

Give Up Your Vision- Pastor Robert Gast

Unlocked Men's Conference

Theme

The sermon emphasizes that by surrendering personal visions in favor of God's plan, writing down divine guidance, and engaging in regular prayer and reflection, individuals, specifically men, can build a strong, lasting legacy rooted in faith.

Takeaways

1. Surrender personal vision to embrace God's plan.
2. Writing down the vision eliminates excuses and provides clarity.
3. Standing in God's presence through prayer unlocks divine guidance.
4. Biblical examples, such as Saul's transformation to Paul, illustrate the importance of divine intervention.
5. Building a legacy requires a foundation based on God's vision.
6. Incremental progress and clear, documented steps are essential for fulfilling God's plan.
7. Active engagement with the community and regular spiritual practices strengthen one's relationship with God.

Highlights

- "Give up your vision and pick up the vision God has for you."
- "Unlocking God's vision for your life requires standing in His presence, asking, and then writing it down."
- "When you build without God's plan, your efforts will crumble like a house on sand."
- "Writing down the vision eliminates the excuse of undefined expectations, because now you can't complain and blame God when things don't work as planned."
- "If you say no when God calls you to step out, you'll miss your blessing; but if you say yes, He will pour out blessings you can't contain."

- "When you find the Lord, you find your vision; quit trying to create your vision and be near God to hear His."

Chapters & Topics

1. Give Up Your Vision and Embrace God's Vision

The speaker emphasizes surrendering personal vision in favor of God's plan, citing biblical examples like Saul and testimonies from men who surrendered their plans. He highlights that personal visions, no matter how compelling, must be abandoned to receive and act on God's divinely confirmed vision, as illustrated by the scripture from Habakkuk 2:1-4 (NKJV). God's vision is compared to a cashier's check—already verified and guaranteed to come to pass. The speaker notes that his message is similar to others heard, underscoring its importance for all men. Saul, despite having "written authority" and being "ready to go" with his own powerful vision, was blinded by God, signifying that personal vision can lead to destructive ends if not surrendered. The scripture from Habakkuk 2:1-4 (NKJV) underscores the importance of writing down God's vision and running with it, as it "will not lie" and "will come." The analogy of God's vision as a cashier's check emphasizes its secured and guaranteed nature, being "already been verified" with "funds are there."

- Testimonies of men who abandoned their own vision to follow God's call.
- Reference to Saul's transformation when God intervened by blinding him, signifying that ***personal vision can lead to destructive ends if not surrendered.***
- The scripture (Habakkuk 2:1-4 NKJV) underscores the importance of **writing down God's vision and running with it.**
- The analogy of God's vision as a cashier's check emphasizes its secured and guaranteed nature.

2. Standing in God's Presence to Unlock Vision

The speaker underscores the necessity of being in God's presence to access and unlock His vision. By comparing life to a series of essential meetings with a visionary, the message is that God reveals His plan incrementally, as individuals "can't handle it all at once" and it would "overwhelm" them. Regular communication with God, through prayer and inquisition, allows one to receive, understand, and document His guidance. The speaker likens this to "setting up multiple meetings in an office" and "unlocking the door" to let God in. He stresses the need for "continual meetings with God" because, while God doesn't change His mind, "revisions" to the plan may occur due to changing times, circumstances, or the actions of others. Proverbs 29:18 is cited: "where there is no vision, the people perish."

- Steady prayer and continual meetings with God are vital to understanding His vision.
- Writing down the divine vision transforms it from a vague idea into a concrete, actionable plan.
- God may revise the plan over time as circumstances change, so an ongoing dialogue is crucial.

3. Building a Legacy Through God's Vision

The speaker, identifying as a builder with “20 plus years experience,” compares life to a building process, emphasizing that without a foundation based on God’s vision, all efforts may crumble. He explains that personal plans without divine direction are like improperly built structures, citing an example of a house built on the wrong property line in Lake Helen that had to be torn down. He notes that a “big vision could be too much” and make one “crumble if you have a weak foundation.” Through gradual growth and embracing even small beginnings (Zechariah), a lasting and meaningful legacy can be constructed according to God’s verified plan. He encourages complaining to God, as it signifies being “in relationship with Him” and seeking answers. A strong foundation in God’s plan develops personal character needed to steward relationships, finances, and ministries effectively, preventing destruction and giving a bad name for God.

