

VISION

In sharing about vision, I will give a number of personal examples I am a visionary let me say we aren't all visionaries but we can all board others to see them fulfilled & His Kingdom advanced

We are not talking about visions, ideas, goals, strategies that are man inspired but God inspired When God brings something to birth it will produce & come to fulfillment

Vision is taking hold of the possible & co-operating with God in bringing that possible to reality Vision like faith, is a picture with substance & in a frame It is not simply a dream It is determined by fact or circumstances but by faith Vision requires sight, not sight with physical eyes, but sight with the eyes of the mind & spirit I must see it with the mind & spirit before I can see it with my physical eyes It is having a clear direction on God to possess the things, I see

Proverbs 29:18 declares 'Where there is no vision the people perish' they wander aimlessly Problem was the people were not receiving revelation from God through visions because it goes on to say but they that keep the law (Word of God) will be blessed happy is he When we abide in His Word, revelation vision & act upon it the fruit will be blessing & happiness

Word 'perish' it means destroy, ruin or to die The Hebrew meaning & context would suggest the following 'Where people have no vision, they are usually uncontrollable, undisciplined & unrestrained' Thus giving us a better understanding that it isn't simply to die, but to go through life without purpose, direction or discipline You could say the same old going around in circles & not going anywhere

The Israelites are a good example they never came into their inheritance because they didn't see beyond the obstacles of the promised land. They focused on what they heard rather than what God said Only a few entered into the promises of God under Joshua & Caleb who believed God

In the time of 1 Samuel 3:1 there was no vision Amos 8:12 they shall run to & FRO to seek the word of the Lord & shall not find it. It was a dry time spiritually for lack of the Word of the Lord You could say when the Word (revelation) of God is not proclaimed/preached the people waste away (perish) Unrestrained behavior leads eventually to destruction

People who have no vision also have no goal or purpose nothing to shoot at

If you aim at nothing you will hit it

Vision without action is merely a dream Action without vision just passes the time Vision with action can change your world J Baker

Hebrew word 'Chazon' meaning evidence, vision, sight, eyesight, visualization, to look, revelation, prophecy in other words SEEING WITH ONES EYE WHAT GOD SEES Hebrews 11:1 the UNSEEN

Nehemiah did two things before he repaired the walls & gates of Jerusalem 1 He prayed 2 he assessed the damage & what needed to be done Here is the don't rush in wait upon the Lord because that's our strength before we begin we survey the land This is how we planted a Church 1 prayed in small group for 4 months, we went away for a weekend retreat to seek the Lord & we went from home to home in our community introducing ourselves & what we were doing inviting them to a BBQ Out of this came a

handful of people but what it did was it was a point of contact in our community We assessed by meeting people the needs & demographics which we molded our ministry around

Talk about seeing ahead when we first meet it was in a building of max of 60 people our first service, we had 20 So we knew we had to look further afield to grow this Church we had to plan to have our own facilities as there wasn't anything that could suit our needs. We brought an existing building placing it on leased land The main auditorium held around 200 with creche, offices, kitchen, toilets & hall that held 150 with 50 car parking spaces I share this cause that's the vision God gave us After a couple of years we appointed a Youth Pastor (part time) & had a vision to have a group in a nearby area with the aim of being a new work This didn't go so well as I mentioned people couldn't see beyond where we were let alone beyond it The work became in spite of initially little support having a Home Group & monthly service there A bit like Nehemiah he didn't listen to discouragement but did what he was called to do praying & working

What is successful for someone else may not be & in most it won't be successful for you

If you have a vision & you do not act on it, it will die

Churches need vision Generally people are followers so they like to get on board something that's going somewhere not just going through the motions They need a leader who is a visionary ie Peter Morrow at New Life Church Christchurch But you also need a person who can take the vision & bring it into being a Max Palmer For me I can do both often I would be considered way ahead of my congregation Once I had a vision of a worship leader Stephen Bell Booth come & minister through music The idea was risky as there was a cost involved as well as opposition But we went ahead

