

I. VISION, defined: divine communication; a “sense of seeing” (Vines)

Proverbs 29:18:

- KJV: Where there is no vision the people perish
- NLT: When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild.
- NCV: Where there is no word from God, people are uncontrolled, but those who obey what they have been taught are happy.

II. JESUS LIVED BY VISION: He read the scripture, received God’s revealed plan for His life, and presented Isaiah 61:1-3 as His vision statement in the following passage: Lk 4:14-21 NKJV -- Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee... 15 And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. 16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

➤ YOU CAN LIVE BY VISION: Like Jesus, you can receive God’s vision for any area of your life (for the coming year or for a specific issue). Ask God to impart His vision using the following scriptural principles:

1. Pray: Ask God to “make known to you the path of life.” (Ps 16:11)
2. Receive: Spend time with God in His Word. Keep a daily and weekly record of personal words and insights He gives. (Hab 2:1-3)
3. Wait expectantly: By faith in God’s promises, wait “with hope and expectancy” for Him to address the issues you bring to Him. (Mic 7:7)

III. WRITE A VISION STATEMENT:

1. Review the items listed below to help you generate a preliminary list of target truths for your vision statement. Prayerfully consider each item on this list, asking God for further insight and confirmation:
 - a. Verses from your quiet times and themes you have identified
 - b. One Thing from class, Yellow Pages, class notes, sermons or books God has used
 - c. Lyrics to songs that have been significant in your journey
 - d. Mental images or real life analogies you’ve applied (ex: object, example, experience)
2. Complete your Vision Statement by compiling a document of the truths that you believe God wants to integrate into your life in the coming year.
3. Pray, asking God to make these truths your experience. Share a copy with your Leader and prayer partners so that they can pray for you, too.