

THE PURPOSE OF VISION

"IF YOU CAN SEE IT - YOU CAN HAVE IT"

By: Phillip Hayes

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

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."
There is nothing more devastating than not having a R
Unfulfilled life.

I am not talking about having a dream while you sleep or seeing something while awake. I am talking about a real vision that gives meaning and motivates your life. Over the years I have had several spiritual dreams and visions that I feel came from God; but had I not had them, I would not have perished.

I believe the writer of this proverb was talking about *purpose*. Where there is no *purpose*, the people perish.

Millions of people live without any real purpose in their lives. Many will sleep till noon because there is no reason for them to get out of bed! Many wander about from place to place because there is no place they must be at. Some wonder in their hearts, "Why am I here, why was I born, what is my life all about?" Sadly, some never inquire as to why they have found themselves on planet

earth; breathing and eating, but really having no life; no real purpose.

Perhaps you have found yourself asking these very same questions. When things don't work out the way we think they should we become disillusioned and fall into depression. This state of mind sets off all kinds of awful thoughts, "there's no reason to live, nothing ever works out for me, what am I suppose to do?" Depression is a horrible condition and if not dealt with can lead to a lifetime of darkness, inactivity, loneliness and sometimes suicide.

Sometimes things happen in our lives we have no control over. Perhaps a loved one has passed away, or maybe you have suffered through a divorce and in your time of despair and loneliness depression sets in. Certainly, we can all identify with this. However, I believe that most depression comes from not having a real purpose in your life. Without purpose, you have no direction. Why get up in the morning? You don't really have any place to go!

Sadly, Christians seem to be as affected as the world. As Christians we need direction; we need a purpose. We need a vision! You would think the Bible itself would give us purpose enough, but most folks look at the men and women in the Bible as super human and their exploits unattainable. Our problem is we seem to dwell in the past events of the Bible rather than the present. Bible victories of the past cannot give us vision unless we view those glorious events as something that can be repeated in our own life. To strengthen purpose in your life, you must believe that God is unchangeable. *"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever"*.

It is time to wake up and get a vision! I believe every man, woman, boy and girl in Christ can achieve great things in our generation. But it is going to take a

personal awakening! The cure for depression is purpose, and if you have a vision, you will have a purpose! When you have purpose, I guarantee, you will have happiness.

Many times as I ministered to others I have said, "God wants you happy"! I have never heard a person say, "I don't want to be happy." Everyone wants to be happy! I believe it is God's will for everyone to live a prosperous, gratifying and fulfilled life. *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth"* [3John 1:2]. Having a vision for your life will produce the happiness God desires for you.

God called you by His Grace to enjoy an abundant life; spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally and financially. *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* [John 10:10]. Too long now, many have let the devil steal their happiness and denied them the abundant life Jesus promised to every believer. Many live far below the victorious blessed life God has desired for them.

However, I believe God is giving visions to those that are fed up with the status quo of a humdrum life. God didn't call us out of the world to be like the world. He separated us to live a holy, blessed, abundant life apart from the world.

Idleness is a horrible sin! Yes, idleness! In Ezekiel chapter 16 verse 49, it is listed as one of the sins of Sodom. The people had an abundance of idleness. They had no purpose. Every day was filled with nothing but existing to the next day. Eating, drinking and stirring about as an animal with no motivation outside their meager existence.

I remember my mother telling me, "An idle mind is a devil's workshop". What a true saying that is. Purpose

is a driving force! It will drive your thoughts toward the purpose that is the target of your life. Your mind will not have time to stray into dark areas. Your thoughts should be on good things, not bad.

Folks just don't realize the importance of a purpose filled mind set. Paul said, *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things"* [Philippians 4:8].

Perhaps, you had a vision, but somehow you got sidetracked and lost the vision you once had. Maybe your vision was to go back to school and get the degree that you once desired. I know of men and women that were in their seventies, eighties and even nineties that fulfilled their vision of going back to college and did in fact fulfill their dreams.

