



Vision & Purpose



Vision is perception beyond sight. For us in this study, vision is our ability to see into the Land of Unlimited Possibilities. This is spiritual in nature and is spiritually discerned. Our key verse is a proverb, which contrasts two statements or thoughts:

“Where there is no vision the people cast off restraint: But happy is he who keeps the law.”
Proverbs 29:18

The first statement is about vision. Without vision - prophetic revelation - the people - you and I - will cast off restraint. We will ignore boundaries, throw off our harness and give way to unbridled passions and behaviors. The King James Version states that the “people perish”. And certainly, we would perish living outside the parameters of God’s heart.

The second part of this verse is contrasted with a man who is happy because he keeps the law. I want to say two things about that statement: First, under the first covenant, what better restraint would there be? The law, which the Apostle Paul declared to be righteous, was the most excellent means of restraining



the human passions that could lead one to misery and death. The Law was the revelation of God for that covenant and the covenant people. Thus the contrast: happy is the man who keeps the law, for his eyes will be enlightened with the revelation of God's plan for him. This is not a plea to return to the law as our vision in life.

The second statement I want to make about this verse: the Law was the only revelation of God's heart for his people at that time. It is still true that without a vision the people cast off restraint. Only now, there is a higher revelation of God for us to keep our eyes upon. Happy is the man who keeps Christ. Happy is the man who is restrained by grace. Happy is the man who is yoked with the Holy Spirit.¹

This vision goes beyond living good, God-pleasing lives. This vision sees into the very inheritance of God. It sees what cannot be seen at this time. It is not limited by time or space. This vision is revelatory. Revelation is truth made manifest. Consider Hosea 4:6:

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest before Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

Could this mean that God's people today are suffering destroyed marriages, families, finances and health because we don't know what it means to become Sons of God? Have we forgotten the life and purpose of Christ, and now the future of our children, our inheritance, is at risk?

James adds that we must be doers of the Word, not hearers only. Actions increase the capacity for vision. As we invest in the Kingdom — our marriages, family, fellowship — we increase our ability to see further into the purposes and the heart of God. The more we place under the kingship of Christ, the more of His realm and reign are made manifest to us. Remember that the enemy comes to steal the seed before it can germinate, before the truth contained within it can be made manifest.²

A knowledge of the plan of God for our lives is crucial to living in a hostile world. Through this knowledge, we are able to develop vision and purpose. This is key to moving into sonship — maturing in relationship, responsibility and authority. How can we then develop vision? Are there consistent elements of vision into the things of God? How different is vision from having goals in life? Once I have a vision, what do I do with it?

1. Romans 8:1-3
2. Mark 4:14 * 15



Aligning With The Kingdom

“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal:

*‘The Lord knows those who are His.’ And,
‘Let every one who names the name of Christ depart
from iniquity.’*

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, (profane¹ and idle babblings, vs. 16) he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:19-21 NKJV

We must come into agreement with God’s Word, His purpose and His plan for our lives; not only in principle and theory, but in practice, action and behavior. As mentioned in 2 Timothy, chapter two, cleansing ourselves of profane and idle words is one of the important issues in becoming useful for the Master. Once again, we see the importance of our words. It could be said with reference to this scripture, that the beginning point in our departure from iniquity is right use of our words.

Further, we can see the intent of the Spirit here is that we become proactive. We initiate the cleansing process, while understanding that it is indeed God’s grace and the righteousness of Christ which accomplishes the work. For far too long in our cultural experience of the Christian life, we have assumed that while it is true that we are not saved by our own good works, we therefore have no need of any effort in speaking or doing those things which God’s word says please Him. We have followed a path of logic similar to this:

EFFORT = WORKS : WORKS = LACK OF FAITH : LACK OF FAITH = SIN : **THEREFORE EFFORT = SIN**

And yet nothing could be further from the truth and the heart of God. Our participation with God and with His Spirit is part of what He longs for in us - cooperation in bringing forth His purposes in His creation.

1. Profane *adj*: **1** not concerned with religion or religious purposes **2** not holy: not fit for religious use **3** serving to debase or defile what is holy: IRREVERENT [Middle French *prophane*, from Latin *profanus*, from *pro-* “before” + *fanum* “temple”], The New Britannica-Webster Dictionary & Reference Guide, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 1986

Developing Vision

Seek First The Kingdom. This is a good starting point. We have already discussed seeking the Kingdom and its components of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Begin here with scripture. Scripture reveals God's purposes. Scripture will confirm your leading. Scripture will verify the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer then aligns the heart. If God already knows what we need before we ask, then why ask? There is a place where prayer does indeed move God. But usually, prayer is that which aligns our hearts and minds with that of God. When we pray, especially from the pattern of "The Lord's Prayer", it aligns us with God, opening communion so that we might converse, actually hear the response of God.

