

## “Unlocking the Power of Personal Vision” (Part I)

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Bible Study, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

### **What is Vision?**

- Most people think you see with your eyes. You don't see with you eyes, you see through them. You see with you mind.
- It's like when I take the time to relay a concept to you and when you finally get it you say, "I see." What do you mean? You mean you see it, but not with your eyes, with your mind.
- But even this is SIGHT, not VISION.
- **VISION is seeing beyond where you eyes or your mind can look.**
- **Sight is common, vision is rare!**

### **Example:** Faith Outreach Christian Life Center

I met a man in 1996 that had vision. His vision was birthed from God. He said that he Lord had called him to start a ministry. His conviction of his assignment and **his ability to articulate it** led me to connect with him and support his vision. He walked me around a plot of land in 1996 and told me (and a group of others) that this was where the Lord would allow them to build a church sanctuary. It was nothing but an open field of trees, weeds, and bushes, to the natural eye, but he began to explain what God had already **empowered him to see**. He went into detail about how the sanctuary was going to look; he talked about doors, colors, chairs, and etc. We saw a field, he saw a church. By the summer of 1997, at the time where I was scheduled to leave Augusta, GA; the building that he saw was erected for the rest of us to see. **He painted the picture of the vision God had given him and that vision gave us the motivation we needed to support the move of God in his life.**

I came back to Augusta in November of 2003 for a short visit. By this point the church had purchased more land and several buildings were on the church campus. That same man walked me through a newly erected Family Life Center and talked to me about the purpose of the new building. He then pointed to an area full of trees on the land where the Lord had shown him that the final sanctuary, the Faith Dome, will be built. He went into great detail about the dome and he lit up when he talked about the impact all of this was making and would make in the body of Christ. Making a mark in the lives of people that is inerasable. His vision caused me to ask the Army to send me back to Augusta, GA. I moved my family back here in 2004 because I came to support a vision. It is now 2007. The trees he pointed out are gone. An architect drawing has been rendered. The full plans are on order and the ball is rolling for the Faith Dome. **More importantly, however, souls are being saved, burdens are being removed, yokes are being destroyed, and lives are being changed through the power of God.** Why? Because there was a man that was willing to receive, accept, and walk out a vision from God. That man's name is Richard Peoples. He is my Pastor and Spiritual Father.

After he explained the vision and made it plain to me, I prayed and the Lord led me to come here to support the vision. I asked to be put on orders and I arrived here in 2004. It is now 2006. The trees he pointed out are gone. An architect drawing has been rendered. The full plans are on order. The strategy to pay off the Family Life Center is in place. Why? Because there is vision. Vision shapes purpose. Purpose gives birth to plans. Plans layout goals. Goals are incremental steps that take you towards and expected end.

Vision becomes the ruler by which we judge every decision; in order that we might reach God's desired destiny for our lives. That is the Power of Vision! Sight is common in this world, but vision is rare. Are you ready to be a Visionary for God?

**Example:** Walt Disney

People that can see are common in the world, but people with vision are rare. Mr. Walt Disney sat in an open field many years ago, just shortly after opening Disney World. At the time, the park only had a few rides. He sat and looked out into the field for a long time and seemed very preoccupied. A worker was cleaning and came by to ask Mr. Disney what he was doing. He told the worker that he was looking at his mountain. This seemed very strange to the worker and he simply walked away.

Many years later, at the opening of Space Mountain, a young man introduced Mrs. Disney to the platform. He said that it was great to have her there, but it was a tragedy that Mr. Disney died without ever seeing his mountain. Mrs. Disney took the mic and corrected the young man. She told the crowd that they were just seeing the mountain, but her husband had seen it many years before. That is the power of vision. Vision is seeing beyond where our eyes can look. He husband saw the mountain and his vision motivated him to develop a plan. That plan gave guidance to those that could not see the vision, so that the vision could become a reality and so that space mountain could be erected.

**What can we learn from these examples?**

1. A vision must be able to be articulated.
2. Clearly articulated vision enables others to support it with conviction.
3. A vision can become a legacy (outliving us).

**(Prov 29:18 NIV) Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.**

**(Prov 29:18 AMP) Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]--blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he.**

Let's break down Proverbs 29:18:

- The word translated vision literally means revelation.
- The word translated perish means to loosely stumble.
- The word translated keepeth means to guard, protect, and take heed to.
- The word translated law means the instruction, direction, and teachings of God.
- The word translated happy literally means blessed or empowered to prosper.
- Read in this light, our texts tells us that, **“Those who do not hear from God and receive His revelation, loosely stumble through life, but those who take heed to and protect His instructions, direction and teachings are be blessed and empowered to prosper.”** (Piña Version)

**(Is 46:9,10 CEV) I alone am God! There are no other gods; no one is like me. Think about what happened many years ago. From the very beginning, I told what would happen long before it took place. I kept my word**

- God proved the Israelites that He was God telling them what was going to happen, before it happened. He showed them the end from the beginning.
- He does the same with us. When we receive His revelation and plan accordingly, it is called **Vision!**
- This vision gives us **purpose** and **focus**.

