

**PRINCIPLES LEADERS MUST UNDERSTAND
ABOUT VISION
2 TIMOTHY 1:9-12 (KJV)**

“⁹ “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, ¹⁰ But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: ¹¹ Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. ¹² For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

INTRODUCTION

- Your vision (*chazon*) is God’s will and purpose for you – your life-assignment.”
- Your commitment to fulfill your vision is your surrender to God’s will for your life.
- It is bigger than a church, business, or career — it is what God ordained for you before the foundation of the world.

PROPOSITION

- Here are key principles leaders must understand about vision.

I. YOUR VISION WILL COST YOU YOUR LIFE.

A. Mark 8:34-35 (AMP)

“And Jesus called [to Him] the throng with His disciples and said to them, If anyone intends to come after Me, let him deny himself [forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and his own interests] and take up his cross, and [joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party] follow with Me [continually, cleaving steadfastly to Me]. For whoever wants to save his [higher, spiritual, eternal] life, will lose it [the lower, natural, temporal life which is lived only on earth]; and whoever gives up his life [which is lived only on earth] for my sake and the Gospel’s will save it [his higher, spiritual life in the eternal kingdom of God].”

B. The true leader understands that God’s chazon will cost him everything.

1. When you decide to walk out your vision, be prepared to surrender everything to God.
2. It is the areas of your life you do not surrender that will hinder you from fulfilling God’s will in your life.

C. As you let go of your carnal life, He unfolds your true life in Him!

1. There are things we will never discover until we are willing to let go of major areas of our lives.

2. *Empty Hands* by Sammie Roberts

Someday Death will have his way,
and before my Lord, I will stand.
How do I meet Him, and what will I say,
if I come to Him with empty hands?

Has someone missed Heaven because of me?
Did I fail to make them understand?
Their souls in Heaven never to be,
and now I come with empty hands!!

Was I ashamed of Him and didn't tell,
the Gospel of Christ and His commands?
Will those I love be cast into Hell?
Is their blood on these empty hands?

Lord, before I come to this life's end,
help me to prepare them for Heaven's strands.
Let me attempt every soul for You to win.
God forbid, that I meet You with empty hands!!

D. Only after Elisha followed Elijah across Jordan – the place of self-emptying — could he receive his “double-portion,” his life-assignment.

II. NOT EVERYONE WILL AGREE WITH YOUR VISION.

A. Acts 21:12-13 (AMP)

“When we heard this, both we and the residents of that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul replied, ‘What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart like this? For I hold myself in readiness not only to be arrested *and* bound *and* imprisoned at Jerusalem, but also [even] to die for the name of the Lord Jesus.’”

B. Sometimes God takes us to a place others cannot or will not go.

1. Even Luke, Agabus, and other “disciples” resisted Paul’s vision.
2. The successful leader understands what is necessary for him in his assignment.
3. In times like these God does not expect us to fit in, He expects us to stand out.

4. Your vision is an original, not a copy. God will ask you to do things no one else is doing except you.

III. YOUR VISION MUST BE BIGGER THAN YOU.

A. God will never call you to do something you can do.

1. If your vision is smaller than your ability, it may be great and noble, but it is not from God!
2. Zechariah 4:6

“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

B. God is a generational God.

1. He does not expect you to fulfill your vision in your lifetime.
2. Apostles are pioneers and planters. We establish the vision.
 - Genesis 17:2, 8

² “And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

⁸ And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

C. Once your assignment, your portion of the vision is completed, you must prepare to turn over the mantle to the next generation.

1. David knew when he was finished.
 - a. He called Solomon and spoke words of wisdom and practical advice to his son.
 - b. He made sure the ministry was in good order.
 - All the bills were paid.
 - The mortgage was paid in full.
 - c. Then he “charged” his son and shared the causes of his success and failures.
2. These are necessary steps for a wise master builder.
 - a. Success without a successor is one-generational — and anything one-generational is failure!
 - b. This is where many ministries collapse and deteriorate — at transition time.
 1. If a leader refuses to turn over the baton voluntarily, he will find himself turning it over involuntarily.
 2. Here is our greatest model.
 - a. God gave Jesus the assignment of serving mankind.

b. But before His assignment was fully complete, Jesus introduced His disciples to their next leader.

c. John 14:16 — He said:

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.”

3. On the cross Jesus said: “It is finished.”

a. He meant His assignment was completed and the baton was passed to the Holy Spirit.

b. So Jesus directed them to the Upper Room and “power from on high.”

D. Be sure you find the person or entity whom God has chosen to succeed you.

1. A mistake many fathers are making today is to promote their blood relatives into places where they are not called.

2. This can be catastrophic for the legacy, the ministry, and the son.

3. Don't panic and just place your ministry to have it placed!

4. God did not just have you in mind when He birthed that vision in you.

5. God had transition in mind when He called you.

CONCLUSION