

# THE NEED FOR VISION

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**TEXT: Proverbs 29:18**

## INTRODUCTION

1. Any successful endeavor requires a vision.
2. The word "**vision**" literally means the ability to see things to come, to have foresight, or the power to perceive the invisible.
3. Such ventures in business or politics require "**men of vision**".
4. CEOs of companies must have a vision. Countries require leaders with vision.
5. Without the ability to visualize worthy goals and how they can be realized, very little will be achieved.
6. In the Lord's work, we desperately need an elevated vision of what it is all about.
7. We need greater **goals** of what can be done and greater **objectives** how it can be done.
8. We need to have a vision that is worthy of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

## I. WHY MANY HAVE AN INADEQUATE VISION

- A. Suppose a man is driven by the vision of making as much money as possible.
- B. Two things may keep him from making as much money as he desires.
  1. His limited idea of what is a lot of money.
  2. His lack of making any specific plans of how he is going to do it.
- C. His problem is a lack of having a proper vision.
- D. The Lord's work may likewise be inadequate.
- E. We may have the vision of reaching as many people with the gospel as possible which is a noble vision, but we are limited in our vision because we have no plans of how we are going to do it.
- F. The problem of a vision is that it is often too general.
  1. No dream has ever been achieved except by someone who dared to establish the specifics necessary to make the dream a reality.
  2. For example, it is fine to plan:
    - a. To go to heaven.
    - b. To serve the Lord faithfully.
    - c. To do the work of evangelism.
  3. But how do we do such things? By what means do we get results? What specific, measurable actions will take us where we want to be?
  4. How much time, effort, and money will it take?
- G. When we think specifically about the Lord's work, we often fail to set our sights high enough.
  1. It could be because of our past experience.
  2. It could be because of being fed a steady diet of defeatism.
- H. With a limited vision many churches do little and little is accomplished.
- I. I believe the Lord intends greater things for His church, especially for those servants with a willingness to work.

## II. WHAT OUR VISION NEEDS

- A. It needs to be great.
- B. It needs specific action or steps in how to accomplish it.
- C. It needs faith.
  - 1. Faith in the power of the gospel.
  - 2. Faith in the power of the Lord to prepare us and empower us for service – **Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 3:16,20.**
- D. It needs boldness.
  - 1. This was a virtue displayed by the early Christians - **Acts 4:13; 14:3; 19:8.**
  - 2. Boldness to say what needs to be said, when it needs to be said, despite the circumstances - **1 Thessalonians 2:2.**
- E. Our vision needs persistence.
  - 1. Don't lose heart, for we shall reap in due time - **Galatians 6:9.**
  - 2. Always abounding, knowing that our labor is not in vain - **1 Corinthians 15:58.**
  - 3. Many visions are never realized because people give up too soon!

### CONCLUSION:

- 1. Not all "vision" is good.
  - a. Some have "**tunnel vision**" - focusing on small and often insignificant problems in the church.
  - b. Some have "**visions of despair**" - seeing only the negative, never the positive.
- 2. But a vision that has purpose and specific steps to accomplish its goal, faith in the Lord and in His word and boldness and perseverance in carrying it out is a vision that will accomplish great things for God.