

6TH DIMENSION - THE DOOR (MEMBERS PATHWAY)

Love Shows the Way

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A. Historical Context

The Last 70 Years of Church History

Intentional church growth over the past seven decades led to the rise of megachurches (1,000+ attendance) through key pioneers:

- **Donald McGavran (1950s–1960s):** Identified core church growth principles in India. Founded the Institute of Church Growth (later at Fuller Theological Seminary).
- **Peter Wagner (1970s–2000s):** Published *Your Church Can Grow* (1976), making growth principles accessible to local pastors.
- **Robert Schuller:** Started a drive-in church in California with the motto "Come as you are in the family car," pioneering dual-purpose sanctuaries and televised services.
- **John C. Maxwell (1980s–1990s):** Grew Skyline Church in San Diego past 3,000 members by teaching pastors to operate as dynamic leaders.
- **Bill Hybels (Willow Creek):** Introduced the attractional / seeker-sensitive model using contemporary music, drama, and non-jargon language.
- **Rick Warren (Saddleback):** Targeted the "Saddleback Sam" persona (a suburban, non-churched husband/father) and authored *The Purpose Driven Church*.

Key Historical Conclusions:

1. **Church growth is a science:** It can be taught, adapted, and systematically practised.
2. **Leadership is paramount:** Pastoral roles require intentional leadership development.
3. **Contextual adaptability:** Strategy models must evolve alongside cultural and societal shifts.

B. Biblical Foundation: The Movement of Glory in Ezekiel

The Departure of God's Glory (Ezekiel 8–11)

1. **Throne to Threshold:** The glory moves from the cherubim to the temple threshold; a cloud of judgment fills the inner court (Ezk 9:3, 10:4).

2. **Threshold to East Gate:** The glory rests above the cherubim at the entrance of the East Gate (Ezk 10:18–19).
3. **Departure to Mount of Olives:** The glory leaves the city entirely and halts at the mountain east of Jerusalem (Ezk 11:22–23).

The Return & Outflow of God's Glory (Ezekiel 43–48)

1. **Return from the East:** The glory returns through the East Gate facing east (Ezk 43:1–3).
2. **Filling the Temple:** The Spirit lifts Ezekiel to the inner court as the glory fills the temple (Ezk 43:4–5).
3. **Life-Giving River:** Water flows out from the temple into the countryside, bringing life, abundant fish, and turning salt water fresh (Ezk 47:8–9).

The Ultimate Goal: "And the name of the city from that time on will be: *THE LORD IS THERE (YHWH Shammah)*," — Ezekiel 48:35

If the LORD is there, you have to create a door.

If the presence of God is restored, our responsibility is to build a structured "door" for people to enter.

C. Practical Framework & Members Pathway

1. The 4-Stage Member Experience

To build an effective door into the local church, leaders must design four distinct touchpoints:

Stage	Focus Area	Strategic Objective
1. The Invitation	Outreach	Reaching non-believers in the broader community.
2. The Welcome	First Impressions	Creating an intentional, hospitable environment for visitors.
3. The Product	Sunday Service / Content	Delivering engaging, relevant, and transformational ministry.
4. The Assimilation	Next Steps	Connecting attendees into deep community and discipleship pathways

2. Rick Warren's Concentric Circles of Belonging

Moving people from the outside environment into central ministry involvement:

[COMMUNITY]	→	Unchurched people in the broader area
[CROWD]	→	Attendees of Sunday services
[CONGREGATION]	→	Official members of the church
[COMMITTED]	→	Mature members dedicated to growth & small groups
[CORE]	→	Active leaders & ministers serving others.

3. The Life Development Baseball Diamond (Assimilation Pathway)

A structured process to move believers through sequential levels of commitment:

- **CLASS 100 Level — Knowing Christ (1st Base):**
 - *Focus:* Salvation and foundational spiritual habits.
 - *Goal:* Committed to Membership.
- **CLASS 200 Level — Growing in Christ (2nd Base):**
 - *Focus:* Spiritual disciplines, habits, and maturity.
 - *Goal:* Committed to Maturity.
- **CLASS 300 Level — Serving Christ (3rd Base):**
 - *Focus:* Discovering spiritual gifts, personality, and personal ministry.
 - *Goal:* Committed to the Ministry.
- **CLASS 400 Level — Sharing Christ (Home Plate):**
 - *Focus:* Personal evangelism, global missions, and leadership.
 - *Goal:* Committed to Missions.

Key Takeaway for Church Leaders: When God's presence is established (*YHWH Shammah*), intentional pathways ensure that the crowd becomes mature, active ministers who bring life to the surrounding community.