- The life-building process requires a foundation set on God’s vision rather than one’s own designs.
- Scriptural references, including Zechariah’s message about not despising small beginnings, highlight the need for patience and trust in progression.
- A strong foundation in God’s plan develops personal character needed to steward relationships, finances, and ministries effectively.

4. Unlocking God’s Design & Clarity in Vision

The speaker emphasizes that each person must seek and write down a clear, personal vision from God rather than relying on “borrowed ideas” or “somebody else’s gum, tasteless.” God’s design is specific to each individual and requires clarity, defined steps, and acknowledgment of cost. Writing down the vision not only focuses the mind but also eliminates excuses and undefined expectations, ensuring that plans do not fade away. He states that a “real plan and a real dream and a real vision and a real purpose” needs “steps and goals and a map and a process” and “to know the cost.” He uses the analogy of seeing a new vehicle everywhere once you buy it, illustrating how focus brings things into view. Writing down plans for family (morals, values, respect, patience), finances (budgets, financial advisors), and health (trainers) are given as examples. The speaker encourages allowing God to “revise the version of you that you created” to fulfill His vision.

- You must have clarity by writing down God’s vision for your life.

- God's design is unique to each individual and should not be confused with others' plans.
- Writing the vision turns a mere idea into a concrete plan with steps, goals, and processes.
- Undefined plans lead to missed blessings and unused potential.

5. Surrender, Faith, and Ministry Calling

The lecture outlines the importance of saying 'yes' to God despite the cost, drawing examples like Franco's testimony about the cost of surrender with his family, and the transformation from Saul to Paul. Before his transformation, Saul was "locking people up, physically, spiritually, mentally," ruining lives and destroying families. After receiving God's vision, he started "unlocking families and unlocking men." Surrender to God's plan requires stepping out in faith, leaving behind old mindsets of lack ("mine. I need. I'm in lack. I don't have."), and embracing God's bestowed blessings, which demand more time and resources. The speaker uses the "jars of oil" analogy to illustrate God's continuous pouring when one gives. He emphasizes that God doesn't despise "small beginnings," citing Ken's prayer and the "blooming of your wife" as examples of small acts of surrender that lead to clarity. The core message is that God "didn't save you to sit. He saved you to be sent," encouraging immediate action in ministry.

- Surrendering to God's vision may come at a high personal cost, including sacrifice of family and personal plans.
- Examples like the transformation from Saul to Paul underline the necessity of bold action once God's call is received.
- Faith in God's process involves trusting that He will provide the necessary resources and opportunities.
- Being bold in ministry means stepping out immediately to share the gospel.

6. Being Proactive in Building a Relationship with God and Others

The speaker advocates for an active pursuit of the relationship with God, emphasizing the necessity of regular prayer, reading the word, and being close to God through community and personal meetings. He states, "To hear God, you've got to be near God," contrasting it with "staying at home watching the game." This proactive stance not only unlocks one's personal vision but also equips one to be a blessing to others, ensuring that God's transformative work is shared broadly. He stresses that one should "find the Lord" first, and the vision will be revealed, rather than trying to create one's own vision. The speaker uses the analogy of not having a meeting "laying down in your bed" but standing before God to show respect and receive a response. Habakkuk 3:18-19 is cited, showing rejoicing after the vision comes to pass. God provides all necessary resources, connections, and skills for His vision, and one should not be like the "one talent guy" who buries his gift. The speaker concludes with

a call to action: stand at the altar, complain to God, expect to hear, write it down, and share it with a brother for prayer and accountability.

- Being near to God through prayer, worship, and fellowship is essential to unlocking God's vision.
- Active participation in community and ministry events strengthens one's spiritual life.
- An unlocked vision enables one to minister effectively and share the gospel with others.
- Consistent engagement with God's word and presence transforms personal identity and purpose.

Suggestions

- Reflect on your personal vision and be open to surrendering it in favor of God's greater design.
- Engage in prayer and note-taking to capture and clarify the divine guidance you receive.
- ***Prioritize regular moments of solitude***and prayer to hear God's guidance.
- ***Document the insights and divine commands***received to ensure clarity and focus in your path.
- ***Embrace small beginnings and incremental progress***as essential steps toward fulfilling God's plan.
- ***Trust in the process of building your life with God's vision***, even if it means starting with modest plans.
- **Write down your vision and the necessary steps, so it becomes a reality.**
- ***Seek clarity directly from God***rather than what others do.
- ***Be willing to surrender your personal plans***to embrace the greater vision God sets for you.
- Act promptly when you feel God's call to ministry or service.