

The Importance of Spiritual Vision

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Proverbs 29:18 KJV *“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”*

Without spiritual vision, people will perish. Where there is no prophetic revelation of the will of God that guides a person's life, people will be unrestrained. Spiritual vision is critical to a successful life in God. What is your vision? How you answer that question will determine how you live and the outcome of your life.

What is vision? Technically speaking, vision is the ability to see. Sight is the perception of objects by use of the eyes which transfer visual information through the optic nerve to the occipital lobes which are part of the cerebral cortex in the back of the brain. Vision depends upon a healthy eye, optic nerve, and brain.

There is also an outside element that is essential to our ability to see. That element is light. A person may have functioning eyes, optic nerve, and brain and still be unable to see unless there is light. A man living in pitch darkness is just as handicapped as a blind man.

Vision can be physical or spiritual in nature. Many people have perfect physical vision and yet they are spiritually blind. Our text says, *“Without vision My people perish.”* The importance of spiritual vision can be illustrated by comparing it to the physical. Imagine being blind and marooned alone on an uninhabited island. They would have almost a zero chance of survival because they are unaware of their environment whether it be dangers, food, water, etc. They would perish even though a person with eyesight might survive. In the same way, people who have no spiritual vision for the future will live without any discipline today.

The opposite of physical vision is blindness. The opposite of spiritual vision is spiritual blindness. People who are spiritually blind will walk according to what they see in the natural. They are led by feelings derived from circumstances rather than by the word of God. Those who have spiritual vision see the same circumstances but are led by faith in what God has said. They know that God's promises are greater than the circumstances. Circumstances will change but God's promise will never change.

Faith is not blind. Faith sees what those who are spiritually blind cannot see. Once again this principle can be understood by comparing it to physical vision. For instance, a person who has healthy physical eyesight sees what a blind man does not see. What is perfectly clear to a man with good eyesight seems odd and foolish to a person who is blind. How do you describe the color red, or blue, or green to someone who has been blind from birth? How do you describe a sunrise or a sunset? How do you describe the beauty of a rose? How do you describe the ability to see objects that they cannot see? In the same way, it is impossible to describe to a person who is spiritual blind the beauty of Christ, His salvation, or of other spiritual realities.

Spiritual vision does not ignore circumstances but it sees circumstances from God's perspective. Spiritual visions and dreams are the language of the Holy Spirit. Such will characterize believers in the last days: *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.”*¹ We might say that spiritual vision is a prophetic revelation conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the human spirit. Spiritual vision is a prophetic revelation of God's redemptive plan that locks us in on a journey of faith. This can be applied on personal, family, church, city, region, nation, or even global level.

Spiritual vision gives birth to faith. Spiritual vision is the mother of faith. Faith does not give birth to vision, but vision gives birth to faith. Abraham, is called the father of all who believe. (Romans 4:11) In the beginning of Abram's journey with God, he did not have faith to believe for one son: *“After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’*² *But Abram said, ‘Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’*³ *Then Abram said, ‘Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!’”*² How did God

¹ Acts 2:17 (NKJV)

² Genesis 15:1–3 (NKJV)

increase Abram's faith to believe? He did by imparting spiritual vision: *"And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.'*"⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, *'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.'* And He said to him, *'So shall your descendants be.'*"³ Abram responded to spiritual vision with faith: *"And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."*⁴

Spiritual vision must be mixed with faith to become birthed in the natural. God changed Abram's name from "Abram" ("Exalted father") to "Abraham" ("Father of a multitude"). In doing this, God caused Abram to speak and see himself as a father of many nations when as yet he had no children. God and Abram began to speak of things that were not as though they were. This is the essence of faith. Faith believes and speaks of what it sees in the Spirit: *"Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all"*¹⁷ (as it is written, *'I have made you a father of many nations')* in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;¹⁸ who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, *'So shall your descendants be.'*¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.²² And therefore *"it was accounted to him for righteousness."*²⁵ Abraham became the father of a multitude on the inside before he became the father of a multitude on the outside. William Beckham once said, "Vision is not something I catch but something that catches me. I do not act upon this vision, it acts upon me...A vision is something working in our lives, not something that we are working on."

How does spiritual vision change our lives? Spiritual vision changes hopelessness into hope. It changes fear into faith. It changes cowardice into courage. It changes discouragement into encouragement. It changes obstacles into opportunities. It changes giants into grasshoppers. It changes mountains into molehills. It changes victims into victors. It changes wimps into warriors. It changes nobodies into God's somebodies. It changes "I can't" into "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". It changes "it's impossible" to "all things are possible to them who believe".

Our vision on the inside is the key to changing things on the outside. When you look at an acorn, do you see a nut or do you see a mighty oak tree? When you look at an acorn, do you see one tree or do you see a forest of oak trees? What do you see? Do you see the problem or the solution? Do you see the obstacle or the opportunity? Do you see the mountain or the plain? Do you see yourself as a grasshopper or as a giant in God?

Jesus endured the cross because of spiritual vision. He looked beyond the immediate circumstance of the Cross and saw the joy on the other side (Hebrews 12:3). As God called Abram to lift up his eyes, see the stars and believe, so we are to lift up our eyes and look upon the Cross. Look at the Cross and see yourself forgiven and cleansed! Look at the Cross and see yourself forgiven and cleansed! See yourself delivered and set free from the power of sin! See yourself healed by the power of God! See yourself baptized with the Holy Spirit and power to do the works of God! Look at the Cross and see the harvest of souls brought into the kingdom of God! Through faith you will enter into the realm of spiritual vision, a heavenly realm of possibility in God. Show me your vision, and I will show you your future!

³ Genesis 15:4–6 (NKJV)

⁴ Genesis 15:6 (NKJV)

⁵ Romans 4:16–22 (NKJV)