

Pause and Ponder Retreat 2023: Vision Compass

11th November 2023

Topic: Driving and Fulfilling Your Vision

Text: Habakkuk 2:1-4: *I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected. [2] Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. [3] For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end, it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. [4] "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him, But the just shall live by his faith. (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION

There is nothing so great and satisfying as having a vision and fulfilling it at the supposed time in your life. One of the things that happens to a man who sees his vision come into reality perpetually is that he is continually reminded that he is not a failure because every time he fulfills one, there is great joy and confidence to cast another. This is why every believer no matter the sphere of life must have a mind and vision for each year whether long-term or short-term. The goal is to never remain without a vision.

"Our God is a God of vision and there is no vision in Him that He never brings into reality."

Every vision is for an appointed time which always speaks at the end not the beginning. We are in a generation that wants a vision to start and create waves at the beginning, this is not supposed to be.

"Every vision speaks."

There are principles you must follow if you have vision because it gives you seven crucial things as you birth it.

1. Vision gives passion

1 Corinthians 9:16-20

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! [17] For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. [18] What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it. [19] This means I am not bound to obey people just because they pay me, yet I have become a servant of everyone so that I can bring them to Christ. [20] and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; (NKJV)

The things that you do for your vision are driven from the standpoint of getting accolades or money but from passion. You do things that won't seem to bring monetary profit, but you do it because of the vision you have.

"If your vision did not propel or compel passion inside you, then it is not a vision."

So let's take for instance if you have a vision that by the first quarter of the year your house will be painted anew. If by January, you avoid everything

like painting, I tell you your vision might not be fulfilled. If you are not passionate about it, you can not achieve that vision.

From that scripture above, we can deduce that vision is not another way to make a living, it is God-given. So whatever vision He gives you and its births a reluctancy in your will, then you are not a good steward.

2. Vision gives direction

You must have the knowledge of where you are going, don't follow people who don't know their destination. A blind man cannot lead a blind man or else both will fall.

3. Vision motivates

4 Vision makes you prioritize

You can't have a vision and not channel all your resources towards its fulfillment. I have a program that runs annually at the beginning of each year, Prophetic Assembly. As a means to prioritize, I ensure much of my enormous giving is between January to June, starting from July I limit my charity and give continually to that program. In prioritizing, you must learn to plan. I have heard people who have vision complain that they lack the resources to fulfill it, but the real problem is that they lack planning and prioritization.

5. Vision disciplines

6. Vision protects

7. Vision brings fulfillment

How To Catch A Vision

There must be **DESIRE** if you want to have a vision. Even the Bible says, if you desire anything, you will receive it. Know also that your desire must be birthed in the place of prayer. Do you want to catch a vision? Then have a burning desire to get it.

Apart from your desire, you must also have the ability to think and envision it. In the process as well, learn to **STAND** (*Tarry to Pray*) and **HEAR GOD** with a **RECEPTIVE HEART**. Afterward, you must be able to Shape Your Vision. The word **SHAPE** itself stands for 5 crucial elements that are key in catching a vision.

S - Spiritual gifts

H - Heart

A - Abilities

P - Personalities

E - Experience

I will explain this using various analogies. The first is **Spiritual Gifts**. Know that whatever your gift is, your purpose will tend towards that which will

help you have a vision per time. I am a person gifted in praying and interceding, hence many of my visions of the year are more inclined in the area of prayer. So I tell you, most of the time visions are set in line with your God-given gifts. If you are not gifted in communicating with people, it would be difficult for you to achieve a vision of selling a business idea or product to people.

"If you want to plan and catch a vision, you must consider the areas of your giftings."

The second is **Heart**. A connected and pure heart speaks volumes to a vision. You must birth a vision from a place of originality not because you want to join the trend.

"Have a good heart that is doing what is instructed not for other people."

The third is **Abilities**. God often disapproves of this formula of abilities in purpose. A typical example is Moses who is a stammerer yet he was sent to speak. But in catching a vision, you must consider your abilities and strengths. It would be foolish of me to arise and say I want to start taking pictures of different people next year; an ability that can take me several years to be skilled in. It is wrong to have such a vision next year. You must know your abilities.

The fourth is **Personalities**. Know your temperament because it helps in knowing and fulfilling your vision.

The last is **Experience**, which is one of the things that helps in forming a vision. You can hear someone say I "have vow I will forever help orphans*. This is because such a person might have the experience of growing up all alone.

WHAT MUST YOUR VISION BE?

Your vision must be :

1. **Biblical:** The process of achieving a set vision must follow the path of the scripture.
2. **Specific:** Let each vision be simple, clear, and focused.
3. **Transferrable:** Every vision that is not transferable is a problem. So must be able to communicate clearly and strategically the vision you have set to different stakeholders and people in general. They will help you to see the shaded areas of your vision and support you all the way. In addition, as you share you also learn better ways to cast your vision effectively and efficiently. It is must that people can bear your vision with you so prepare well when communicating and repeat it frequently.

"One of the things that makes vision work is that it is repeatedly repeated."

4. **Measurable**

5. **Relevant.**

HOW TO FULFIL YOUR VISION

In the scripture we read, there are five D's you must know to help you fulfill your vision:

- **Define The Vision.**

In defining the vision, you must write it out first. There is nothing like storing a vision in your brain without putting it into writing. In that passage in Habakkuk, it says, "Write the vision down". However, don't stick to writing it alone, learn to break it down and understand it thoroughly. Be able to discuss it without mixing words.

- **Dare the Vision**

After defining the vision, you must dare. Don't just say it with words, put it in action. If you have a vision to build a house, don't stick to professing it, get a land and start with prayers. As a church, we had a vision to expand the church and we set a time frame for the expansion. But a few days after, I took a step rather than just talking about it, I reached out and got a connection with a proficient architect to get a blueprint of how the church would look after the expansion. Not that I had enough resources at that time, but I had to take that step and dare it.

"In vision, you must be able to act by faith."

Our mistake is that we want everything to be complete before we dare it, that path will never work. May the spirit of risk-taking in faith come on you as you take that decision to dare. In daring, you must learn to communicate your vision, plan your vision, build teamwork in your vision, and act on your vision. Keep in mind that you can't run a vision all alone and not crash.

- **Develop Capacity For Your Vision**

Be knowledgeable and exposed. The Bible says, to use your money to go and buy truth. Read books and spend to gain knowledge on that vision that God that given you. Learn to leverage relationships and handle opposition as well. In developing, it is important that you have faith in God to win.

▪ **Declare Your Vision**

One of the ways to declare your vision is constant, consistent interaction with your vision. In other words, always go back and check what you have written.

▪ **Defend Your Vision**

You defend your vision through prayer and fasting, men, hard work, and speaking well about your vision.

Conclusion: Learn excellence in everything you do, it is not always dependent on the availability of resources but on your ability to communicate what is inside of you. You can't say you don't have anything to do, start from somewhere. It might be small but never ends small. Learn to help other people's vision so yours can be fulfilled. May God give you help. I want you to pray three prayers:

- *Lord, my vision must be fulfilled in my lifetime*

- *Lord, open the heavens of resources for me*
- *Lord, I will not lack men in my life.*