



The Why of Vision

Adapted from “Where is He Leading You” series by Jimmy White

In his book *Survival Skills: Leading Your Church in a Changing World*, Stan Toler quoted a church leader who obviously was seminar-weary: “I have a mission; or is it a vision; or are they goals? Oh, who cares! God will sort it all out in His will.”¹

Leadership without a definite vision is similar to a luxury car without an engine. The shiny materials are all there, but the drive is missing. Toler writes:

Vision is like a thumb in the Christian leader’s back. It encourages you to take bold steps toward Spirit-directed goals. It is not only the scaffolding of God’s will for your life; it activates and focuses the skills of your fellow laborers. As you give people a clear picture of where they could be, they’ll be more apt to head in that direction.

What is visionary leadership?

- * **It is directional.** It points to definite places, times and tangible results.
- * **It is practical.** It sets goals and objectives that are within reach.
- * **It is motivational.** It creates an environment of enthusiasm.
- * **It is eternal.** It builds on the things that last forever.²

He concludes, “The Swiss psychologist Carl Jung said, ‘Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.’ So, look inside. See the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit that not only gives energy enough to awaken you, but direction enough to guide you.”³

¹ Stan Toler, *Survival Skills: Leading Your Church in a Changing World*,” (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2002), as cited by Jimmy White in the sermon “Why We Need Vision”.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

“Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. May not copy or download more than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible.”

COURAGE

C1: The word “why” is the first word all three of my children learned to say. Read the following 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.

- Why do you think vision is vital in a person’s life? In an organization?

C2: When some hear the word vision they think of visualization. Vision for a believer could be defined as “seeing things from God’s perspective.” Read the following and answer the questions.

Isaiah 55:9 (ESV) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- Take thirty minutes to write down what you feel and believe God is assigning to you. Now, for the next seven days, spend time praying over what you believe God has given to you. Has God changed your vision? Can you see your life from God’s perspective?

C3: Read the following and answer the questions.

Psalms 1:1–6 (ESV) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

- What can you learn from David in regard to your vision?

- On a scale from 1-4, with 1 being the lowest and 4 being the highest, how well does your personal vision lines up with these verses.

- How can you better make your vision line up with these verses? Write out your plan to make your vision better line up with the verses? Share your plan with a friend. What was their response to your plan?

STRENGTH

S1: Without vision, there is no reason to discipline ourselves morally. Read the following and answer the questions.

Proverbs 29:18 (ESV)

- When you hear the word “law” what comes to mind? Write it down.
- How does God’s law affect vision?
- How does living a godly life affect vision?

S2: Abraham’s vision was so powerful he walked away from his home and journey to a land he did not know. Moses’ vision was so strong he stood before the most powerful king and declared, “Let God’s people go!” Joshua was a person of such a godly vision he told the priests, “Pick up the ark and wade into the water and let us see what God can do.”

- Why do you think these men could walk and finish their life with great courage?
- What is your vision for your life? Share it with a friend.
- What is your vision for the work of God in your life? Share it with a friend.

S3: Spend seven days in prayer. What do you sense the Holy Spirit speaking to you regarding your personal vision? Share what you have written down with a friend. What was their response? How did you feel sharing your vision?

ENDURANCE

E1: Life has a way of being so mundane. Vision is what gives us the endurance to live out life daily and to finish strong. Read the following and answer the questions.

Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)

- What does this verse speak to you in context of vision and endurance?
- How was Jesus able to endure such painful times in his life?

E2: Often we think life should be easier for us than it is. Somewhere we get the idea that if we are walking in the vision God has given us for our life then everything will be fine. Read the following verses and then answer the questions:

Psalm 30:5 (ESV)

Romans 8:18 (ESV)

2 Timothy 2:3 (ESV)

Hebrews 11:27 (ESV)

James 1:2–3 (ESV)

- What do these verses speak to you regarding developing endurance in conjunction with your vision?
- On a scale from 1-4, with 1 being low and 4 being high, rate your endurance quotient.
- How can you elevate your endurance quotient? Write down your plan and share it with a friend.

E3: In the next thirty days find three men and discuss this lesson with them. What did you learn from these conversations?