

VISION SUNDAY

3-24-24

OPENER:

Today, is Vision Sunday. This will wrap up our Series “Make it Plain”. I hope you have been here for every sermon, if not be sure and listen in on the app, or watch on FB or Youtube!

Today, I want to broaden your vision. To open up your eyes to give you spiritual sight - to give you a larger perspective of what God is doing in our house. To give you a greater insight into who we are as a church, how we are fulfilling the vision that God has given us for this house and things that we are believing and praying for.

Habakkuk 2:2-4 (NKJV) Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. 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.

Explain: In this verse.....

> *Write the vision....*

As I speak the vision today, I have asked the Holy Spirit to write it on your heart. I have asked for a spiritual impartation of faith and revelation to be imparted to you.

>...*so that he may run who reads it*

Prophetic vision requires forward movement. And the vision that God has on our house will require all of us to move forward (run) with the vision.

> ...*though it tarries wait for it*

Just like those who have gone before us laid hold of the promises of God by faith, it requires a steadfast Faith to accomplish the vision of God. Faith and Vision go together! >....*because it will surely come*

For God will make it come to pass.

God gives Vision. God alone makes the vision come to pass.

I. TO HAVE VISION IS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE SPIRIT

Numbers 32:1-24 (NKJV) Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of livestock; and when they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, that indeed the region was a place for livestock, ² the children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spoke to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the leaders of the congregation, saying.....

⁴ the country which the Lord defeated before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock.”⁵ Therefore they said, “If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us over the Jordan.”

6 And Moses said to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben: "Shall your brethren go to war while you sit here? 7 Now why will you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the Lord has given them?"

8 Thus your fathers did when I sent them away from Kadesh Barnea to see the land. 9 For when they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, so that they did not go into the land which the Lord had given them. 10 So the Lord's anger was aroused on that day, and He swore an oath, saying, 11 'Surely none of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and above, shall see the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because they have not wholly followed Me, 12 except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the Lord.' 13 So the Lord's anger was aroused against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the Lord was gone. 14 And look! You have risen in your fathers' place, a brood of sinful men, to increase still more the fierce anger of the Lord against Israel. 15 For if you turn away from following Him, He will once again leave them in the wilderness, and you will destroy all these people."

16 Then they came near to him and said: "We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones, 17 but we ourselves will be armed, ready to go before the children of Israel until we have brought them to their place; and our little ones will dwell in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. 18 We will not return to our homes until every one of the children of Israel has received his inheritance. 19 For we will not inherit with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has fallen to us on this eastern side of the Jordan."

20 Then Moses said to them: "If you do this thing, if you arm yourselves before the Lord for the war, 21 and all your armed men cross over the Jordan before the Lord until He has driven out His enemies from before Him, 22 and the land is subdued before the Lord, then afterward you may return and be blameless before the Lord and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the Lord. 23 But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out. 24 Build cities for your little ones and folds for your sheep, and do what has proceeded out of your mouth."

(Explain scripture)

The people of Israel are "again" standing on the edge of the Promised Land. This is their second time to come to the Jordan to cross after arriving the first time and all refusing out of fear to go in, except for Joshua and Caleb. God had sent them out into the desert to wander for 40 years. So, here they are again, after those 40 years, ready to cross the Jordan, but two tribes expressed their desire to opt out.

Having more animals than the other tribes, the descendants of Gad and Reuben wished to settle outside of Israel's borders. Unhappy, Moses explained that their reluctance to enter Israel could be interpreted as fear of the Canaanites who inhabited the land. This would scare and discourage the people like the spies had done when they were there before.

So, the descendants of Gad and Reuben promised to fight on the front lines until the conquest was complete. Only then would they return and settle the land they desired.

Moses reluctantly agreed and gave the land east of the Jordan to the tribes of Reuben and Gad, as well as half of the tribe of Manassah, on the condition that they wage battle ahead of the other troops.

God's original plan was for ALL the Israelites - all 12 tribes to inhabit Canaan together. ALL 12 tribes living together so they could worship at the tabernacle together ;so they could protect each other, so they would be accountable to each other against the pagan influence. But only 9 1/2 tribes set up their homes in Canaan. The remaining 2 1/2 tribes settled on the east side of the River.

Why did the other 2 1/2 tribes stay where they were? maybe.....

> They were more concerned more about their possessions than they were about obeying the Lord.

> They were content and had gotten comfortable with where they were.

