

VISION THAT TRANSFORMS

TEXT: *Proverbs 29:18: Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the Law, happy is he.*

Acts 2:17b: And your young men shall see visions.

The great characters of the past who have cut new channels, blazed new trails, opened up hidden secrets, and led humanity onward to better days have been men of vision. Without a vision and the power to soar on the wings of imagination, there would be no progress of the human race.

Behind every great movement with its upward march of man is the vision of someone who caught a glimpse of a better day. What is it that has opened up new territories, built the great cities, tunneled the mountains, plowed the mighty deep, connected continents, conquered the air, and hurled messages through it, but the power of vision? Life would be dull, indeed, without a vision of a better-coming tomorrow.



The wise man tells us:

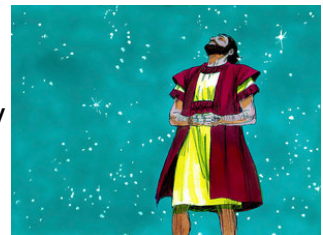
Proverbs 29:18a: Where there is no vision the people perish.



That is, where there are no fresh or vital thoughts, there can be no progress toward the higher and greater things. The Old Testament worthies are called seers. They stood on the mountain peaks and looked down through the ages and caught visions of the coming Glory hundreds of years ahead of the time in which they lived.

The Bible itself is a book of visions. It starts with Abraham.

As one puts it, when God first called Abraham, He inundated his soul with a sea of Promises. He spoke to him from the starry heavens, from the soil of Canaan on which he walked, by the visit of angels, and by the Holy Spirit in his deep nature. Abraham saw great fields of light, and great possibilities of things for himself and his posterity. His soul



drank in these Promises until his faith became wide and powerful, even before any of them were fulfilled.

God deals with souls in a similar way. Yet when He calls anyone to a great degree of perfection or usefulness, He begins by opening up to them the promise of His Word and the possibilities which they may achieve even before there are any outward symptoms of their fulfillment. That heart anchors itself in the promises of God until those promises become as real as God Himself.

Joseph began early in childhood having visions of the great life he was later to lead. No man, except the Saviour Himself, ever suffered such wrongs, hatred, and persecution as Joseph. Yet through it all he persevered because of the vision of the coming Glory that awaited him.

The secret of the great life of Moses, the law-giver and leader of Israel, is that he lived *“as seeing Him Who is the invisible”*.

Hebrews 11:27: By Faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him Who is invisible.

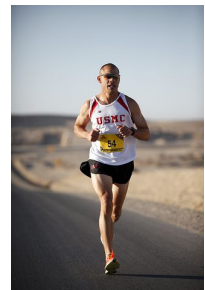


It was this that caused him to turn his back on a throne with its wealth, honor, and glory, and joined an ignorant, downtrodden, half-naked company of slaves. A vision of the heavenly spoiled him for the cheap things of earth. Later, God called Moses up into the Holy Mount to spend forty days with Him. While there, God gave him a vision of the beautiful Tabernacle — its size and shape, where

every curtain was to hang, its golden altar, and the Holy of Holies. Moses had all this in his mind before it became a reality.

God has a pattern and a plan for each individual life.

The Bible is full of this thought: that for each one of us there is a course, a race, a work, an individual life to be lived; and to this end we have been created and redeemed; and for this purpose there is ample provision of grace and inspiration. Remember, you were born to be victorious, and everyone is born to achieve something great.



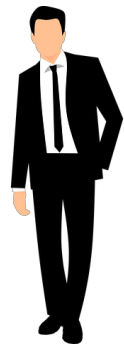
This is the inward vision that has driven all men of great achievement on to victory. They first saw in the unseen that which later they achieved in the seen. Painters, poets, inventors, statesmen, generals, leaders, and inspirers of men, everywhere in every age, have all seen with their inward eyes that which

they afterward accomplished. This faculty is not the exclusive possession of the great, neither is it confined to the fortunate few. It is to be found within every man. All that it needs is developing. This can be done to an almost unbelievable extent.

There is much the eyes have seen, but there are truths and visions that are beyond the natural eye. This creative faculty, when rightly directed and developed, can lift one out of the rut and above the common level of life.



Consider two boys that go off to school. They use the same textbooks and are trained under the same professors, but in a few years one of them is the president and head of a rich firm, while the other one is doing common labor with a very poor income. What is the matter? Has nature or divine providence favored one son above the other?



Never. All men are born on the same level. What is the difference? Only this: one believed in and had confidence in himself and deposited in his subconscious mind thoughts of victory and success, while the other one gave way to distrust and fear which paved the way for failure.

Surely there is nothing in all life as sad as a dull mind with no vision.

