stirs up expectation for God to move. We anticipate His work of salvation, transformation, and miracles. We know that God responds to faith and that He inhabits true worship. Therefore, we also anticipate His physical presence in an increased measure beyond merely His indwelling presence.

3. Thick Presence and Guarding Holy Spirit’s Flow
As we encounter His glorious presence, we adopt an alert and watchful tone in which we are seeking to savor, guard, listen to, and move with the Spirit’s flow. We do not want to quench Holy Spirit. We lean in attentively to listen to His voice with the intention of obeying Him. We are hosting the Holy Spirit. Like a dove sitting on one’s shoulder, our hospitable aim is for God to know that His presence is welcome here and He can stay!

4. Loving and Light-Hearted

Our words, whether from the front and on the microphone or in the back mingling with one another, are loving and light-hearted. Though we take God and what we are doing seriously, we try to create an atmosphere where nobody has to take them self too seriously. Church can already be an uncomfortable, awkward, or even scary place for many people. We counter that by being loving and light-hearted. We allow humor, smiles, and kind words to lighten the atmosphere. Wholesome jokes are welcome!

5. Honoring

We invite Heaven even more by using honoring words and establishing a tone of honor. We carefully harness the power of words so that people are edified, encouraged, and disarmed. We want saints and sinners alike to pick up on the dignity, respect, and honor in the atmosphere.

6. Inspiring

We utilize the approach of inspiration for influencing people to grow and change. When we see Jesus more clearly, we are empowered and inspired to grow and change. Inspiration happens when we impart to people a bigger revelation of Jesus - and hopefully a fresh encounter with Him as well. Additionally, our leaders and church members seek to develop deep lives in the Lord so that our example is inspiring to observers. Inspiration breeds passion, real growth, creativity, and more! We guard against the religious spirit, which frequently slips into the atmosphere of churches and hides behind works-focus, pushiness, obligation and shame. We do not end sermons and conversations telling people to try harder and do more for God. We want people to go home inspired; not defeated nor conceited.

7. Passion for Excellence
This last atmosphere is mentioned with reluctance and hesitation. When we say *excellence*, we do not mean perfection. The last thing we want to do is create a hyper-focus on a “perfect” church service that is so scripted and polished that we draw attention away from God and close the door to the Holy Spirit’s spontaneous leading. We are absolutely not interested in that. However, we do want to represent Him with our passion for excellence in everything that we do. “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters” (Colossians 3:23). Therefore, we want the atmosphere to include passion for excellence.