

Vision of the Ministry

Joshua 1:9 "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest."

The Importance of a vision

Church ministries may grow in the beginning, but without God's vision they are destined to plateau and eventually die.

1. A Vision Clarifies Direction:
(Exodus 5-11; Neh. 2:5) The mission determines what the direction is. While the vision concerns what that direction looks like.
2. A Vision Invites Unity:
(Ps. 133:1; Rom. 15:5; Eph. 4:3, 13; Col. 3:14) Where there is a common vision, there will usually be harmony.
3. A Vision Facilitates Function:
(Matt. 28: 19-20; Mark 16:15) What are we supposed to be doing? Vision Communicates pictorially.
4. A Vision Enhances Leadership:
(Gal 5:22-23) Developing a vision and then living it vigorously and authentically are essential elements of leadership.

5. A Vision Prompts Passion:
(Romans 9: 3-4; 15: 20) Vision and passion work hand in hand. While vision is a seeing word that involves what leaders see in their heads, passion is a feeling word that involves their emotions, what they feel in their hearts.
6. A Vision Fosters Risk Taking:
(Rom. 11: 33-36) The ministry for Christ becomes an exciting venture of faith into the mystery of God's unknown
7. A Vision Offers Sustenance:
(Acts 8:1; Eph. 6: 10-18; Heb. 11) Compelling Vision. It encourages people to look beyond the mundane and the pain of ministry.
8. A Vision Creates Energy:
(Neh. 1:3) Visions are exciting and energizing. They energize people.
9. A Vision Provides Purpose:
(Matt. 28: 19-20) It gives them a sense of divine purpose in life. Of being part of something great.
10. A Vision Motivates Giving:
(Neh. 3; 7: 70-72) The vision says the ministry is not static but dynamic.

Definition of Vision

What a vision is **not**:

- A Vision is not a dream
- A Vision is not goals and objects
- A Vision is not a purpose
- A Vision is not a Mission

2

What a Vision **is**:

- A Vision is Clear
 - A Vision is Challenging
 - A Vision is a Mental Picture
 - A Vision is the Future of the Ministry
- Vision is always cast in terms of future. It is a mental picture of what tomorrow will look like.
- A Vision has Potential
 - A Good Vision grabs hold and won't let go

The Vision Personnel

Who is ultimately responsible?

A Single Person:

It is important to recognize that every ministry and every leadership team within a ministry needs a single leader.

(1 Cor. 11:3)

A Visionary Leader:

It takes a visionary leader to cultivate a profound, positive vision of the future.

- a) Intuitive – Preference for relating to the world through intuition
- b) Information collector – Their ability to recognize, collect and sort pertinent information from variety of sources.

The Leaders Role:

"The vision entrusted to Moses did not focus on selfish desires but on a selfless quest to reconcile the world to its creator." Barna

3

1. Vision Cultivator – initiates and develops
2. Vision Communicator - Is not the only vision caster
3. Vision Clarifier – focuses the vision

Significant Others:

- People who make up the leadership team.
- Help bring the vision to light in others
- Cooperate with and follow the leader
- Use their God given gifts and abilities
- Rally in support of the vision
- Help in casting the vision

Rather than see the potential benefits that change can bring, some feel threatened and may turn on the leader.

The Source of the Vision

The source is **God**. (James 1: 17; Exodus 3; Neh. 2: 12) God implants the vision in the womb of the mind.

Developing Your Vision

1. *Envisioning Prayer* – It is essential to immerse the entire process in prayer. The envisioning prayer is intentional. (Mark 1:35; Neh. 1: 4-11)
2. *Thinking Big* – Make no small plans, for they do not have the power to stir the souls of men. Jesus Christ challenged a small band of disciples to reach the entire world with the gospel. (Eph. 3: 14-21) v20
“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”

4

3. *Is Your Vision Big Enough* – The vision has to be bigger than the leader in sense that it goes far beyond him and his abilities to accomplish it.
4. *How to Increase the Size of Your Vision* – Pray and ask God to increase your faith and consequently your vision (Mark 9: 23-24)
5. *Written Brainstorming* – Putting on paper what God has put into your heart.
6. *Determining the Contents* – The bones of the skeleton are the contents found in a good vision statement.
 - *The ministries purpose* – The purpose of the church is to glorify God (Rom. 15: 6; 1 Cor. 6: 20). This means that what the church does in this life must cause people to value and bring honor to God.

- *The Ministries Mission* – A good vision statement will contain the ministries mission
- *The Ministries Value* – Core values clarify what is unique about a particular ministry
- *The Ministries Strategy* – The strategy the ministry will implement to accomplish its mission.

“Vision for ministry is a reflection of what God wants to accomplish through you to build His kingdom” Barna

Do people understand the vision?

Do they believe in it?

Does it convince them of its own value?

5

Dr Steven A. Anderson