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Visions #4 - What Do We Do While We're Waiting?

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What is our responsibility in receiving visions, what are we to do after we have heard a word from the Lord? If there is no vision, we may just begin to coast through life, not realizing that there is something better that the Lord has for us, but if there is no discipline in our lives it is hard to grasp what is being said to us. Why have we passed through this inferior condition? Has there been discouragement? have we lost the vision that we know that the Lord has given us?

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

*perish means moving to an inferior condition

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

Pro 29:18 "Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint, but happy are those who keep the law." RSV

Do you really believe that God has greatness for you and are you going to be disciplined enough to experience the greatness that God has for you? If we don't have discipline in our lives, we don't have a vision.

Hab 2:2-4 "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

We have read in an earlier chapter of Habakkuk that he was questioning what the plan of God was really about. He really wanted to hear what God had to say, why were the children of Israel in the condition that they were in? God answered him saying that they had lost their vision, they were lacking discipline and had no direction in life.

When we do our part with a vision, we have an appointment, but there is a time period, a gestation period before it is birthed. What are we going to do with the time before it comes to pass? The vision growing on the inside of us, knowing we have heard from God, most of us are not ready to handle the completion of what the dream

or vision is. Don't reject the vision or dream on the inside, it has been God given. When we see what is on the inside of us is more real than what we see on the outside, it is just a matter of time before that vision or dream is a reality to us, but don't let others rob us of our dream.

Remember what Habakkuk said, "write it down, that we will be able to read it". The key is to write it down, make it plain, why? because we have an appointment with that dream in order that it will remain clear to us, it is important that the dream become repetitive to us. Writing down the dream or vision gives us a point of contact that will enable us to always keep it before us so that we won't forget what has been promised. The constant dialogue that is going on, on the inside comes as a result of what we have heard over the past and if we are struggling with what is in our past, that dialogue will be going on as a hinderance to what God is trying to do with you. Keep that word before you, write it down and read it everyday.

The secret of your future or fulfillment of attaining your vision is wrapped up and hidden in your daily routine. It is the simple things, staying faithful and staying true. It is not the big things that are going to cause us to lose our focus it is the little things that will cause us to lose focus. Our daily routine, writing down the vision, are we keeping it before us, is it plain and simple? these are the areas we need to be checking. We don't want to miss our appointment.

Example is given regarding keeping our focus; the trainer and the lion in a cage, the trainer carries a gun, a whip and a four legged stool. The lion looks and if the stool is in a lowered position, his focus is on the trainer, however, if the stool has been raised his focus will change from one thing to four things, ie; the legs of the stool, in trying to focus on all the legs he will become confused and intimidated. This is how the enemy wants to cause us to lose our focus, the importance of how our focus is must be on the one thing that our vision has shown us and we must not be distracted by the surrounding circumstances, or we become confused, thinking that maybe we have not heard from the Lord and that He doesn't even care. This is what the enemy does to us, causing us to see the distractions and not what God has told us. We must give attention to what is important and keep our focus there. How do we cause what is on the inside to become greater than what is on the outside opposing us? Meditating is one of the answers, but it is important on what we are meditating on, either good or bad will get down on the inside of us, the bad can cause problems, but Habakkuk told us to write it down and keep it before us.

The following scriptures tell of the appointment that Abraham had with God, the promise that had been made to Abraham and Sarah in regards to the son that they would have. They were willing to do what it was going to take in order to receive that promise they had received from God. We hold the keys as whether the appointment is meant or not, the choice is ours. There is a difference between people

who reach their dream and it coming to pass, the fulfillment of it and those who become distracted. They are willing to do what it takes.

It would be good to read the whole account in Genesis to get the full picture of what was going on with the words that had been spoken to Abraham. In these chapters we see that God told him that it was OK to dream big dreams, that God was big enough to offset any weakness or error that Abraham might have made in the past, because the dream came from God. The child would come through Abraham and Sarah, God then showed him how great the seed would be, the stars and the dust would become the point of contact for Abraham and as he saw these two things, he was reminded of the dream continually, he meditated on the words that had been spoken to him. There was an appointed time for the dream to come to pass even though it was 25 years before his son was born.

