



Follow God's Vision

Adapted from "Where is He Leading You" series by Jimmy White

The following is a blog written by Josh Griffin on leadership. He powerfully articulates his thoughts to the reader.

Leadership continues to be one of the hot topics in the church today. Now more than ever before we are seeing books, seminars and coaching sessions revolving around leadership. My hope of writing this series of blog posts isn't to bring anything new to the table; rather I want to share with you what in my opinion are four non-negotiable aspects of Christian leadership.

This past Christmas I went to a huge mall to buy a small gift and stocking stuffers for my wife. The problem was that I had already purchased everything I knew I wanted to get for her and now I was just getting extras. I ended up walking around the mall for a good two hours only to purchase more items than I had planned to and spent more money than I wanted. The problem wasn't that I wasn't being thoughtful; I had just fulfilled my earlier vision and hadn't come around to have a new vision for the stocking stuffers I wanted to buy.

In order to do things properly as a leader we need to have vision and understand our mission. While I had a mission at the mall I didn't have a vision and one without the other is incomplete. When Christian leaders are directing people where God would have them go, they need to understand what God's vision is and how to articulate this. Jesus gives us an example of how we should interact with mission and vision of the Father. Jesus continually explains to his disciples and others his mission and the vision that he has been given. When Jesus was in Nazareth toward the beginning of his ministry he explained to the members of the synagogue that he had come to fulfill the prophecies of Isaiah by reading from Isaiah (Luke 4: 16-21). Jesus not only understood why he came he also understood his role, He knew he had come to preach and share the Gospel (Mark 1:38). By explaining His relationship with the vision God had given the Israelites, Jesus gave himself credibility while also trying helping others to understand their roles in the grand picture. This leads to the understanding of another key skill that Christian leaders should possess. If a leader can take scripture and the revelation of God in their own life and put them together it

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would inspire greater credibility and confidence in who they are and where they are leading.¹

¹ Josh Griffin, "Non-negotiable Aspect of Leadership: Leaders Follow God's Vision," Group Youth Ministry, April 7, 2013, <https://youthministry.com/non-negotiable-aspect-of-leadership-leaders-follow-gods-vision/> (accessed August 2, 2017).

COURAGE

C1: Your past is a good predictor for your future.

- Take thirty minutes to write down the names of three significant persons from your past who have made a positive impact on your life. What did they do to make a positive impact?
- Now, take 30 minutes to write down the names of three significant persons in your life who made a negative impact on your life. What did they do to make a negative impact in your life?
- What impact do these six people have on your life today?

C2: It seems as if God desires to lead us in a directed path. Before we can know our public journey, we must know what journey our private life is on. Read the following verse and answer the questions.

Proverbs 29:18 (ESV) Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

- What personal qualities do you most want to emphasize in your life?
- What are some important values you would like to express in your life?
- Share your results of these questions with a friend. What was their response? What feelings did you have as you expressed your feelings?

C3: Personal vision intersects with public vision. Read the following verses and answer the questions.

John 4:35 (ESV) “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”

Acts 26:19 (ESV) Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

- What do these verses convey to you in the context of vision?
- How does God’s heavenly vision intersect with your personal vision?
- What steps can be taken in your life to know what your personal vision is?

STRENGTH

S1: God never intended for individuals to live in a vacuum. His desire is for us to be part of something bigger than we are as an individual. One does not reproduce what they desire but who they are. Read the following and answer the questions.

Acts 2:42–46 (ESV)

- From these verses, list five aspects of the early church vision. How important is it for a person to connect their personal vision with the church’s vision?

- How well do you connect with the early church’s vision? Look at the following and rate yourself on a scale from 1-4, 1 you need improvement in the area and 4 you are excelling in the area.

○ Worship	1	2	3	4
○ Discipleship	1	2	3	4
○ Fellowship	1	2	3	4
○ Evangelism	1	2	3	4
○ Ministry	1	2	3	4

Which area was your strongest? Which area needed improvement? What is your plan to create improvement in these areas?

S2: The church is a unit; each of us is meant to work together. Reread the verses in the first question. Given your talents, passions, values, and skills, how could you utilize them to serve

- Your family

- The church

- The community



S3: Spend some time with a friend discussing the personal vision God has given to you. Make sure to allow some time to connect your personal vision with your church's vision? If money were no object, what would you like to be doing five years from now? Ten years from now? What steps are you following to ensure this can take place?

ENDURANCE

E1: God gives vision to those who are willing to be obedient in fulfilling that vision. God gifted many biblical figures incredible vision. How did the following persons from scripture use the vision given to them by God?

- Esther (**Esther 5:5-14 (ESV)**)
- 4 Men and a Paralytic (**Mark 2:1-5 (ESV)**)
- The Widow (**Mark 12:41-44 (ESV)**)
- Peter and John (**Acts 4:1-13 (ESV)**)

E2: Sometimes when we look at our lives, it is hard for us to see how and even why God would use us. Read the following and answer the questions.

Jeremiah 1:4–10 (ESV)

- Have you ever felt as if your vision and God's vision for you did not match up?
- What feelings did you have?
- What did you do?
- How did you react?

E3: When we surrender our vision to God's vision and plan, what follows may not make sense. Abraham submitted his vision to God's vision. Read the following and answer the questions.

Genesis 12:1–9 (ESV)

Matthew 5:13–16 (ESV)

- What do these verses speak to you in regard to vision?
- Has God ever led you into a wilderness classroom? How did you respond?
- What lessons did God teach you in His classroom?