



What is Vision? – Message 1

Announcements

Small Group Semesters

- 2018 Spring Semester ends May 5th.
- Break // May 6–June 3 // No small group lessons avail.
- 2018 Summer Semester // June 3–August 11

Warm-up

If time travel were possible, would you rather go 200 years in the past or 200 years in the future? Why?

Word and Application

Over these next four weeks of the new series, *Vision: Awakening God's Purpose in Your Life*, we will discover how we can know God's vision, His will, and His purpose for our lives. As you grasp God's vision, you are going to be able to navigate your life's course. Today, we dive into **what** vision is, where it comes from, and why we need vision.

Vision is more than just seeing. The root word of vision can be defined as both **"to see"** and **"coming into being."** In other words, vision is an inner picture of a preferable future.

Read Proverbs 29:18. How would you explain this verse in practical terms? What are modern day examples of people, teams, groups, organizations that collapse or fail due to lack of vision?

Read Genesis 15:1, 5. What is the vision or promise given in these verses? Who is the originator of the vision? How do you think the way Abraham lived his life might have changed due to this vision from God?

Look at the chart below for some clear differences between a Man-Made Vision and a God-Given Vision. Share a personal example of a vision that God has given you. It may or may not have already come to pass. Perhaps it's a vision for a home, a spouse, dream job, etc.

Man-Made Vision	God-Given Vision
Based solely on our gifts and skills.	Received as a revelation from God.
Fulfillment rests on personal drive and staying ahead of others.	Fulfillment rests in obedience to Christ.
People are seen as competitors.	People are seen as complementary.
The goal is to build solely your own interest at the expense of others.	The goal is to serve people, honor God, and advance His kingdom.

Unless we have clarity with our vision, we will never reach the destination God has for us. Take a look at **Four Benefits of Possessing Vision**.

1. **Vision provides purpose and direction.**

Without vision, we simply exist without really living.

Read Acts 26:19. What do you think Paul is saying here? Why does Paul use this point in his speech to King Agrippa? Is there a certain area of your life that needs God's purpose and direction?

2. **Vision stirs passion and energy.**

Read John 2:13-17 and Mark 11:17. Why was Jesus so passionate about this particular incident? Name something that you are very passionate about. Is that passion tied to a vision God has given you? How can you practically invite God into your dream and passion?

3. **Vision invites unity.**

A clear vision has the ability to pull people onto the same page.

Read Genesis 11:4,6. Explain the principle of unity in this story. Can you give any other demonstrations in the Bible of the power of unity?

What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about vision and purpose in your life? What step will you take this week to invite God's vision for you?

Prayer

Father, we ask that you give us a clear vision and purpose for each of our lives. Instead of performing or striving, we trust you to lead us and give us the power to follow that vision. Stir our hearts for the abundant life that comes with living for you.

Pray for specific needs in your group.