The Lord's Prayer Pattern

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| OUR FATHER | Acknowledges His authority over us |
| WHO ART IN HEAVEN | Acknowledges His superiority and position |
| HALLOWED BE THY NAME | Acknowledges that He is Holy and that His ways are not our ways |
| THY KINGDOM COME | Acknowledges our need for His reign |
| THY WILL BE DONE | Acknowledges our submission to His will |
| ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN | Our plea for alignment with the eternal |
| GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD | Request for the immediate need |
| AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS | Our plea for right relationship with Him |
| AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US | Our ability to receive forgiveness based on our willingness to forgive others |
| AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION | God tempts no one. This is a plea for open eyes and ears. |
| BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL (THE EVIL ONE) | Don't allow us to proceed down a path that will allow the enemy access to our lives |
| FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM, ETC... | Acknowledges that He reigns, and it all belongs to Him. |
| AMEN | So be it. |



Fasting aligns the will. Fasting is misunderstood, especially among charismatics. Again, like prayer, the primary purpose is not to change God's heart on any given subject, though we know that God does change His mind toward His children from time to time. What fasting does is puts pressure on our wills to reveal weaknesses or selfish motivations which might keep us from God's best for us.

Fasting need not be torturous. If God calls you to a fast, be obedient. But usually, fasting is a choice and NOT a leading. Pick a time frame or conditions of a fast and then follow what you start. That is one of the fundamental keys to fasting: finish what you begin. This conforms your will. This tests your integrity. And a note of warning: nearly everyone will *feel* that they have been released from their fast about day 3 or 4. Many people *think* that God says something like, "*I only wanted to see if you were willing; now that I know your willingness, you can quit.*"

Has God ever said that? Maybe. But it is not consistent with His nature. First, the decision to fast was yours. If God commands a 40-day fast, He is not likely to change His mind, since fasting is an exercise in endurance and fidelity. Therefore, where God commands, He gives grace. If you choose to fast, God is again interested in your integrity (not your will power). Choose a fast and the conditions of your fast based on your willingness to have your choice challenged and your integrity questioned.

The Promise of Scripture states that those who seek will find.¹ God will begin to open His heart to you as you seek His vision for your life. Habakkuk 2:2 is an instruction to "write the vision" and to "make it plain." Journaling your prayer time with God may be a very practical way to discover the vision He has for you. The Holy Spirit will give wisdom to anyone who asks.

A vision is not a set of goals. It is not about feeling or knowing what you want to accomplish. Often the very accomplishments contained in the vision may be for your children or grandchildren to achieve, and not you at all. But the vision becomes the vehicle that sets your family on its course to pursue a multi-generational plan for Kingdom building. James 1:6 encourages us to hold on and not waver. Double-mindedness can defeat you before you start.

Be patient. Habakkuk 2:3-4 assures us that God's vision is for an appointed time and it will come to pass. Be steadfast to move toward the vision, even if it seems only by inches. We often bail out just before our breakthrough.

1. Luke 11:9



Requirements

Faith to Receive

Open your heart for God's grace to fill you.
Know that God wants to assist you.
Know that the Father wants you to assist Him.
Risk stepping out on His Word.

Faith to Believe

Commit to His course of action.
Give yourself to His Word, heart and purposes.
Invest your substance into His leading.
Invest your life into His Kingdom.

Faith to Endure

Have the integrity to do whatever it takes.
The vision will always be challenged.
It comes from and returns to the Kingdom.
The enemy will resist you, weary you, and lie to you.

Vision Produces:

Unity

Purpose

Motivation

Actualization

Accomplishment

AFFIRMATION

Father, in Jesus Name, open the eyes of my heart that I might receive Your vision for my life. I gratefully thank You for having a destiny for me. I will wait on You and will obey Your call, knowing that You will answer and empower my sight. I will do whatever it takes to be fertile ground for Your Word and for Your vision. I acknowledge my need for spiritual sight and insight, recognizing You alone as my source and my strength. I will cherish the vision You have given and will give me as a unique gift from Your heart to mine. Holy Spirit help me. Amen.