

# Pause and Ponder Retreat 2023: Vision Compass

10th November 2023

Topic: Foundations for Vision - Getting it Right

Text: John 5:13 - *"But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place."* (NKJV)

## INTRODUCTION

Today, I will be explaining Jesus' model and pattern for becoming successful in vision. Please pay rapt attention to this teaching because it will go a long way in your journey in life. We are going to start from our text today and this is where we will begin to learn some practical and foundational ways of becoming what God will help us to be in the coming year. But before I go very far into that scripture, I'd like you to ask some critical questions in your heart;

- ***Are you satisfied with where you are now?*** That is the first question I'd like you to look at.
- ***Did you have a plan at the beginning of this year that was not achieved?*** Can I ask? *Did you plan, and have a vision for different areas of your life at the beginning of this year and now this is November, you have achieved it all or maybe one or two?*
- ***What areas of your life do you feel less satisfied?***

When I was doing this critical walk I needed to raise these questions and answer them because if I must become or enter into the fulfilment of what next year will bring for me, I must be sincere and answer correctly. And the last question is,

- ***Do you have a specific destination you aim to reach in the coming year?***

Now, for some of you waiting till the end of the year. to ask these questions and answer, sincerely you might not become what God wants you to be.

We saw a dynamic thing in the life of Jesus and that thing became massive for every one of us to do. The Bible says He withdrew from the multitude and hid himself so that he could become and catch a new vision for the next level God is going to do for Him. Most of the time, many people have a vision but it was a calculated one from their head. It was not caught from withdrawal.

***"There is no vision that you can back on when it is calculated and you believe your power can achieve."***

It is when you get to a point in withdrawing from the multitude, people around you and even your past successes that you will begin to set a correct vision agenda for your life. These are lessons we have learnt from Christ and I'm showing you today. In fact, there was a scripture that I saw where the Bible says Jesus was doing what He sees His Father do; so you will never see him do anything that His Father does not do. This is a major principle for us and for those that will excel in 2024. You must learn the attitude and pattern your life with Jesus's models.

## What are these models?

### **A]. An intimate communion with the Father.**

Before Jesus chose his disciples, He had a vision and a purpose for His reason of existence. Do you notice that before He chose his disciples, he went to pray? It was after the prayers that He came out and began to call all the disciples individually in their spheres.

***"If you do not have a good walk with God, there is no vision you want to catch next year and you will achieve."***

The first principle of Jesus' vision that made Him so successful was that He did not just pick the vision anyhow, He withdrew to see what His Father was doing. Now, do you know that the year 2024 you want to enter God has finished it? A day to God is like a thousand years so 2024 is packaged in one of the years. Therefore I discovered that God has gone through everything you will experience in the coming year. So how do you intend to be successful in the year coming when you did not withdraw and walk with Him to receive instruction on what to do and what you ought not to do? I beg you, I am teaching what I saw in the scripture because the Word will forever remain even if the world vanishes.

***"Men and woman that becomes successful in life are people that never joke with their walk with God."***

Can I ask you a question? This is November, when have you even taken a break of one week and locked yourself up because you want to know what will happen next year? Your personal walk with God is not effective and you tell me, that the vision you want to get is not coming forth. God doesn't give vision to distractors. You want to wait upon the Lord to get a

vision for your family, you don't do it in multitude instead you withdraw yourself This is getting it right.

***"Vision is not what you calculate to do but instead vision is what you tarry in the presence of God to get."***

So when I go to God for vision and tarry for one week or two weeks and sometimes for one month to get what God want us to do for my family, my ministry, the church I pastor, our business and our children. I list out these things and I also conclude by searching for a vision for myself because it is also important as well. You get these done only in a place of withdrawal and it is not a place you go with your brain but with an open heart because what you have in mind may be different from what God has in store for you.

Now as Jesus sees the Father doing something, the same He also does. Likewise, as you pray and study the Word, God will begin to drop certain things into your mind; write them down in your notepad or journal. These are practical ways I am teaching you because it is what I practice. Some time back, I packaged myself to a secluded area for one week away from family and friends to know God's mind. By the third day, the Lord came and gave me answers to my requests. I wrote it and sent a fragment of it to my wife, and she shouted with a big "amen". Learn to excuse yourself from your wife and family often to seek the face of God.