When we were in Bible College a woman graduated in her nineties and went to an impoverished country as a missionary. There was another dear lady in her eighties from Nashville, Tennessee that sold all her possessions and went on the mission field in Africa. There are others that refused to give in to circumstances that prevented them from realizing their purpose. They never gave up! They were able to break free of whatever was holding them back and succeeded in fulfilling the visions for their life. Some were ministers, lawyers, doctors, nurses, business men and women that refused to live a mediocre life without purpose.

Purpose is life giving! I have heard of men and women that looked forward to retirement. They thought that living a life without having to go to work would be wonderful. They didn't realize that their job or profession was what really gave them life. Many have died

prematurely because they lost their reason to live – Purpose! Believe it or not, if you have been actively pursuing your career for years and then suddenly you are living a life without goals, you will find yourself withering away. Your purpose for life is gone! If this is your present condition, you should realign yourself with a vision for the rest of your life. It is imperative! Your latter years can be the most fulfilling of your entire life!

As strange as it may sound, I must say, there may be someone reading this message that doesn't have a purpose and doesn't feel like they need one. I have met a few people in my life that seemed content to live like an animal; eating, drinking, watching TV, existing. That is their choice. Drugs and alcohol are much to be blamed for this condition. The world's way for happiness is to use drugs or drink alcohol, not realizing that it is a depressant. Don't conform to the world's way!

I am sure you have seen people under the influence of drugs that were in a stupor. It was almost like they were in a trance, empty and lifeless. Wrong thoughts lead to wrong lifestyles which lead to wrong decisions and ultimately destroy God's purpose in lives.

Although you may not be on drugs or use alcohol, your wrong thinking can bring you to the same results. I have always believed that if you can change the way you think, you can change the way you live. Apostle Paul emphasizes this in Romans, *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* [Romans 12:2]. You can literally transform yourself by changing the way you think!

My vision, my purpose may not be the same as yours. But without it, I would surely perish!

Thank God, I have a vision! I want to share it with you. I have a vision of a glorious church without spot or wrinkle. I have a vision of a church full of the Holy Ghost doing exploits in these last days. I have a vision of a blessed church! Blessed in the country and blessed in the city! I have a vision of a church turning the world upside down with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I can see the sick healed, demons cast out, the lame walking, the blind seeing and the deaf hearing! I see the dead brought back to life, and precious souls on every continent saved through the Power of Jesus Name. I see the devil and all his legions of demons under the feet of God's people! I have a vision!

This is the year of change! This is your year to step out in faith and do what God has called you to do. The Word of the Lord has come to many confirming what God is about to do. I believe great things are in store for America and the world! There is a great harvest of souls to be won for Christ.

Think about it! What are you going to do with the rest of your life? I don't know about you, but personally I have wasted more years in my past than what I have left! I don't want to waste any more! I have a vision! I'm going to win souls! I'm going to baptize some souls this year! This is going to be a great year! I have a vision! Our home church services and revivals are going to be awesome! Our foreign mission outreach will be abundantly blessed and our orphanage in Haiti will be completed. I have a vision! We are going to be abundantly blessed spiritually, emotionally, materially and financially. Our health is going to be much prospered this year and I believe that God is going to renew our youth!

Yes, the vision is before us and now it is time to put some legs on our vision. We have already begun stepping out in faith! In Joshua chapter three the priests bearing

the Ark of the Covenant were told by Joshua to just stand still when they came to the brink of the water of Jordan. *"As soon as the soles of the feet of the priests shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above, and they shall stand upon a heap."* It came to pass that way! As soon as their feet touched the river Jordan, the waters parted and they walked across the river on dry land. I believe you must take that first step! It's not going to happen until you step out by faith! It's your time to move! Behold your vision, fulfill your purpose. How long are you going to wait? Decree your vision! Speak it! This is my year for change!

God drove out all of Israel's enemies! The New Testament says we have a better covenant, with better promises. Praise God, if God did it for them, He most certainly will do it for us. When you take that step of faith, I believe your enemies will fall before you. God will go before you and clear the way for you.

The Bible tells us, *"Without faith, it is impossible to please Him."* Faith doesn't work unless you put it into action! James said, *"Faith without works is dead being alone."* *"Show me your faith by your works!"*

Thank God for a vision, but a vision is useless unless you fulfill the mission of the vision. Take that step! That's what God is looking for!