Gen 15:1 "After these things, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram, I am your Shield, your abundant *compensation, and your reward shall be exceedingly great." AMP

*compensation meaning more than enough, offset the effects of variation error and to make up for anything that has been lost because of the weakness of another.

Gen 15:4-6 "And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness." KJV

Gen 13:16-17 "And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. 17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee." KJV

Three different men who have become successful in the world when ask about that their success, how did they achieve it? all said the same thing, their focus was on what they had set before them, the dream or vision of what they wanted to accomplish in life. They had learned how to deal with adversity.

Spiritually the greater one indwells in us, greatness is on the inside of us, but there are so many things that distract us, ie; the stool that the lion faced. Meditating the word makes things become real to us but as long as we only treat them lightly and do not get them on the inside, the words are not beneficial to us. The key is writing them down, reading them over and over, making them a point of contact for us.

How do we change ourselves or do we really want to change? You change yourself by changing what you do everyday, developing that person that is on the inside of you, praying, looking at the scriptures, writing them down, reading what has been written down. We change through our daily routine, our TV time, social media and other distractions. We have to be willing to pay the price in order to meet the

appointed time that is before us. Gods plan or vision for us is greater than the plan or vision that we have for ourselves.

In the following scriptures we find that not only had God spoken to Abraham but He had also given a dream to Jacob in which he saw angels ascending and descending to heaven and what he thought was the gate to heaven. God told him as He had told Abraham that his seed would be like the dust of the earth, innumerable and that all his family would be blessed and they would be spread all over the earth.

Gen 28:13-18 "And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. 16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. 18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it." KJV

Jacob had spent twenty years out of his homeland, working for Laban, who had cheated him out of everything but God was bringing him back home. Jacob reminded God about the promise that was given to him, that his seed would be as the dust of the earth, he had been tricked into working for Laban in order to pay for his two wives and now he was leaving with the wives and children, but had nothing to show for his many years of working for Laban, then God showed him in a dream how he would be blessed and what he needed to do in order for that dream to become fulfilled. The promise was always before him as he walked about and took care of Laban's flocks. He was given in the dream how to sort the cattle, sheep and goats in order for them to produce large flocks and he would receive his wages from them. Dreams and visions are the voice of the Holy Ghost, he was told what the exact procedure would be to get the flocks bred that he would be needing and of course Laban was excited about it thinking that it would never work, but he didn't know that the dream had been given to Jacob by the Holy Spirit and it was Gods way to bring about the blessing that had been promised to Jacob. Jacob was able to keep the dream before himself, knowing that as the flocks gave birth, they were different than what they should have been because God had interceded.

Gen 30:37-38 "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

* these rods were the point of contact that Jacob saw which would bring about the blessing that God had promised, the end result was restoration to Jacob

Gen 31:9-12 "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

However, Jacob was in fear because of his brother Esau that he would kill him because of the past things that had happened between them. Jacob reminded God of what He had said regarding the sand of the sea, but God assured him that he and his family and wealth would be accepted by Esau and they would be able to dwell together in his homeland. Jacob was not willing to let go and quit, he believed God for His promise and knew that Esau could not hurt him.

Gen 32:11-12 "Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. 12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude." KJV

If we are going to dream God-size dreams, they are going to have to go beyond our ability. We must continue to meditate the word of God, that is why we write down the dream, even when things might be going bad. It is easy to meditate the word when things are going good, but sometimes hard when things are not so good. Gods word doesn't change but when adversity comes sometimes we chose to quit. We keep the vision or dream alive on the inside of us by writing it down, reading it and meditating what the word says. God will surely bring it pass for us.

Psa 1:2-3 "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." KJV

This is one of the keys to what we need for success, writing it down, reading it over and over. When that thing that is on the inside of you becomes bigger than what is opposing you, it is only a matter of time before it becomes reality, you have to see the promise, you cannot see the opposition. Write it down so that you will not lose the dream, if you don't, it will be gone.

The key to some peoples success are focus - priorities - distractions, ignoring what others are saying or doing. We cannot speak defeat and expect victory, our words spoken must be faith filled words.

