

July 16, 2017

Visions #3 - The Method And Timing

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

It is important that we always have a vision, visions connect us to the future and our memory always connects us to the past. We must cooperate with God in the vision to bring it to pass, mans part is we delight ourselves in the Lord and He gives us the desires of our heart. Surround yourselves with like people, believing people, keep your vision in front of you, the priority is to delight yourself in the Lord. A dreamer vision comes to pass, simply by just hard work and preparation for the future.

Hab 2:1-4 "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. 2 And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. 4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith." KJV

Psa 37:4 "Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." KJV

Pro 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." KJV

Vision is the roadmap that keeps us on course, there are boundaries to be observed in order to reach that vision. Vision looks beyond circumstances and will bring about what should be, we can all look at the circumstances but if there is a God given vision we have the ability to look beyond the negative circumstances and bring to pass what should be happening, vision always has to do with seeing. Webster's Dictionary defines vision as; ability to imagine and prepare for the future, foresight, the act of power of perceiving abstract objects as clearly as they were seen. Strongs Concordance is the ability to see beyond circumstances.

Without a vision we will pass into an inferior condition, we will perish. Many of us get excited about the vision, but over a period of time when we don't see it come to pass, we may lose sight of the vision, but we have the ability to restart or speak life back into the vision because timing is important. We have an appointment, an appointed time for the vision to come to pass. Appointments are always in the future. Faith always sees, visions and dreams are the language of the Holy Ghost. God puts the dreams and visions in us and there is a constant pull to keep going the direction of them regardless of what other people around may be saying.

Habakkuk tells us the importance of writing down the vision, having the ability to refer back what the vision is saying, in order for us to not forget. Making it plain so that all may read and understand. The children of Israel had lost their vision so He had sought the Lord wanting to see and hear what the plans for the children were.

Acts 26:15-18 "And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. 16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; 17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." KJV

Paul called by the Lord on the road to Damascus was explaining to King Agrippa about his conversion, there were 3 things involved, he had heard from God, he had learned the purpose of the calling, what he was called to do and to whom he was to minister to, the Gentiles not the Jews and

how the vision had come about.

Every God given vision has a purpose it is just not random. We cannot be in a hurry when we receive a vision from God, it is important that we receive knowledge about His plan, what the cost will be in regards to bring the vision to fulfillment. Being in a hurry will cause us to sin and miss the mark.

Pro 19:2 "Desire without knowledge is not good, and to be overhasty is to sin and miss the mark." AMP

Every step we take in pursuing our vision, there will be a redefining or method and timing involved. In growing or maturity there must be change, we don't always like change, but it is important. Without change and the ability to adjust to change, change is absolutely a necessity in order to succeed and reach our goal.

There are questions we must ask ourselves regarding the vision or dream that we have. 1) is it from God or is it just something our flesh wants to do? 2) is the method or the tools we are using to get there, is that Gods plan? 3) is it His timing, are we on course? After deciding if our vision is from God and we ask ourselves these questions with the method and timing involved, how are we going to get there? Many times when we know what to do we will ask others what they think and they will try to talk us out of it, but when we clearly know what God has said, we can't let them try. We must begin with the end in mind, we must count the cost, our time, our commitment and are we dedicated to see the end result?

We read in Galatians chapter 1 that Paul knew that God had called him and that he would reach the Gentiles regardless of the circumstances that he would encounter along the way, he no longer conferred with other people.

The following scriptures have more to do with the method and timing that Jacob encountered. Begin to read in Genesis chapter 27 about Jacob and the decisions that were made, what things he encountered, everything that was involved with the method and timing of his life, how he was able to see the end result. He spent many years with various circumstances in order to reach the point in life that he did.

Gen 28:20-22 "And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: 22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee." KJV

Jacob was seeking God, having a visitation from the angels, he made a vow. His dream on the inside was that he could go back to his father's house in peace, he had taken nothing with him but in the end would return with many riches. Jacob's desire was to return home in peace and he was able to see the end from the beginning. He worked for Laban for his wives for a period of years and his wages were changed 10 times, Laban was not an honest man, continually changing things for Jacob with the flocks, but everything that Laban did, backfired and Jacob received all the blessings and continued to increase. Jacob did not see all the bad that Laban was doing to him, because he had received a dream regarding preparation for increase with the herds and he realized that the dream was from God and he saw all the things that God was doing for him.

The time had come for Jacob to take his families and possessions and return to his father's house. He knew that his brother Esau had been cheated earlier by him and his mother, but he knew that things had to be made right there. Upon returning, Esau met him and forgiveness was bestowed by both of them, they split up going different ways because they had too many possessions to settle in one area. Jacob had obtained his vision or dream, to return to his father's house in peace.

Gen 31:1 "And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this *glory." KJV

Gen 31:6-12 "And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. 7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. 8 If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. 9 Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me. 10 And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grisled. 11 And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee." KJV

Gen 30:36-38 "And he set three days' journey betwixt himself and Jacob: and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks. 37 And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods. 38 And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink." KJV

Gen 30:43 "And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses." KJV

*This is the first time that glory is mentioned in the bible and it is in reference to wealth or abundance or increase.

In our journey to fulfill or experience our vision it is important that we know the method and timing of that vision.

The following scriptures are about Abraham and Sarah, knowing that God had spoken to them regarding the desire they had to having a son. Circumstances did not look very favorable because of their ages and in the natural would be impossible for this to happen. The covenant that God made would be with Isaac even though there was no baby yet, they were looking at the end from the beginning. God had told Sarah that she would become the mother of many nations; there would be a set time, an appointed time.

Gen 17:16 "And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her." KJV

Gen 17:21 "But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year." KJV

Gen 18:14 "Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." KJV

Gen 21:1-2 "And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him." KJV

There is a timing, a set time in relationship to everything that God promises to us. There is an appointment for the manifestation of it, if you are walking by faith you believe that you receive it now, but there is a set time for the actual manifestation of it where you see it and enjoy it. God says your blessed, many people if they were blessed exceedingly would have nothing left after a short time, no knowledge, no preparation, but there is a set time, we have an appointment with God and the method we use to get there is extremely important. God doesn't give up on us if we miss the timing or the method. The purpose is to receive our vision or dream, in fulfilling the dream God is not limitless.