Do you know a woman always loves a man who has vision and can cast it? This is one of the reasons the "till death do us part" statement is a reality for many women who have found such husbands. Singles, if you are engaged to a brother that avoids every question of vision and purpose. Please run away, it won't do you any good staying with such a brother.

Don't marry someone who cannot give you a precise explanation and understanding of the vision and purpose God has revealed to them. So the first thing in achieving and becoming which is the foundation of Jesus's model of vision is intimacy with God. Do you remember the COVID pandemic that happened in 2020? Many people were caught off-guard by its wave but I tell some people knew such incidents would happen even before 2020 would start.

*"If you did not learn how to walk with God on a daily basis, you will not understand what He has for you tomorrow."*

This first model of intimacy is very important. Now when you build a strict walk with God the next thing that will happen to you is that God will give you instructions, write it down. In writing it, it is simply readiness to obey. Please can I speak to you? When obeying the next thing you must do before jumping out is to Build Strategies.

**Strategies are built in the presence of God.** So as a church pastor, the Lord said to you that you're going to build your church auditorium while you are praying. You receive it and you write it down but you don't leave it there like that. Sometimes the problem is you get so excited that when God speaks to you about something you are quick to leave. You don't ask the Lord about the strategies He wants you to put in place to achieve it?

Let me give you another analogy. You are praying to God to give you business ideas for 2024 because you don't want to be idle, then soon after the Lord gave you a scripture where Peter caught a massive fish. You received the interpretation as an idea to be smoking fish for sale. The idea is birthed as an instruction but you don't end it there, wait and press for strategies. Then, the Lord can give you insights on ways to smoke fish that will make you unique. He can give the strategy of smoking fish using an air

fryer instead of charcoal so that the fish can have an aroma different from regular fish. The truth of the matter is that the air fryer never gives aroma but because instruction came via that route, aroma backed it up.

I hope you understand this now. Don't rush out of excitement in the place of prayer, there is a way to go about it. Learn to stay until the strategy is released. But after the release, Execute the Pattern, and take steps. Then afterwards, Evaluate Yourself in your secret place with God.

So the first principle of Jesus's model of vision that made Him successful is an intimacy with God that starts with a secret place. Now, as we're closing this year, I beg you, married and singles find time to lock yourself up so that you can receive instruction from this God.

## **B] Pray With Passion.**

Do you see that every vision of Jesus Christ is backed up with prayer, not a silent prayer? The Lord can't give you a vision and you fold your hands doing nothing. It doesn't come to pass like that, you use prayer to bring it to pass. How many of you have God promised you great things this year and you have not seen it? I believe what you need is Prayer.

***"Passionate prayer is what makes things happen. "***

So when we pray with passion the first thing that occurs is that God is able to bring that vision to reality. Allow me to share this with you. We had a vision in our church to get a bus even though 75% of our congregation are students. We were in dire need of money, so I started praying in my closet interceding for supernatural help and miracle. Then one day, somebody

watching online heard the bus announcement and communicated with me to sow a "little" seed of one million naira. Someone who was not even a church member, I knew immediately that it was not strategy but it was prayer that was at work. As if that was not enough for a miracle, one Sunday someone walked into the church and sat at the back. As we were about to close service that day I just dropped a reminder for members to continue to pray for the provision of our bus. Immediately after service the person walked to me and requested access to contribute five hundred naira. Whatever you don't learn to pray about, you will not see it with your physical eyes. Has God given you a vision for a particular thing, I tell you, pray passionately.

***"When you pray passionately, God is able."***

**Ephesians 3: 20**

*"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (NKJV)*

Do you believe God is able? What brings the power and ableness of God into your life is prayer! Can you take a minute to pray in the Holy Ghost right now? Pray a passionate prayer that the vision inside you will not die. God is able to accomplish that vision.

The second thing you must note is that when you pray passionately, you draw God nearer to you. This is Jesus' pattern because He did not only walk intimately, but He also prayed passionately after catching the vision and God stepped in for Him.

***"When you draw God nearer to you, then everything you need for that vision to come to pass will be released unto you."***

The last thing God does for any man that prays passionately is that hindrances are taken away There is more to you than where you are. All you need to do is pray and press more.

