

THE NEED FOR THE DEATH OF A VISION

- God said of His own people, "Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, it is a people that do err in their heart, and have not known my ways." Psalm 95:10.

When we begin to understand His ways, we see the great value in going through the Death of a Vision.

BIRTH OF A VISION	DEATH OF A VISION	FULFILLMENT OF A VISION
<p><u>FAITH</u></p> <p>"Visualizing what God intends to do in my life."</p>	<p><u>HOPE</u></p> <p>"Anticipating and expecting God to work out His revealed will in my life even when it doesn't seem possible."</p>	<p><u>LOVE</u></p> <p>"The motivation to reproduce Christ's character in others as He has done in me."</p>

A. GOD'S "BUILDING PROGRAM" DURING THE DEATH OF A VISION:

Since God is far more concerned with our becoming like Jesus Christ in character than He is with our doing good works to further His kingdom, He needs this time of "waiting" to accomplish character building.

The "vision" provides the motivation not to become discouraged. This time of "death" and character building prepares us for a greater ministry when He does fulfill the vision.

Notice the qualities that are sure to be developed during this time: Patience, in waiting God's time; Faith, in knowing what He will do; Meekness, in yielding personal rights; Self-control, in not running ahead of God, and many, many others.

B. SATAN'S "BUILDING PROGRAM" DURING THE DEATH OF A VISION:

Satan's purpose is to destroy God's work in our lives and also as much of the potential for achieving God's work as he can. To do this during this time he comes as an "angel of light" to deceive as many as possible. II Corinthians 11:14.

He prompts us to try in our own energy and wisdom to fulfill the original vision. He doesn't want us to learn God's qualities, and whenever we follow his leading - conflict results.

A classic example is Abraham trying to fulfill God's promise of a great nation by having a son by Hagar. Conflict has resulted ever since between their descendants.

Gen 16:1-4

- Argument 1: Often times knowing the future would paralyze us; could stop us from doing God's will.
- Argument 2: When we concern ourselves with future focus of God's will, often we forget about daily obedience
- Argument 3: Lack of faith and trust daily
- Argument 4: Stunt growth of sanctified intelligent decision making
- Argument 5: Miss out on many things God can teach us (God can teach us many things at once)
- this view of just listening to God on a daily basis makes us less anxious

C. What kind of mindset do we need to hear God?

Open, Ready, and Expecting

- We need to be asking the right questions
- If this is the case, God is anxious to answer
- Be listening at all times, He speaks in unexpected ways and at unexpected times!

Reflection

- need to have quiet time and just listen
- J.I. Packard in *Knowing God* (pp 18, 19) describes meditation as "the activity of calling to mind, thinking over, dwelling on and applying to oneself the various things that one knows about the works, ways, purposes, and promises of God. It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communion with God. David's goal in meditation was to understand God's truth in order that his heart might respond to it and his life might be conformed to it."
- While meditating ask God if there is anything He wants to discuss with you.
- Let God talk to you through the Word

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