**BMi SALTS COURSE**

**WHAT IS VISION**

DICTIONARY: The act of seeing

The faculty of sight

A vivid concept or mental picture

A revelation

Imaginative perception

Mystical Awareness of the supernatural

A look, glance

NOTE: The definitions in the Strong’s concordance are similar to those above, for both the Old and New Testaments. As there is a variance in the dictionary definitions so too there are variations in application for the different scriptures.

**Necessity of Vision**

“Where there is no vision the people are unrestrained” (NAS) Proverbs 29:18.

“Where there is no vision (no redemptive revelations of God) the people perish” (AMP) Proverbs 29:18

“Like a ship without a rudder”

See Proverbs 24:27, 30-34.

People will follow someone who knows where he is going. Jesus knew where He was going.

People are NOW looking for direction—we need to give it to them.

**Receiving Vision**

Habakkuk 2:1-3

a) Vision is DIVINELY INITIATED—it comes from God to your heart (spirit). It might come in dreams (Joseph, ­Gen 37), as a blinding light on the road to Damascus (Apostle Paul—Acts 9:10-16) or through a physical phenomena and “a voice.” (Moses/burning bush—Exodus 3

b) A need for a CLEAR vision
Must be able to be easily communicated (Hab 2:3) Not religious jargon otherwise confusion will occur.

c) Don’t tell the vision (especially) to those who couldn’t handle it (eg. a massive building programme or harvest), until the time is appropriate (Matt 17:9)

d) Write the vision - Hab 2:2

1) Talk to wise people, Prov 11:12, 15:22, 24:6

2) Look for people God will surround you with to work the vision—(form a team)

NOTE: The “Lone Rangers” amount to very little. ­God has caused us to work together (Read Lev 26:8 11, (5 will chase 100; and 100 will chase 10,000 and our enemies will fail.”)

**Visionary Leadership**

1. Vision requires FAITH and OBEDIENCE (Heb 11:8-17)
Gen l2:I-4 , Abraham called to ‘…a land which I will show you.”

**Birthing the Vision**

**IDEA Think about it (most stop here) Put it on Paper (Hab. 2:1-3)**

**Revamp Seek and Accept Counsel Refine Do It! Adjust as You Go**

TO TAKE the vision through to completion YOU WILL NEED:

1. Persistence

2. Perseverance

3. Steadfastness

BE:

1. Resourceful — ‘How can I’, rather than ‘It won’t work’; It can’t’.

2. POSITIVE — ‘Whatever a man thinketh, so is he.’(Prov. 23:7)

 (Whatever comes out of the mouth of a man is an overflow from his heart, Matt. 15:17-19)

3. Always thinking — how can I do it: quicker, cheaper, better.

4. CREATIVE — How can I make it ‘alive’, more interesting.

 Sell the vision. Many people need direction as they don’t get visions (leaders should) and bring them into being. We need to bring others ALONG with us. (Ref. Prov 15:2 (a)

**TIMING**

The impulse is to rush ahead of God, which is SELF. Wait for God. Those who rush ahead can get weary, dejected, and even lose their faith (c/f Is 40:31).

a. Incubating the vision - let it grow within you—pray, fast, “dream”. In Gen. 1:2 the word MOVED literally means “brooded” (like a hen broods over her eggs).

 God’s vision was brooded over by the Holy Spirit.

b. Is your vision clear, if not “wait” for the details.

c. A clearly written vision will help mobilise people, money or goods necessary for the work. (Neh 2:8, Ezra 1:4,6,7).

**Summary**

a. There is a need to have strong, Godly leadership, that “hears the voice of God and waits for Him” and who are bold and courageous (Josh 1:2-9).

b. Resources (human and material) will come when the time is right. What is important is TO BE ABLE TO Communicate THE VISION AND GOALS.

c. Most problems arise when the leadership has no vision and goals and thus don’t know where they are going.

d. Once the resources are available there is gross negligence if these are not used wisely —integrity, ethics, honesty, faithfulness, diligence and trust are vital.

DO NOT ALLOW SATAN A FOOTHOLD

**GOAL SETTING**

Most of this section is Humanistic Psychology and should be handled carefully

**1. HAVE PRECISE GOALS**

 A True saying: “ If you fail to plan—you plan to fail.

 Goal Setting is:

 SETTING A GOAL IN A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME SO AS TO ACHIEVE RESULTS.

**2. GOALS MUST BE REALISTIC** therefore make them ATTAINABLE.

**3. ACHIEVABLE GOALS DEMAND HARD WORK.**

1) Courage

2) Commitment

3) Determination

4) Persistence

5) Stickability

Dr. John Haggai has a good recipe to Establishing Goals, “**SMART** GOALS”

**S**pecific

**M**easurable

**A**ttainable

**R**ealistic

**T**angible

You can’t MANAGE what you can’t MEASURE!

VISIONS and DREAMS, *without* GOAL SETTING, are just WISHFUL THINKING.

Main benefits of Goal Setting, makes DECISION MAKING EASIER and speeds up the vision process.

**VISION**

**1. The idea of vision for the Christian is a substantive concept**—based in reality rather than imagination. Biblically vision comes through the Word of God revealed to man.

 God’s gift of imagination is the ability to conceive of the future. We can imagine what might have happened in the past, which is usually a negative thing. Normally imagination relates to the future.

 Scripture speaks of an evil imagination,

Genesis 6:5, **8:21**,

Jeremiah 3:17; 7:24; 9:14; 11:8; 13:10; 16:12; 18:12; 23:17;

Psalm 2:1; 62:3;

Proverbs 12:20;

Zechariah 7:10; 8:17;

**Luke 1:51;**

**Acts 4:25.**

In each case cited the imagination is evil; but God has given imagination to think His thoughts and plan His plans.

 I need to dream dreams in submission to the Lord. Others in scripture received visions for different purposes.

Acts 9, Paul on the way to Damascus, and

Acts 10, Peter with the vision before going to Cornelius’ house; relates to the gentiles and the gospel.

**2. There is personal vision and corporate vision.**

 Personal vision is that which gives purpose and direction to my life—it expresses the call of God on my life.

Corporate vision relates to family, church, business, nation, etc.

 Corporate vision is more complex as we need to be willing and able to submit our vision to others. More on that later.

**3. Vision needs to be imparted**—after we have ensured that it not simply human imagination. It must be providential (of God) or it is irrelevant.

 Vision is living, dynamic and always related to growth.

 Vision needs to be communicated, particularly if not just a personal vision.

 To communicate vision we need to plan—strategy, goals, implementation plan, presentation, tasks.

**4. Church vision**

 Church vision requires a building together through a standard of unity through diversity. The fulfilment requires enormous adjustments for the man with a vision.

 Because it will involve others lives the vision for a corporate entity in this case the church needs to be the will of God. A church vision will be larger than any one man so there will be a need for carefully defined communication to enable people to embrace the vision then chose to participate in it.

**5. Vision and leadership are synonymous**

Proverbs 29:18

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” NKJV

Revelation = prophetic vision

Cast off restraint = lawlessness

“Where there is ignorance of God, the people run wild; but what a wonderful thing it is for a nation to know and keep his laws!” Living Bible.

The key to any vision that is going to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God is that its foundation is the Word of God. It needs to be strong and resilient and be able to stand the test of time.

There were times in history when the Word of God was rare and those were sad days.

1 Samuel 3:1

“The word of the Lord was rare in those days ”

Amos 8:11-12

“Behold the days are coming, says the Lord God, that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.

They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, But shall not find it.”