



“VISION 2017!”

Habakkuk 2:1-4

*I will stand my watch
And set myself on the rampart,
And watch to see what He will say to me,
And what I will answer when I am corrected.
Then the LORD answered me and said:
"Write the vision
And make it plain on tablets,
That he may run who reads it.
For the vision is yet for an appointed time;
But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
Because it will surely come,
It will not tarry.
"Behold the proud,
His soul is not upright in him;
But the just shall live by his faith.*

- The word **VISION** is found **77 times in the BIBLE!**

- The word **VISION** is defined as: **Experiences similar to dreams through which supernatural insight or awareness is given by revelation.** But the difference between a dream and a vision is that dreams occur only during sleep, while visions can happen while a person is awake (Dan 10:7).

- In the Bible, people who had visions were filled with a special consciousness of God. The most noteworthy examples in the Old Testament of recipients of visions are Ezekiel and Daniel. **Visions in the New Testament are most prominent in the Gospel of Luke, the Book of Acts, and the Book of Revelation.**

- The purpose of visions was to give guidance and direction to God's servants and to foretell the future. Daniel's vision, for example, told of the coming of the Messiah (Dan 8:1,17).

> Step #1 – Our VISION starts with FAITH!

- Jesus said in Luke 18:8 - ***“Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”***

- In his classic work on *Spiritual Leadership*, J. Oswald Sanders writes, “Those who have most powerfully and permanently influenced their generation have been “seers”—people who have seen more and farther than others—**persons of faith, for faith is vision.**”

Vision includes optimism and hope. The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty . . . Vision leads to venture, and history is on the side of venturesome faith. The person of vision takes fresh steps of faith across gullies and chasms, not “playing it safe” but neither taking foolish risks.

A vision without a task makes a visionary. A task without a vision is drudgery. A vision with a task makes a missionary.

- **Fellow SAINT you are on a MISSION FROM GOD!** — J. Oswald Sanders also says, “Eyes that look are common; eyes that see are rare. The Pharisees looked at Peter and saw only an unschooled fisherman—not worth a second look. **Jesus saw Peter as a prophet and preacher, saint and leader who helped turn the world upside down.**”

- **FAITH is VISION – We need FAITH!** Bible teacher and evangelist **Porter Barrington** writes, “*The just shall live by faith.*” This declaration of the Christian’s principle of life is found four times in the Bible (Hab. 2:1-5; Ro. 1:17; Gal 3:10-11; Heb. 10:38). The just shall live his whole life by faith. His faith shall be tried many times and in many ways, but faith will always be vindicated, because it is more than equal to any occasion. **Faith knows how to wait on the Lord, and it is always VICTORIOUS!**”

- **Romans 10:17 - *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***

- **Let’s discover the VALUE OF FAITH:**

- #1 – You cannot be **SAVED** without FAITH. (John 3:36)
- #2 – You cannot live **VICTORIOUSLY** over the world without FAITH (1 John 5:4)
- #3 – You cannot **PLEASE** God without FAITH (Hebrews 11:6)
- #4 – You cannot **PRAY** without FAITH (James 1:6)
- #5 - You cannot have **PEACE** with God without FAITH (Romans 5:1)
- #6 - You cannot have **JOY** without FAITH (1 Peter 1:8)
- #7 - You are **JUSTIFIED** by FAITH and not by works (Galatians 2:16)
- #8 – You are to **LIVE** by FAITH (Galatians 2:20)
- #9 – You are made **RIGHTEOUS** by FAITH (Romans 10:1-4)
- #10 – **CHRIST** dwells in your heart by FAITH (Ephesians 3:17)
- #11 – The **HOLY SPIRIT** is received by FAITH (Galatians 3:2)
- #12 – “Whatever is not from FAITH is **SIN**” (Romans 14:23)
- #13 – Use the **SHIELD** of FAITH (Ephesians 6:16)
- #14 – Keep **STRENGTHENING** your FAITH (Romans 10:17)

- **What is your VISION for MINISTRY?** The Church, Missions, Children, Church planting, Evangelism, Prison, Community, Discipleship, Apologetics, Politics, Bible school, Recovery, Women’s & Men’s ministry, Prayer, Private School, Stewardship, etc. – **We are limited by our unbelief!**

- **2016 in Review**

> **Step #2 – Our VISION is a DECISION to PRAY!**

- **The vision with a mission is: PROPOSED through PRAYER (not presumption) - Luke 11:9-13** - “*So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*”
(SISTER TERI’S PRAYER)

- **Samuel Chadwick said,** “*The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless works, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at wisdom, but trembles when we pray.*”

- **R.A. Torrey writes in about the mighty weapon of prayer**, “It was a master-stroke of the devil to get the church and the ministry to lay aside the mighty weapon of prayer. He does not mind at all if the church expands her organizations and her deftly contrived machinery for the conquest of the world for Christ, if she will only give up praying. He laughs softly, as he looks at the church of today, and says under his breath: “You can have your Sunday schools, your social organizations, your grand choirs, and even your revival efforts, as long as you do not bring the power of Almighty God into them by earnest, persistent, and believing prayer.” **Please pray for every ministry, it’s leaders and fellow workers.**

- Jesus said in John 15:7 - **“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ASK what you desire and, and it shall be done for you”**

- This incredible promise to answer prayer will come to fruition as we abide in Christ and pray in accordance to His Word, it is then and only then that our prayers will be answered and the Father will be glorified! **Always pray in Christ's name!** (John 15:16; cf. John 14:13; 16:23)

- **What do you need to pray for?**

- A better marriage or desiring to find that special someone to marry.
- To overcome a sinful habit.
- Salvation, to know you’re forgiven, or to have peace in your life.
- For a wayward child, or grandchild.
- Maybe you need healing (physical, emotional, mental, spiritual).
- Maybe a financial difficulty.
- A closer relationship with Jesus, boldness to witness, a call to ministry.

> **Step #3 – Our VISION is on a MISSION – ACTS!**

- **VISION with a MISSION is wedded to the WORD OF GOD – ACTS 2:37-47**

- **How to MULTIPLY for the MULTITUDES:** (Like loaves & fishes)

THERE’S EIGHT KEYS TO VISIONARY?

- #1 – **INSPIRATION** – “God breathed” (prayer)
- #2 – **EDUCATION** – “Word of God” (study)
- #3 – **IMAGINATION** – “Creativity” (time)
- #4 – **PASSION** – “Fire” (personal)
- #5 – **CONVICTION** – “Belief” (life)
- #6 – **MOTIVATION** – “Move” (drive)
- #7 – **APPLICATION** – “Practice” (daily)
- #8 – **INVITATION** – “Now” (go)

> **COMMUNION with a COMMITMENT!**

The Watch

For years this CHRISTIAN has stood the watch

While some of us were in our beds at night this CHRISTIAN stood the watch

While some of us were at school or work this CHRISTIAN stood the watch

Even before some of us were born into this world this CHRISTIAN stood the watch

When the storm clouds of war were brewing this CHRISTIAN stood the watch

Many times this CHRISTIAN would pray to make sure his or her family would be protected and blessed through guidance and help, as they stood the watch

This CHRISTIAN stood the watch through the years, so that all Americans / all believers could sleep safely, each and every night secure because this CHRISTIAN stood the watch!