Picture yourself doing the great things of life. Develop and enrich your imagination by using your creative mind. Surely there is nothing in all life as sad as a dull mind with no vision. Such persons live on the animal plane and are controlled by their appetites and passions, following the lines of least resistance, being influenced and molded by other people's opinions. Oh, the sorrow of a stupid soul that

never knows what it has lost.

Just as the scientists and the poet can look down on the lower animals and say, *"Poor things, if you only knew the purity, the tranquility, the interior brightness, vastness, sweetness and divine personalities that I see and enjoy and respond to, how happy you would be."*

We need a vision of our own selves, and the possibilities that lie locked up in a dormant state. There are wealth, power, gifts, talents, success, and victory tied up in every human soul just waiting to be awakened. What a thrill comes to the youth when there is awakening of the intellect, the unfolding of the understanding, the first impulse of culture and expansion, the discovery of the new worlds in the wonderful development of modern thought, and science.

WOW!

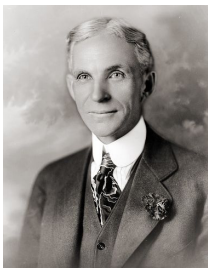
Perhaps it is the consciousness of strange, new intellectual forces in his own soul's powers that are yet latent and fraught with the possibilities of stirring millions of fellow beings. Thousands of people are utterly ignorant of the great capabilities of the human mind.

When one of our leading astronomers was born, his frail little body was so weak that — like a flickering candle — for weeks his life swung between life and death. Just thirty years later, his little mind had developed into that of an intelligent giant. We find him reading the heavenly bodies, measuring the distance between stars, and forecasting great events. No one knows the possibilities that lie in a human brain.



More than half the men who have gone beyond you in your life of work are probably less gifted than you are. They merely found out where their greatest power lay, then learned how to develop, train, and use it. First, map out a plan, and then follow it. This is the history of each new invention which has added comfort and happiness to mankind.

It is said of Henry Ford, the greatest industrial genius and one of the wealthiest men in the world, that when he made his first buggy into an automobile, he asked the Mayor for the privilege of bringing it up on the main street of Detroit to demonstrate it before the public. The Mayor said, *"If I were to allow you to bring that machine up on the main street, every horse around here would break loose and run away."* Henry, with the long-sighted vision, answered, *"Unless you allow me to show my car on these streets, I will park Ford cars so thick in Detroit that there won't be room for a horse and buggy."*



You, too, can make your dreams and visions come true if you only have some definite object in view, refuse to be discouraged, and work to that end. Lift up your vision to aspiring heights, and fasten your interests to a star.

Then there is the spiritual vision where our spiritual nature, with its inner senses, unfolds to the heavenly world. The Holy Spirit opens our inner eyes and reveals to us the vision of our high calling. This is the meaning of the Apostle's prayer in **Ephesians 1** where he prays that the saints might have the spirit of wisdom and revelation, through the eyes of our understanding being enlightened. Or a better translation is, the eyes of our hearts, which is the very core of our being and the fountain of our thoughts and conception of divine things.

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Ephesians 1:17-18:

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, may give unto you the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of Him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

It is not through the cold intellect that God reveals Himself to us, but it is through our immortal spirit, the seat of our intuitive nature.

Beloved, it is not enough to be saved and sanctified. There is a life of Christ-likeness and heavenly-mindedness, and maturity. It is one thing to have love, but it is another thing to have love that suffereth long, is kind, that never faileth and is not provoked.

1 Corinthians 13:4: Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

It is one thing to have patience, but it is another thing to ‘*Let patience have her perfect work that we may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*’

James 1:4: But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

It is one thing to have forbearance and long-suffering, but it is another thing to be ‘*Strengthened with might unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness.*’

Colossians 1:11: Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

It is one thing to have the graces of the Holy Spirit in form, it is another thing to have them in maturity. The Holy Spirit is ever calling us anew, calling us on and up to higher aspirations and achievements.

Let us not rest contented with present attainments. There is a larger, fuller, higher, sweeter, and deeper experience that awaits each one of us where we can have all the mind that was in Christ Jesus, and be filled with all the fullness of God.

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Oh, to be true to the heavenly vision! The sainted Dr. A. B. Simpson said, “*If you could see all the fullness of His grace and love, all the rich provision of His great redemption, and all the possibilities of His indwelling life; if you could but get a glimpse of what it means to be a son of God, a temple of the Holy*

Spirit, and called to be the very Bride of the Lamb. If you could but fully realize what it means to have the peace of God which passeth all understanding, to have Him for your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning forever ended. If you could for one moment taste the exquisite delight of the life of Jesus in your mortal flesh, as an antidote for infirmity and disease, and the very mind of Christ to quicken your weak and erring brain; in a word, if you could see, as Moses saw, the good land which the Lord hath given thee, you would quickly arise and, casting all else behind, you would go over this Jordan and let nothing hinder your entering into your full inheritance of grace.”



May God show us the vision and give us the courage to follow it up.

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