



## PROPER VISION IS CENTRAL TO BUILDING PROPER ORDER

Dr Stephen Smith, 24 May 2015

<sup>10</sup> **Then the disciples came to Him and said, why do You speak to them in parables?**

<sup>11</sup> **And He replied to them, to you it has been given to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.**

<sup>12</sup> **For whoever has [spiritual knowledge], to him will more be given and he will be furnished richly so that he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.**

<sup>13</sup> **This is the reason that I speak to them in parables: because having the power of seeing, they do not see; and having the power of hearing, they do not hear, nor do they grasp and understand.**

<sup>14</sup> **In them indeed is the process of fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah, which says: You shall indeed hear and hear but never grasp and understand; and you shall indeed look and look but never see and perceive.**

<sup>15</sup> **For this nation's heart has grown gross (fat and dull), and their ears heavy and difficult of hearing, and their eyes they have tightly closed, lest they see and perceive with their eyes, and hear and comprehend the sense with their ears, and grasp and understand with their heart, and turn and I should heal them.**

<sup>16</sup> **But blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are your eyes because they do see, and your ears because they do hear.**

**Matthew 13:10-16 (Amplified)**

Our definition influences our understanding. An improper definition will lead to an improper or incomplete understanding.

Vision is simply the ability to see. In Scripture, it is the ability to see, according to God's choosing, what God has done in the heavens so it may be accomplished on earth.

Vision sets a mark in the Spirit toward which the people can work.

To lead requires vision. It is the obligation of all leadership to provide vision. **Where there is no vision, the people perish (Prov. 29:18).**

The vision God calls leadership to is the vision of His purpose contained in the heavens.

### PREPARE TO RECEIVE VISION

**And Moses said, I will go and see this strange thing, why the tree is not burned up, and when the Lord saw him turning to one side to see, God said his name out of the tree, crying, Moses, Moses. And he said, here am I.**

**Exodus 3:3-4**

To gain vision we have to be willing to turn aside from our normal, ingrained routine – to be willing to stop doing all those good things the Lord never told us to do.

It was only when the Lord saw that Moses turned that He spoke to him out of the fire His vision for Moses (*the set man*) and Israel. The ability to see the supernatural is not enough; we have to be willing to turn aside to hear God's voice of vision through the supernatural.

Moses needed a vision from Heaven – a vision that would give him the understanding, direction, and confidence to lead God’s people, but a vision that would speak from God to the people, a vision upon which all willing hearts in Israel could build.

Godly vision always involves seeing in the heavens and being confirmed that He will establish it here on earth.

## **VISION AND PURPOSE ARE ALWAYS EXPANDING**

***And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand and power of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a land good and large, a land flowing with milk and honey [a land of plenty].***

**Exodus 3:8 (Amplified)**

Our understanding of our vision and purpose in God is always expanding. We do not get the whole thing at one time, but vision and purpose will unfold as we grow in the Lord.

***Come now therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring forth My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.***

**Exodus 3:8 (Amplified)**

It wasn’t the complete vision – more would come at Sinai and other places – but it gave the people direction, understanding, purpose, and a vision into which others, if spiritual like Joshua, could receive their specific vision. Our vision for the kingdom should incorporate similar characteristics.

## **THE PLACE OF VISION**

***NOW MOSES kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the back or west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb or Sinai, the mountain of God.***

**Exodus 3:1**

Moses was in the desert near Horeb (waste) tending the flock of Jethro (excellence), his father-in-law.

What are the usual circumstances in which vision and purpose are found in our lives? It will be in deserted places where we are empty of an atmosphere of self-promotion and the confusion and opinion of religious thinking. It will be while we are tending the flock (*saints*) and doing the “present” work the Lord has given into our hands. It will be while we are doing the work of our spiritual father in ministry and following the excellence of that relationship.

In this manner, the Lord brings vision and from such surroundings He brings forth purpose. It is always in the mountain (*the highest point of spiritual revelation*) where the view of Heaven is the clearest.

## **PROMISE OF GOD VERSUS VISION FROM GOD**

If we look at most visions recorded in the Scripture, we see that they involve instructions related to a journey.

If we are not seeing in the heavens what should be completed here on earth, we have to question whether it is really a vision from God or merely our own sincere desire for the Lord to act in our business or ministry.

Promises from God are by themselves not vision.

## RECEIVING A VISION FROM THE LORD

*Thus says the Lord of hosts: Do not listen to the words of the [false] prophets who prophesy to you. They teach you vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility) and fill you with vain hopes; they speak a vision of their own minds and not from the mouth of the Lord.*

**Jeremiah 23:16 (Amplified)**

*NOW THE boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. The word of the Lord was rare and precious in those days; there was no frequent or widely spread vision.*

**1 Samuel 3:1 (Amplified)**

In some ways our day is like that of the time of Eli; the priesthood is defiled, the spiritual order of father and son is fractured, the church is relying on past experiences and signs from God.

*Her gates have sunk into the ground; He has destroyed and broken her bars. Her king and her princes are [exiled] among the nations; the law is no more; her prophets also obtain no vision from the Lord.*

**Lamentations 2:9 (Amplified)**

Because the church world is so out of order, its gates are sunk (*no access to proper authority*), its bars are broken (*no divine protection*), and there is no vision from the Lord.

*Some Pharisees overheard him and said, "Does that mean you're calling us blind?"*

*Jesus said, "If you were really blind, you would be blameless, but since you claim to see everything so well, you're accountable for every fault and failure.*

**John 9:40-41 (Message)**

*He quoted a proverb: "Can a blind man guide a blind man? Wouldn't they both end up in the ditch?"*

**Luke 6:39 (Message)**

From the Gospels we learn that vision can be partial or perfect, that surrounding circumstances can influence vision, and that vision can be corrected or improved.

We need Jesus to anoint our eyes with vision to see into the Spirit's purpose and through our ministry as sons of God.

Those who receive godly vision usually receive it in a **hidden** place. Vision in the Bible invariably involves the **visitation** of the Lord. We are **prepared** by the Lord to be open to receive. It is birthed through **prayer** and our **relationship** with the Lord. It requires proper **order** in our lives. It is based on the **Word**.

Walking in Father/son order requires clearer, higher, and truer vision than we have ever had before.