

# THE PURPOSE AND POWER OF VISION

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## Workshop Description

*The cornerstone of every successful ministry is the vision that defines, directs and empowers it. George Barna once said, "A ministry without vision is like a flashlight without batteries: willing but powerless." Proverbs 29:18 declares that "where there is no vision the people perish . . ." In this workshop we will explore the purpose of vision, characteristics of visionary leaders and the way that a profound vision empowers a ministry to succeed.*

## Introduction

- 1 - The most profound undertakings of human history began with a vision.
- 2 - "Where there is no vision the people perish. . ." Proverbs 29:18 KJV
  - A - In this unequivocal statement, Scripture asserts that when there is no vision the results are devastating.
  - B - "**Vision**", from *Chazown*, means "Divine communication, the ability to see in the night." It describes God's vision and purpose for our life and ministry.
  - C - "**People**", from *Am*, means "Nation, kindred, people."
  - D - "**Perish**", from *Para*, means "To be abandoned, neglected, become unrestrained, undisciplined, lawless, to be made barren."
- 3 - A cohesive and compelling vision is essential to leadership. In fact, without vision there is no effective leadership.

David Hoke:

"Vision transforms life from a random journey into a purposeful adventure."

- 4 - The kind of vision that we desire is one that has the power to change our world.
  - A - This kind of vision is not something that we manufacture, but something that comes from God. It is something that has been divinely destined for us from the foundation of the world (Eph. 2:10)

## Defining Vision

- 1 - "Vision is the gift of seeing clearly what may be. Vision expands our horizons. The more we see, the more we can achieve; the grander our vision, the more glorious our accomplishment." Wynn Davis
- 2 - "Vision is a clear mental portrait of a preferable future, communicated by God to His chosen servant-leaders, based upon an accurate understanding of God, self and circumstances." George Barna

- 3 - “A Vision is an ideal and unique future circumstance or state crystallized as an image or brief declaration. The church’s vision gives a clear – a crystal clear – depiction of what a church wants to become.” Jerry Wofford
- 4 - “Vision is the art of seeing things invisible.” Jonathan Swift
- 5 - Our vision will answer questions like:
  - A - Why do we exist?
  - B - What is important to us?
  - C - What are we endeavoring to accomplish?
  - D - What steps must we take to achieve the vision?
  - E - To whom are we ministering?
  - F - What do we value?

## **The Purpose of Vision**

- 1 - Vision clarifies your reason for being and empowers you to accomplish amazing things.
  - A - It demonstrates the uniqueness of your ministry. It distinguishes you from every other ministry by displaying your unique calling, dreams, strengths and direction.

Greg Morris:

“One of most important, vital and strategic things that can be done in leadership is to define the purpose of the organization or ministry.”

- 2 - Vision provides direction and focus
  - A - It identifies your destination. If you do not know where you are going you will never arrive.
  - B - It governs the decisions we make so that we strategically commit our resources to those things that will make the vision a reality.
- 3 - Vision provides continuity with the past while building a better future.

Michael Hinz ([www.LearnToBalanceYourLife.com](http://www.LearnToBalanceYourLife.com))

“Visioning is like the pebble dropped into the lake – the expanding ripple reaches out to touch a vaster realm than ever thought possible. It links the present to the unfolding future.”

- 4 - Vision provides the tool for evaluation.
  - A - A clear knowledge of what you are attempting to accomplish makes it possible for you to determine how well you are doing, how much more you need to do, and to make course corrections if necessary.
- 5 - A God-given vision always glorifies God.

## **The Power of Vision**

- 1 - Vision gives us a sense of calling and fills us with a sense of self-worth.
- 2 - Vision empowers us to do the work of God.
- 3 - Vision inspires faith and mobilizes people to action.
- 4 - Vision provides momentum to keep going even during the hard times. Vision strengthens our commitment.

- 5 - Vision brings unity.

## Characteristics of Visionary Leaders

- 1 - In my studies I came across a description of visionary leaders that really motivated me.

<http://www.visionarylead.org/articles/vislead.htm>

“Visionary leaders are the builders of a new dawn, working with imagination, insight, and boldness. They present a challenge that calls forth the best in people and brings them together around a shared sense of purpose. They work with the power of intentionality and alignment with a higher purpose. Their eyes are on the horizon, not just on the near at hand. They are social innovators and change agents, seeing the big picture and thinking strategically.”