You see if you end your year in December you are wrong; you won't have time to pray on the visions God is giving you in the next year. Always end your year early at most November so that you can use the remaining month to pray.

Whatever vision God has given, don't jump out to do it, what you need to do first is to pray passionately. Unfortunately, it seems we are losing the culture of prayer. If you don't have any other thing, you must pray.

## THE COMPONENTS OF VISION.

### ❖ Purpose

Purpose is the reason behind your existence. Everyone must ask this question of purpose- "Why am I here on earth?" Purpose is different from vision and you will understand this statement because sometimes we confuse it.

*"Purpose always answers why."*

### ❖ Vision.

Vision is what a person wants to become which is derived from your purpose in life. So when you have discovered a purpose, it will guide your



life in planning a vision all around for the new year. However, I discovered that many people claim to be brilliant and don't understand this so they use their brains to plan their visions. They don't know that it is **prayer sustains every plan.**

## ❖ Mission

Mission is the action plan that must be taken or done by the person to achieve the status, purpose and vision. So every mission statement answers the question of how. A mission statement tells you step-by-step things you need for you to achieve your aim.

## ❖ Goals

Goals are specific action steps that an individual must take in a short, medium and long term to achieve your mission. Let me explain using an example. You have a vision in 2024 that by July to buy a brand new car. The first thing you must do is a mission statement, i.e. what must be done to achieve it? I am sure it will include saving money and looking out for the kind of car that you want. You will now go further in achieving your goal by being specific on the methods of saving. Do you know what you are doing? You are breaking the vision into fragments that you can handle and act on for you to achieve the vision you caught. Learn to plan and set your goals straight.

*You must know that Purpose answers the question of "WHY"*

*Vision answers the question of "WHAT"*

*Mission answers the question of "HOW"*

*Goals must be specific activities to fulfil the vision and mission*

## Things To Know About Vision.

- **Vision is a clear picture of the future a person paints for himself.**

It is not only a claimed ambition, it must be a clear picture of greatness in your heart. Many people in the world claim that they are great but only a few people can see that picture. Your sight is important to you. I pray for you today, you will see well.

Now because you see a clearer picture of your destination, where you are now will not stop you. Begin to see yourself where you will be. If your present situation seems small and you limit your thinking to that; you will forever be small. You can close your mouth but for me, I'm not small. I have seen it and I am nursing it. God never despise little beginning. So someone tells you that you think too big, your reply should be, "*Do you want me to think less than God?*"

God had to bring Abraham out and show him the stars to give him a vivid image of what He said about His promises, Don't judge yourself with where you are now, you are going places. However, be careful not to add pride to it.

- Vision is an internalised clear mental image of a preferred future based on God's inspiration and revelation.

### Genesis 15: 5-6

*Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. (NKJV)*

- Every vision is a function of the heart.

One of the prayers I have been praying for everyone who will participate in this retreat is that the Lord will expand your hearts because that expansion increases your capacity to think ahead. May the Lord will blow your heart open.

- Vision is the capacity to believe what others cannot see and begin to prepare for it.

There are two things you must know about vision.

**Vision can be personal and it can be collective.** You must be able to build both. Know that collective vision can be your organisation, your church, and your business, and can be wherever you find yourself. You must also have this understanding that vision can be specific.

# Characteristics Of A Visionary Person

- **Intentionality:** It is what makes you go far and achieve your vision. If you are not intentional, there are distractors who will come with a mindset of advising but they want to kill you. You must know when to react and handle distractors. You don't fight them, all you need to do is to walk around them.
- **Courageous:** It takes a courageous leader to fulfil a vision. God sees you as a mighty man of valour, act in it.
- **Networking:** You must learn how to network. What three people can achieve, two people can't. Teamwork is very important. No vision is done in isolation. Please can you have people around you that support your vision?
- **Learner**
- **Faithful:** The reason why God will not commit something big into your hands is because you are not faithful.
- **Be a planner**
- **Proactive:** The ability to think ahead
  
- **Risk taker**
- **Christ-like:** Whatever vision you want to build, please I beg you. Remember that you are an ambassador for Christ. The Lord be with you.

**Conclusion:** Can you pray this prayer - *God take away cataracts and glaucoma from my eyes. I want to see well.*