**VISION 2024** – R. Giglio 12-31-23

2024 is the fifth year of the 2020’s, that means it is the 25th year, the quarter-century mark of the new millennium.

What do you think about the words “two-thousand-twenty-four?”

Does it delight you, energize you, frustrate you, scare you?

Do you feel that you’ve fulfilled your calling, and completed your purposes of life up to now?

How do you feel stepping into a new year of life?

* Are you excited to see what God has in store for you?
* Do you know your purpose / gifts?
* Do you believe that God has a plan for you in what you do and what you accomplish?, or do you believe that we just arbitrarily pass through life with no real purpose?
* WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE?

VISION?

I believe that VISION is directly connected to your purpose and destiny, and carried out through your gifts and calling.

Christian Cliché: *“God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life”.* IT’S TRUE! If we wholeheartedly believed this, we would not have nearly the number of problems we have.

\*GOD LOVES YOU - "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness" (Jeremiah 31:3)

\*HE HAS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE - “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

As often as we’ve heard this, we sometimes have a hard time envisioning this truth…

When don’t fully understand that “God loves us, and has a wonderful plan for our life”, we can easily get dissolution, disenchanted and even depressed.

*Max Lucado – (when visiting my church in Nashville) said this: “The Happiest people are those that do Most, what they do Best!”*

“What you do best” is what God has gifted you with.

The special way He has wired and equipped you, that’s likely different from most of those around you. You probably have some extraordinary passion, ability, or skill that when you operate in it, it gives you deep satisfaction, which results in *happiness* and *contentment*.

The Lord delights in seeing you thrive in calling He has given you, and it pleases Him to see you do well and enjoy His purposes for you in this life. He often gives you glimpses of your destiny and calling as you seek Him, and affirms that calling with fulfillment and satisfaction as you serve Him the way you were created to serve.

*Sadly, many never experience this…*

All of this is a result of LACK OF VISION:

If you lack Vision,… you will lack Joy, (“the joy of the Lord is our strength”- Neh. 8:10)

If You lack Vision, …you lack HOPE – “Hope deferred makes the heart sick” Prov. 13:12

 The Bible explains it this way:

Proverbs 29:18 (King James Version)

**“Where there is no vision, the people perish”**

**What is VISION?**

Webster –“ a manifestation to the senses, of something immaterial”

Theological definition: “A SUPERNATURAL GLIMPSE OF YOUR DIVINE DESTINY, YOUR CALL TO A DIVINE PURPOSE”

You probably had vision for many of the important thongs ion your life and may not have even know it; (your marriage, your children, your job, your ministry…)

The goal for a fulfilled life is to discover HIS purposes and carry out HIS plan. You won’t know it all at once, it will usually be given to you in bits and “glimpses” of VISION.

**PSALMS 16:11**“You will show me the path of life;
         In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;
         At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.”

Many people never seek this or experience this and suffer greatly as a result.

Remember: **Prov 29:18“Where there is no vision, the people perish”.**

**God wants to give you a GLIMPSE (not full detail) of vision for what your life would look like if you were fully walking in your calling.**

***My Experience:*** *16-years-old, in a rebellious season. Dressed up as a rock-star walking down the highway to town to get involved with whatever my unsaved friends were doing on a summer night, the BAM I got an incredible glimpse of an amazing moment where I was powerfully being used by God to draw many many people into His presence through music and speaking, then I sensed a clear message saying “give your whole heart to me now, or you will forfeit all the plans that I have for you”*

Each time I have been used by the Lord in significant ways, it always began with God giving me “vision”, a glimpse of what it would look like when it was fully established. *(example: all three church plants or replants, music ministry, writing a book, etc.).*

**Question:** Can you name the bestselling nonfiction hardback book in history besides the Bible?

**ANSWER:** THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE - by Rick Warren (2002).

Do you know why?

Most people are desperately seeking their purpose in life. They are completely unfulfilled and are longing for answers as to why we are here and what is it all about. They walk in deep depression and fear when they think that their life is meaningless.

Your LIFE, your FAMILY, your JOB, your MINISTRY, even your GIFTS are all unfulfilling without a sense of vision and purpose.

**Romans 8:28 “**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.”

**“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who:**

**(1)love him, AND (2) whohave been called according to his purpose.”**

This verse is often only quoted partially, which does not reveal its full intent.

Example:

“all things work together for good…” (not necessarily)

“all things work together for good for those who love God…” (not always)

It should be: “all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.”

**Important:**

**\*\*\*I have found that Purpose and Vision are directly related to our calling. The Lord has purposes for all of us, and He reveals them to us through Vision.\*\*\***

*I have Vision for this church and several other things that God has for me in 2024, and I want YOU to also.*

**QUESTION**: HOW DO YOU GET VISION?

**ANSWER:** ASK and WAIT!

1. ASK – (similar to wisdom)

**James 1:5** “If any of you lacks *wisdom*, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

1. WAIT –

**Psalm 27:13-14** *“I would have lost heart, unless I had believed
         That I would see the goodness of the LORD
         In the land of the living. 14 Wait on the LORD;
         Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart;
         Wait, I say, on the LORD!”*

How do you seek vision?

The Purpose Driven Life book begins with four simple words; *“It’s not about you”* –

It’s not about you, It’s about HIM!

Remember the Lord’s prayer: “ Your kingdom come Your will be done…” *(not mine)*

1. Vision is not merely what you think is a *good idea*, or a *premonition* through the *power of positive thinking*. It is a God-breathed glimpse of His will. (His ways are not our ways).
2. Vision must be unselfish. Not a scheme to get rich or more popular. In fact the more you are willing to put aside your own ambitions, the clearer God’s will becomes.

**John 3:30“**He must increase, but I must decrease.”

1. Vision will always bring Him glory and not usually be congruent with a self-seeking agenda.

(Very different than a *prosperity scheme* or *marketing plan*.)

How to begin to seek vision…

Clear The Decks – Clean the slate:

Many of us are blinded or discouraged by heartsickness and disappointment. Remember: “Hope deferred makes the heart sick”.

**Isaiah 43:18-19** “ Do not remember the former things,
      Nor consider the things of old.
       19 Behold, I will do a new thing,
      Now it shall spring forth;
      Shall you not know it?
      I will even make a road in the wilderness
      *And* rivers in the desert.”

TRUST IN GOD IN SPITE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES:

**Habakkuk 2:1-3**

 1 “I will stand my watch
      And set myself on the rampart,
      And watch to see what He will say to me,
      And what I will answer when I am corrected.

2 Then the LORD answered me and said:
      “ Write the vision
      And make *it* plain on tablets,
      That he may run who reads it.
       3 For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time;
      But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.
      Though it tarries, wait for it;
      Because it will surely come,”

**Habakkuk 2:1-3** (The Message)

 1 “What's God going to say to my questions? I'm braced for the worst. I'll climb to the lookout tower and scan the horizon.
I'll wait to see what God says,
   how he'll answer my complaint.

 2-3And then God answered: "Write this.
   Write what you see.
Write it out in big block letters
   so that it can be read on the run.
This vision-message is a witness
   pointing to what's coming.
It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait!
   And it doesn't lie.
If it seems slow in coming, **wait.**
   It's on its way. It will come right on time.”

**Understand that God does truly love you, and yes…He has a wonderful plan for your life, and for this brand-new year…**

**All He asks is that you;**

Trust Him,

Seek Him

And wait on Him…

BE THOU MY VISION

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.