**(Hab 2:2-4 AMP) And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by. For the vision is yet for an appointed time and it hastens to the end [fulfillment]; it will not deceive or disappoint. Though it tarry, wait [earnestly] for it, because it will surely come; it will not be behindhand on its appointed day. Look at the proud; his soul is not straight or right within him, but the [rigidly] just and the [uncompromisingly] righteous man shall live by his faith and in his faithfulness.**

Some quick nuggets on vision from Habakkuk's experience:

1. The Vision is for an appointed time.
2. The Vision will surely come to pass – no matter how long it takes.
3. The Vision must be clearly expressed if it requires the involvement of others. In this case it did, as it is in most cases. Clearly expressing the vision promotes “by-in” and support.
4. The Vision must be received by faith. Being that this is more a matter of spiritual insight than natural sight, vision must be received without any sense-realm evidence.

Once we have God's vision and we know what we believe He has shown our expected end in the particular area is going to be, then we must develop a plan of action that will take us towards the accomplishment of the vision and we can confidently rely on God to supply all the resources necessary. **If it's God's will, then it's God's Bill!**

We must remember, however, that God is not obligated to release provision where He has not established vision.

Dr. Myles Munroe explains it this way:

*“If you pursue the wrong assignment, you're going to need things you can't get, because the provision isn't there unless the vision is yours. It's someone else's assignment, and he has his own warehouse. Sometimes, people make demands on God that He can't supply because He can't give us what doesn't belong to us. Again, knowing God's will for your life is the key to your prosperity.”*

**(Jer 1:5 AMP) Before I formed you in the womb I knew [and] approved of you [as My chosen instrument], and before you were born I separated and set you apart, consecrating you; [and] I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.**

**(Jer 1:5 MSG) "Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you: A prophet to the nations-- that's what I had in mind for you."**

God told Jeremiah that he had a specific assignment. Jeremiah, like many of us, tried to give excuses why he could or should not do it. Jeremiah said, **“Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child”** (v.6). But the Lord gave him:

**Assurance:** (v.7) But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

**Instruction:** (v.8) Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

**Provision:** (v.9) Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

**Promise:** (v.12) Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

What's important to point out here is that God's promise and provision is always tied to His vision. He is not obligated to release provision where He has not established vision.

**(Jer 29:11 AMP) For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.**

God has a vision for all of us. What we must do is find it, follow it, and finish it. Finding God's vision and purpose for our lives will unlock His provision. Without vision, we may never receive the proper provision.

Nuggets to take away:

1. **His instruction is equal to His Injection:** God will never instruct you to do something that He has not already injected you with. Paul said, "By the Grace of God, I am what I am..." (1 Cor 15:10). God's grace (empowerment and favor) is injected into us according to His instructions for our ministry. Meaning that He has impregnated us with everything that we will need to succeed in our assignment. Frustration comes when we try to do something that He has not equipped us to do. Paul was not internally equipped (injected) with Jeremiah's grace to deal with the Kings of his time. Why? Because God did not instruct Paul to deal with Kings. Jeremiah did not have Nehemiah's grace to rebuild the walls, and etc. Whatever God instructs you to do, He expects you to do. Why? Because He has already equipped you to do it! His instruction is equal to His Injection!

2. **Understand Your Purpose and focus your efforts:** Purpose driven people are narrow-minded people. Jesus could have done a lot of things, but He only did those things that would lead Him to the end of His purpose. He did not meander His way through life, He was purpose driven and He reached the end of His ministry a short 3 years after He began. Know your ministry (purpose) and stick to it.

3. **Celebrate the Diversities of Callings without Jealousy:** God may not have called you to Pastor, but don't hate those whom He has. God may not have called you to "Pulpit Ministry," but thank God for those whom He has. He will bless whatever He has called you to do. He will not bless your efforts at chasing something outside of His Calling! Instead of focusing on the fact that you are not called to the ministry of others; celebrate the fact that others are not called to Your ministry!

4. **Obedience unlocks Abundance:** Once you find out what it is that God has called you to do in ministry, you must be obedient to operate therein. If you do, you will experience the Blessings of God like never before! When you flow in the anointing that you are destined to operate in, God will manifest His glory greatly!

#### **Vision Sets Goals, Which motivate a Plan of Action:**

Dr. Munroe says, "*The primary value of purpose is the translation of vision derived from purpose into a plan of action. Purpose maximizes energy and gives time meaning. Purpose protects you from being busy, but not effective... Purpose that is translated into a vision causes things to happen and people to act. This is true because purpose creates vision, vision produces goals, goals permit the development of a plan and a plan allows for an orderly journey.*"

Dr. Munroe says **that goals are steps toward a desired end.** Dr. I.V. Hilliard says that vision should give birth to a plan and your plan must have quantifying goals. A **goal is a measurable objective, not a wishful thought.**

I define discipline **as the ability to make the proper decisions that will take you towards a desired end.** Let's bring this all together:

- We must seek God for our **purpose** in life.
- Our purpose will give birth to **Vision** in several areas (family, finance, career, ministry, etc.).
- Each vision will give birth to the specific **goals** required for completion.
- The collective goals will come together as a **plan** action.
- Finally, and most importantly, **discipline** is required to make the proper decisions that will take you towards your expected end.

**Closing Confession:** Lord God. I receive Your Vision for my life. I am Your sheep and I hear Your voice. I will Find Your plan through Your Vision. I will Follow Your plan all the days of my life. I have the discipline to develop measurable goals that support the accomplishment of your plans. I complete those goals. The completion of every goal takes me incrementally closer to Your vision for my life. I will Finish Your plan while I am here on the earth. I will not die full of purpose. I will die empty. I will get out of me all that You have deposited in me while I am living. I live a purpose driven and vision-filled life! I do not perish, because I take heed to Your instructions. In Jesus' name. Amen!