- 2 - Characteristics of these transformative visionary leaders include:
- A - **A willing heart** that is obedient to the direction of the Lord.
  - B - **A commitment to action.** A determination work to make the vision a reality.
    - 1 - Joel Barker, The Power of Vision, [www.crmlearning.com](http://www.crmlearning.com)  
“Vision without action is merely a dream.  
Action without vision just passes time.  
Vision with action can change the world.”
    - 2 - Leaders with vision are innovative and intentionally look for new ways to accomplish their goals and respond to challenges.
    - 3 - A visionary leader will create strategic and achievable goals.
    - 4 - He or she will initiate action, enlist participation and empower others to work the vision.
  - C - **Personal integrity.** A visionary leader leads from the inside out. They have been transformed by the power of God and embody the principles of the vision.
    - 1 - They are self-aware. They understand their strengths and their weaknesses. They lead to their strengths and allow others to compensate for their weaknesses.
    - 2 - They live out their values and exercise moral leadership.
    - 3 - They must become the kind of person that others want to, and should, follow.
  - D - **Strong communication skills.** An effective leader must have the ability to communicate at a variety of levels.
  - E - **Filled with faith.** They are spiritually strong.
  - F - **Relational.** Visionary leaders invest in building respectful and empowering relationships.
    - 1 - They tend to see people as their greatest asset and are committed in caring for and developing their assets.
    - 2 - They partner with others using the team approach rather than telling others what to do, like a dictator.
    - 3 - They invest in resources and opportunities that will build and develop the individuals in the team both personally and professionally.

“If your vision is for a year, plant wheat. If your vision is for a decade plant trees. If your vision is for a lifetime, plant people.” Chinese Proverb

- G - **Needs oriented.** They respond to the real needs of people.
- H - **Innovative.** They create innovative strategies and bold plans of action.
- I - **Are proactive rather than reactive.** They anticipate change and actively work to channel it for positive outcomes.
- J - **Charismatic.** They have a personal magnetism that draws others and inspires loyalty.
- K - **Good organizers.**
- L - **Risk-takers.** Visionary leaders are forward looking, willing to try new strategies and take intelligent risks to maximize their opportunities and impact.

### What Visionary Leaders Do

- 1 - Understand the power of vision.
- 2 - Understand the content of the God-given vision.
- 3 - Own the vision.
- 4 - Cast the vision.
- 5 - Sell the vision.
- 6 - Put the vision in action.
- 7 - Refine the vision.
- 8 - Reinforce the vision.
- 9 - They will not stop until they make the vision real.
  - A - Often this means equipping and empowering those who will take the vision into the future.
  - B - Any vision worth having is bigger than us and extends beyond our lifetime.

### Conclusion

- 1 - Habakkuk 2:1-3
- 2 - First we find the prophet actively waiting on the Lord to see what God’s direction and vision will be.
- 3 - The Lord responds with very specific directions.
  - A - **“Record”**, from *Kathab*, means “to write, inscribe, engrave, decree.”
  - B - **“Vision”**, from *Chazown*, mentioned above. It is that divine communication that directs us into the future. It is the God given ability to see into the darkness of night.
  - C - **“Inscribe”**, from *Ba’ar*, means “To make plain, distinct, clear. To declare.”
- 4 - We learn what impact the vision will have on others.
  - A - **“Run”**, from *Ruwts*, means “To move quickly, to run swiftly, to dart.”
- 5 - We learn about the urgency of the vision.
  - A - **“Appointed time”**, from *Mowed*, means “appointed place, time or season, sacred season.

- B - “**Hastens**”, from *Puwach*, means “to excite, inflame to cause to breathe quickly or pant.”
- C - “**Goal**”, from *Kates*, means “goal, destination, farthest border, highest peak.”
- D - “**Fail**”, from *Kazab*, means “to tell a lie, to be in vain, to deceive or disappoint.”
- 6 - Finally we learn what we must do as the vision unfolds.
- A - “**Tarries**”, from *Mahahh*, means “to linger, wait or delay.”
- B - “**Wait**”, from *Chakah*, means “to wait or long for.”

<b><i>Ministry Without Vision is Like . . .</i></b>
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- A cow loose in the pasture: just grazing;
- A glacier: fascinating to observe, but going nowhere fast;
- A snake: ill-focused, spineless and attracted to whatever is hot;
- A rabbit: warm and fuzzy but utterly defenseless;
- A movie set: merely a façade;
- A flashlight without batteries: willing but powerless
- Russian roulette: a dangerous game;
- A wedding without a bride: missing an essential element;
- A cadaver: stiff, predictable and lacking a discernible heartbeat;
- Fred without Ginger, Ozzie without Harriet: incomplete;
- A car without gasoline: capable of forward movement, but lacking the necessary fuel;
- A symphony without a score: lots of talent, but no direction;
- A preacher who has not prepared the sermon: the intersection of arrogance and ignorance.