

VISION SERIES

SEEING WITH VISION

5-6-18

OPENER:

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish.

Vision - It is the #1 distinguishing mark of great leaders. It is what separates mediocre Christians from passionate ones. We say, "They are a man or woman of vision."

Nehemiah was a man of great vision.....

Nehemiah 2:17 But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!"

Nehemiah said, "You guys see broken down walls and charred gates, but I see new ones surrounding a sparkling city filled with much happier people." How did he see that? With his mind's eye!

The Bible says, "*we walk by faith, not by sight!*" This means that we have a vision, not of the way things are, but of the way they ought to be.

ILLUSTRATION:

I want you to think about your life. Think about how things are at home, at work, at school, in your family, with your kids, your finances etc.....Now close your eyes and see what it's supposed to look like. See how it is supposed to look like at your home, at work, at school, etc.

**VISION IS THE ABILITY TO SEE BEYOND WHERE YOU ARE
TO WHERE YOU ARE GOING.**

VISION IS THE ABILITY TO SEE WHAT WILL BE; NOT JUST WHAT IS.

ILLUSTRATION:

Having Vision is like having a pair of binoculars. Without the binoculars, you can only see what is right in front of you. But, when you look into the binoculars, you can see what is far away. Things that are blurry are brought into focus and things that are far away seem to be close.

VISION ENABLES US TO SEE THE INVISIBLE.

2 Corinthians 4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Vision enables us to:

1] To see what we believing for

- 2] To see what *God* desires for us
- 3] To see *who* we are in Christ and what we *HAVE* in Him.

I. THE DEFINITION OF VISION:

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision the people perish.

Vision Definition – Greek word “chazon” which has three meanings:

- 1. To have Revelation
- 2. To Dream
- 3. To Have a Mental Picture

1. **To have Revelation**

The making known of something that was previously secret or unknown; or something that is hidden; an unveiling, an uncovering from God to man

ILLUSTRATION:

\$20 Bill hidden.

SPIRITUAL REVELATION IS IMPARTED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

ONLY GOD CAN UNCOVER THOSE THINGS THAT ARE HIDDEN THAT YOU CANNOT SEE.

THE SPIRIT BIRTHS VISION.

ILLUSTRATION:

The Lord revealing to me that I would become pregnant. This was by the Spirit to my spirit. God revealed to me what would be. It was not based on what I could see. Nor was it based on what I knew about my circumstances, or the knowledge that I had from the doctor.

2. **To Dream**

Not like a dream you have in your sleep, but as in something you hope for; have an expectation for, something you aspire to.

ILLUSTRATION:

Your dream home is what you would like if money were no object.

Or a young man talks about his dream girl.

3. **To have a Mental picture**

The ability to see in your mind’s eye the way things ought to be.

ILLUSTRATION:

What do I see for this church?

Put these three together and you have:

God given revelation to reveal to you what to have hopeful expectation for and give you the mental sight to see it.

All great men and women of the Bible had vision. They saw ahead...

- Abraham saw God raising Issac from the dead as he traveled to sacrifice him on the mountain.
- Moses saw the Israelites entering The Promised Land.
- Joshua saw the giants defeated and Canaan conquered.
- Caleb saw his home in the Promised Land.
- David saw a great temple built to house the presence of God.

**IF YOU WANT TO SEE GOD DO GREAT THINGS -
YOU MUST SEE GOD DOING GREAT THINGS!**

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

You must have a clear mental picture of what God wants for you, your family, your church, your life!

III.THE DRIVE OF VISION:

STORY:

Victor Frankl was a holocaust survivor who used to travel and speak about how he survived the concentration camps. He would say, "You are the reason I am alive." They were baffled, because they had never seen him before. "I have seen you a thousand times" he would say. He then went on to explain how he would dream of the day when he would stand before crowds and tell them how he survived. Day after day he would watch fellow prisoners lose their hope and the next day they would die. Yet he kept imagining himself in front of crowds telling his story of survival. Truly, where there is no vision the people perish!

**ARE YOU ABLE TO SEE BEYOND THE HERE AND NOW?
OR ARE YOU ONLY IN SURVIVAL MODE?**

STORY:

When Walt Disney was alive he had the vision of Disney World. But he died before it became reality. At the grand opening his surviving wife was an honored guest on the platform. The emcee said to her, I just wish Walt could have seen it. She replied with two words: "He did!" He was the first man ever to see Disney World, before anyone lifted the first finger.

**VISION IS THE DRIVING FORCE THAT WILL TAKE YOU
WHERE YOU WANT TO BE.**

**NOT WHERE YOUR LIFE IS, BUT WHERE GOD WANTS YOUR LIFE, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR MARRIAGE,
YOUR MINISTRY, YOUR BUSINESS, THIS CHURCH!**

Vision is the vehicle which will drive you to your dreams! Vision is the key that starts it, and the spark that ignites it, and the gears that get things rolling!

CLOSING:

DO YOU HAVE NO VISION?

It's very easy to be negative about situations in our life. It's easy to reason why it can't be done or shouldn't be done. And in doing it we think of ourselves as being "realistic".

VISION TAKES YOU BEYOND REALITY TO THE SUPERNATURAL!

Helen Keller, *"Worse than being blind would be to see, yet have no vision."*

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR VISION?

Did you have vision once, but let it go? Maybe you were hurt, discouraged, or grew too comfortable?

Don't settle for less than God's best for you! Don't give up.

VISION LOOKS AT THOSE THINGS IN YOUR LIFE THAT USE TO BE AND SEES WHAT THEY OUGHT TO BE.

DO YOU HAVE LIMITED VISION?

ILLUSTRATION:

Use a dry erase board and a dry erase marker. Draw a dot in the middle of the board. Ask, what do you see? (Most people will say they see a dot.) I see a blank screen waiting for so much more to be written on it.

**YOU MUST SEE THE BIG PICTURE!
THERE IS SO MUCH MORE WAITING TO HAPPEN THAN WHAT YOU SEE!**

WE LIMIT GOD WITH OUR LIMITED VISION.