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SGC
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Vision

You may have 20/20 sight but do you have vision?

Vision is the eye of faith to see the invisible.

Where there is no vision, the people perish: Prov.29.18

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Cor. 5 7

South African Impala

- The Impala can jump to a height of 3 metres but it can be contained in enclosure with walls only half that height but will not jump out. This is because it needs to see where it is going to land.
- It does not "jump " by faith but is limited to its natural eye.
- It illustrates what it is like for us if we do not have vision.

Vision is the eye of faith to see the invisible.

Vision is when we see light with our heart when our eyes only see darkness.

Kaleb. Joshua 14.7
Spying out the land.
"…I brought back word…as it was in my heart."

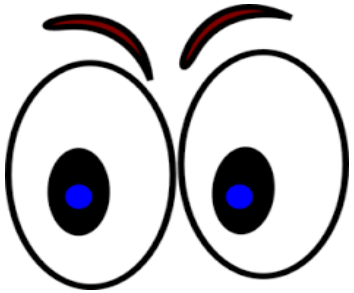
Pauls Prayer to the Ephesians **Eph. 1 15-18**

"…remembering you in my prayers. [17] I keep asking that … the <u>eyes of your heart</u> may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you…"

Vision sees the possibilities in God.

Matthew 6:22-23, *"The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"*

This isn't talking about our physical eyes, but what we see through our eyes of faith….it's talking about vision.



7 x's in Scripture God asks His people, "What do you see?

- God is extremely interested in what you see through your "spiritual eyes" - your vision.

At 19mth Helen Keller feel ill to a sickness that left her blind and dumb. Despite her handicap, with great perseverance, she gained a university degree and was sort after as a speaker and was the author of several books.

Helen Keller

- **The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.**
  - **Helen Keller**

Three Aspects of Vision

- **1. Vision and the Word of God.**
- **2. Vision focuses on the Future.**
- **3. Vision produces Endurance.**

1. Vision and the Word of God.

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law ***ESV*** Prov.29.18

Where there is no understanding of the Word of the Lord, the people do whatever they want to, but happy is he who keeps the law. NLV

- **"Vision" here refers to revelation of the Word of God. Apart from God's Word, society quickly breaks down and spins into moral chaos.**

The interpretation of "the people" here refers to society.

Is there an implication here that we need proclaim Gods standards to those around us?

1. Vision and the Word of God.

We are to declare Gods Word to a society that does not want to accept the moral restraints that the Word brings.

The disciples prayer in Acts 4 when they were told not to preach about Jesus.

Why are the nations so angry?
Why do they waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the LORD and against his anointed one.
"Let us break their chains," they cry, "and free ourselves from slavery to God." Ps 2.1-3 Acts 4

1. Vision and the Word of God.

We are to declare Gods Word to a society that does not want to accept the moral restraints that the Word brings.

Get a vision of this!

Ps.2 The Message

1-6 Why the big noise, nations?
Why the mean plots, peoples?
Earth-leaders push for position,
Demagogues and delegates meet for summit talks,
The God-deniers, the Messiah-defiers:
"Let's get free of God!
Cast loose from Messiah!"
Heaven-throned God breaks out laughing.
At first he's amused at their presumption;
Then he gets good and angry.
Furiously, he shuts them up:
"Don't you know there's a King in Zion?
A coronation banquet
Is spread for him on the holy summit."

1. Vision and the Word of God.

But there is also an application to us personally.

Where there is no intake and revelation of the Word of God, we drift and do our own thing. We lose vision. We become like the fenced in impala.

Our vision is determined by the Word of God in the terms of the focus of our vision – not "blind faith."

Our vision will be directly related to the extent we allow the Word of God to influence and direct our lives.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly… Col.3.16

Do we need to make a commitment today to get back to the Word?

2. Vision focuses on the Future.

Motivation

One of the main focuses of the Scriptures is to look to the Future.

- Heroes of the faith. "*Instead, **they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*"Heb.11 .16

Moses. "*He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because **he was looking ahead to his reward.** 27*

2. Vision focuses on the Future.

The Apostle Paul *"...one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and* ***reaching forward to those things that are ahead****, I press toward the goal for the prize..."* Phil. 3.13

" ***For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*** ***Romans 8.18***

The Bible teaches that the motivating factor for a Christian's progress today is to have a vision for tomorrow.

Jesus ***"...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, <u>who for the joy that was set before Him</u> endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*** **Heb. 12.2**

2. Vision focuses on the Future.

We need to be people who are looking forward to the future.

We often look backwards as we move toward the future.

We should learn from the past - not yean for the past.
…forgetting what lies behind…

What God has for us is up ahead. The best is yet to come..

2. Vision focuses on the Future

" For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Romans 8.18

What is vision?

Vision is a picture of tomorrow that provokes passion within you today.

Tell God that you desire a new passion for the future – a renewed vision.

3. Vision produces Endurance

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus... who for the joy set before Him endured the cross ...Heb 12.1,2

A vision of the finish line helps to keep a runner going when running a long race.

3. Vision produces Endurance

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENDURANCE

- *… follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.* Heb.6.12
- *"You have need of endurance that you may receive the promise"* Heb. 10:36
- *"If we endure we shall reign with Him"* 2Tim.2:12
- *"He who endures to the end will be saved"* Matt.24:13

We will only endure if we have a clear vision of Gods promises for the future.

3. Vision produces Endurance

You will be tested on endurance.

- When things get hard.
- When your weary and tired.
- When there's still along way to go.
- When voices tell you to give up.
- When others slow down or quit.

We need a vision of the future to help us through the present.

Endurance will be needed in the Future

Jesus said *"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, … men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth for the powers of the heavens will be shaken…. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."* Luke 21 25-28

10 Then He continued by saying to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, 11 and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven…they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons,bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. 13 But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put *some* of you to death, 17 and you will be hated by all because of My name.. By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Endurance will bring a Reward

…for the joy that was set before Him Jesus endured…

Just renew your vision.

Vision is the eye of faith to see the invisible.