The Apostle Paul was a man of vision that fulfilled the mission of God in his life. However, the mission that was before him was not without resistance. *"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries"* [1Corinthians 16:9). You will also have many adversaries! It seems evil is always present when you seek to do good. Our adversaries are many, but God has promised us power over all the power of the enemy.

We may be hindered at times, but we will never be defeated. We will fulfill the vision given to us.

" behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name" [Revelation 3:8]. I believe God has set before our generation an open door. Behind that open door are many souls crying out for deliverance.

Although there will be many adversaries to hinder you. (The devil works in numerous ways). These adversaries cannot shut the door God has opened for you. The door is open, but you must enter in. Get a fighting spirit! Fight the good fight of faith for whatever God is giving you a vision for.

My friends, if you have a vision, you will have a mission. Our vision drives us every day. Often times during the night we lay awake praying and meditating on our vision. I hope this article will awaken you to the vision God has for you. We have been partners together with many of you for a very long time now. Some of you have received our articles and recorded messages for thirty years now. The vision I had back then is still bright in my heart and I am more excited than ever.

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" [Matthew 9:37-38]. I believe Jesus is speaking to His disciples in the end time and He is saying the same thing, "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few". There is a harvest to gather! I hope you catch this vision and help fulfill the mission. Souls are at stake!

Well, I have shared with you some of my vision. I hope each of you will allow a fresh vision to embrace your heart and give you purpose. It's never too late! You are never too old. If you can see it – you can have it!

Canvas Nights

The evening air is warm. The late summer breeze carries the smells of fresh-cut grass, saw shavings of wood, and the slightly musty smell of the canvas tent that stretches across the normally vacant roadside lot. As the sun gets ready to set, automobiles begin arriving and being parked in rows in front of the brightly-illuminated, blue and white tent with curtains rolled up in the front welcoming all that approach to enter.

Men, women, and children carrying Bibles and blankets (for the little ones) file quietly under the large, airy tent and find their way down the grassy aisles sprinkled with the saw shavings and along the wood or metal folding chairs past people fanning themselves with handheld fans (both because of the heat and to keep away flying insects). There is an air of excitement and anticipation mixed with a respectful reverence which to some might seem unusual for this setting on what was usually an empty, overgrown field beside the familiar highway traveled daily to school, work, and home. Neighbors and strangers alike smile, nod, and offer the occasional handshake of greeting.

Noticeably, along with the crickets that have started their chirping, there are many voices speaking at once, some loud, some low and yet fervent; however, they aren't directed to each other in conversations about the weather or the latest sport's victory or defeat. With some sitting, some kneeling on the ground at their chairs or along the wooden altars at the front of the platform (which is centered along the back of the tent facing those gathered for this occasion), their voices rise together in a symphony of earnest supplication and praise to the One being invited to fill this makeshift temple with curtains flapping in the wind, as in

the days of Moses, with His presence, His glory, and with needed salvation and healing.

As the almost electric expectancy begins to build, music begins to reverberate through the night air and beyond the tent, with songs such as "What a Might God we Serve"; "Oh, How I love Jesus"; and "There is Room at the Cross for You". Voices, along with arms, are raised in song and worship. Testimonies of God's goodness, along with words of encouragement and exhortation, are interspersed between the songs of praise lifting those seeking the spiritual above the carnal to new heights of joy and peace.

As the preacher approaches the cross-shaped pulpit and opens his Bible, the music comes to a quiet end, banners stretched along the back of the platform softly flutter behind him proclaiming in bright red letters that read "Jesus Christ, is the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever", and the diverse congregation looks on in respect and readiness for the special message this man of God will be delivering. Some, here and there under the big top, still can't help but continue to utter a worshipful, "praise be to God" and "thank you, Jesus", lingering from the worship service. The preacher delivers his message with conviction and authority but at the same time with compassion and love, much like those delivered by the Lord that called him.