Vision is seeing what can't be seen in the natural but it seen in the spirit we had a concert on the Saturday night with over 500 people with an offering that covered our expenses With two packed services on the Sunday with lives touched, changed & healed Faith doesn't see the obstacles Amen

No matter what or where you're at, you can seek His vision for your life, family, ministry or Church The key to successfully following the Lord is finding out what the Lord (not you/me desire) In saying that He gives us the desires of our heart if they are in alignment with His will As a Church we would seek the Lord annually as a Church have a 2 day retreat to seek His vision, strategy for the next year As Elders wed do it six monthly with a night away to seek whether we needed to change tact as to what season wed be in Some of those seasons were evangelism, restoration, healing, backsliders return, missions... Once you we established the season wed plan events, meetings, groups related to that season The time seeking you could call it a 'Holy Ghost think tank'

As a Church Planter I remember clearly as I looked to books resources on planting Churches God put on my heart don't seek after others ideas seek after Mine So after a lot a prayer God began to give me a strategy related the area of our Church Plant

We need a baptism of clear seeing We desperately need seers who can see through the mist – Christian leaders with prophetic vision AW Tozer

A great leader's courage to fulfil his vision comes from passion not position J Maxwell

When a plan or strategy fails people are tempted to it was the wrong vision Plans & strategies can always be changed & improved but the vision doesn't change A Stanley

Vision has the power to sustain us no matter what comes our way

Elisha

walked in it 2 Kings 6:16

Jacob walked in it

Gen 30:37-43

Zechariah walked in it Zech 4:1-7

Daniel walked in it Dan 7:9-14

Paul walked

in it Eph 1:17-19a

The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight, but has no vision H Keller

Where there is no vision, there is no hope George Washington

SEE AS JESUS SEES

Jesus saw what people would become ie Disciples & others Mary Magdaline for example John 15:15

He saw their VALUE He met their NEEDS He saw their POTENTIAL what they would become SPIRITUAL CONDITION their desire to follow & serve Him He gave people a chance ie Judas even though He would have known Judas heart He believed enough in Him to give him a go What a lesson for us We need to see people as Jesus does open our eyes to see beyond what we see on the outside to what they will become in Christ To speak it out over their lives He saw beyond the now John 1:50

Give us a clear vision that we may know where we stand & what we stand for – because unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything P Marshall

When you have a vision, it affects your attitude Your attitude is optimistic rather than pessimistic

When I think of vision, I have in mind the ability to see above & beyond the majority C Swindoll

130 times the word vision appears in the Word

Habakkuk 2:2,3 RECORD THE VISION & inscribe it on tablets that the one who reads it may run For the vision is for an appointed time it hastens towards its goal & it WILL NOT FAIL though it tarries WAIT FOR IT for it will certainly come it will not delay

Jeremiah 23:16 WARNING they are leading you into false hope, they speak a vision out of their own imagination (minds) not from the mouth of God

Joel 2:28 I will pour out My Spirit on ALL mankind will prophesy, see dreams & visions

1 Corinthians 2:9 No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him (but it's our job to seek Him to find His will in & through our life)

1 Samuel 3:1 Now in those days the Word of the Lord was rare & visions were scarce

2 Corinthians 4:18 Fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for & the certainty of what we do not see

Acts 10:3 He had clear vision of an Angel of the Lord who came to Him

Acts 16:9 Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing & pleading him to come to Macedonia

Romans 4:17 God who gives life to the dead & calls into being things that were not

Amos 3:7 The Lord dose nothing unless He REVEALS His secret counsel to His servants the Prophets

Psalm 5:3 In the morning I will order (regular) my prayer to you & eagerly watch (wait)

Keeping my focus on the Lord gives me clearer vision

When God gives vision, He gives provision

Vision is the ability to see potential in what others overlook

The only way you will be able to see life with clear vision is when you view all of life from a Kingdom perspective