> Maybe they didn't want to change their lifestyle, after all 40 years of the habit of living in the desert had become their identity.

A LACK OF VISION WILL STOP YOU FROM MOVING FORWARD AND CAUSE YOU TO SETTLE WHERE YOU ARE.

A LACK OF VISION WILL CAUSE YOU TO CAMP IN "GOOD" INSTEAD OF MOVING FORWARD TO POSSESS "BEST".

THEY STAYED EAST OF THE JORDAN, BUT THE ARK OF GOD THAT HOUSED THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD MOVED WEST OF THE JORDAN.

SIDE NOTE:

Eventually, they were captured by the Assyrians and carried off... men....women and children.....

1 Chronicles 5:25-26 And they were unfaithful to the God of their fathers, and played the harlot after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them. ²⁶ So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, that is, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He carried the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh into captivity. He took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river of Gozan to this day.

Galatians 5:25 (ESV) If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

APPLICATION>

> If you are going to live by the Spirit then you will have to move with the Spirit.

> Have you camped somewhere and the Spirit has moved on?

> Has the Lord asked you to do something, but you just can't see yourself doing it?

- > Has fear of the future or the unknown caused you to play it safe and not take steps forward with the Lord?
- > Have you grown content with your life and settled with what you have and yet God is asking you to get up and move?

TO HAVE VISION IS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE SPIRIT.

II. VISION IS THE ABILITY TO SEE WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

ILLUSTRATION:

Human beings have two sets of eyes that provide our sight: our natural eyes and spiritual eyes. We often refer to our spiritual eyes as..... "the eyes of our heart." (Spiritual vision is not our imagination, wishful thinking or psychic imagery.)

EXAMPLE of Moses and the burning bush

Exodus 3:2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

Moses saw a shrub on fire with his natural eyes. But his spiritual eyes looked deeper and acknowledged the bush was not burning at all.

EXAMPLE of Elisha's servant

2 Kings 6:15-17 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

¹⁶ So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

SPIRITUAL SIGHT IS SEEING BUT NOT SEEING - OR SEEING TWO THINGS AT ONCE -BOTH EQUALLY REAL AND IN DIFFERENT REALMS.

BOTH HERE AND THERE - SEEING THE PHYSICAL AND IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

Jesus said this.....

Matthew 13:10-16 ¹⁰ *And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"*

¹¹ *He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:*

*'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive;*

¹⁵ *For the hearts of this people have grown dull.*

*Their ears are hard of hearing,
And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.'*

¹⁶ *But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear.....*

PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION:

First time stepping into this building.

APPLICATION>

- > Can you see more than just the physical realm around you?
- > Do you ever consider that there might be more going on than what your physical eye can see.
- > Has your heart become dull and hardened to hearing and understanding the Lord's voice?
- > Do you live your life aware that you are a spirit being, living in a spiritual world on your way to a spiritual eternal destiny?
- > Are you distracted by the cares of life of work, raising kids, making money, furthering your education, buying that new house, or your life goals..... to where all your mind is set on is physical things? All you can see is the physical things?

3. FULFILLING THE VISION REQUIRES FAITH

Because spiritual sight can be contradictory to what you are seeing in the natural it takes faith to believe in the vision.

Hebrews 11:8-13 (NKJV) *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the*

same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

>Having seen them afar off were assured of them

They saw what was ahead and had faith that it would happen.

Abraham and Sarah saw future generations. They saw multitudes like the stars in the sky. They saw themselves with a child.

>they embraced them and confessed that they were stranger and pilgrims on this earth

They held onto the promises by faith. Lived their lives according to the promises because they were convinced they would come to pass if they trusted in them .

(APPLICATION- ASK QUESTIONS)

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**FAITH GIVES US A VISION OF WHAT THE NATURAL EYES CANNOT SEE.
FAITH SEES THE INVISIBLE, KNOWS THE UNKNOWABLE AND DOES THE
IMPOSSIBLE.**

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

**GOD CAN SHOW US THE VISION BUT WITHOUT OUR FAITH TO MOVE FORWARD
IN IT, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.**

GOD'S VISION IS FULFILLED BY OUR FAITH.

**GOD HAS A BIG VISION FOR OUR LIVES AND FOR THIS CHURCH AND HE IS
ASKING THAT WE HAVE BIG FAITH!**

**HE IS ASKING THAT WE BELIEVE BIG - PRAY BIG - DREAM BIG!
WE CANNOT PLAY SMALL!**