The spoken, Spirit-inspired words strike to the heart of individuals across the aisles and as the preacher asks for those desiring a closer walk with Jesus, those seeking forgiveness with true repentance, and those desiring some type of healing to come forward, another song of quiet supplication begins to again drift through the night air and into Heaven. Now has come the time in the revival service for many to find the deliverance they have sought and for

which prayers have been offered on their behalf for some time before the revival meeting even came to town. Tears flow down the smiling faces of those experiencing for the first time the feeling of freedom from the chains of sin, sickness, and fear! Some even rush to the metal watering trough, freshly-painted white and filled with water, so that they might be baptized, publicly baring witness of their resurrection in the newness of life made possible by the sacrifice of God's only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ! A building crescendo of joyful praises almost lifts the tent from its poles and stakes as life-altering events are witnessed from one side to the other of this tabernacle raised in hope on a vacant lot in the middle of a town desperately needing this night of divine visitation.

Thus are the memories of someone that remembers these "canvas nights" vividly and with sincere fondness. Such nights under a canvas or vinyl tent are not so common these days, most tents seen today are promoting "fireworks" of a completely different sort. I can only hope, pray, and believe that if you have not already experienced such a heavenly meeting with God in the night air under a tent, that one day you will.



Written by: Brother Hayes' Daughter Karen (Hayes) Warren

Two secret churches in North Korea show how powerful the Bible really is

By: [Rachel Godwin | Fox News](#)

In the early morning light, a small group of North Korean believers meets on the riverbank, lugging their fishing gear with them.

Quietly, they load into a small boat and push off from land. It's not until they're far into the middle of the river that they dare to dig through their gear and pull out their Bibles.

This is the only place where they feel safe enough to worship together and study God's Word. And even then, they are constantly on alert.

If they are caught reading the Bible, they could immediately be sentenced to 15 years in a labor camp – or worse. They've heard the stories of what happens to people who are heard speaking the name of Jesus. Many of them have family members and friends who are living in the camps now - or have been buried there.

That's why when another boat approaches, they panic and scramble to hide their Bibles. "It's the police!" someone shouts.

Only after the man in the boat greets them in the name of Jesus and tells them he has a gift for them do they start to calm down. He asks to see their Bibles, and the believers who own one hand them to him.

There are only a few Bibles among the church members – not nearly enough for everyone. And each copy is practically falling apart. After years of being carefully studied and then hidden over and over again, the bindings have come loose and pages are beginning to slip out. Many of the Bibles have water damage from these early morning meetings on the boat. But they are still these Christians' prized possessions . . . they risk their lives for these Bibles.

So when the stranger pulls out a box of new Bibles provided by generous donors, there is an immediate celebration on the boat. The believers clutch God's Word to their chests and many of the people who had not had one previously break down into tears. To them, a new Bible is the greatest gift they could receive.

There are still countless believers across this dark nation who are desperate for Bibles. Some people have never even seen a copy of the Scriptures in their life - but they know they would do anything to get their hands on one.

After the man delivered the new Bibles to the secret church on the river, he took the damaged copies back to the hotel where he was staying and hid them. But soon afterward, they disappeared.

He later discovered the janitor had found the Bibles. Instead of reporting them, he took them. It turns out that he was a Christian himself, and his tiny house church of four people had been praying for Bibles.

He praised God for the Bibles – even as damaged and falling apart as they were – because he and his friends could finally study God's Word for themselves. That's how

desperate North Korean Christians are for copies of Scripture!

The story above is true. We heard it from our partners – defectors among them – who help us smuggle Bibles into North Korea. They also told us the No. 1 request from the church in North Korea was getting more Bibles. So, a year ago we set the goal of sending 100,000 Bibles to North Korea. It was both a daunting and ambitious goal, but we knew these Christians are longing for a chance to have a Bible, despite the risks.

A year later, we are not far from reaching our goal. With the help of generous supporters more Christians in North Korea now have access to a Bible of their own.

November 4, is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Christians in America and across the world will dedicate time in their services and personally to pray for those who are suffering persecution because of their faith. I hope you will join us in praying for these brave men and women.

Rachel Godwin writes for World Help, a Christian humanitarian organization serving the physical and spiritual needs of people in impoverished communities around the world.

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