

## The Character of an Obtainer 3

### Vision

The next key for anyone looking to obtain God's best, not just in the short-term but the long-term, is to have a clear, sharp vision of God's calling for their life.

#### Proverbs 29:18

- There are two words of great importance for believers in this verse
  - o The first is vision, which means "*prophetic revelation*"
    - We cannot have a casual or vague understanding of what God wants for our lives, but it must be revelation knowledge to our spirits if we are to truly run with it
    - We will never have an enduring passion to see our vision fulfilled if we do not have *a distinct picture* of what we are running toward; our faith has nothing to aim itself at or give substance to
    - The clearer that picture becomes in our spirit and mind, the more capable we become in targeting our faith at the vision, infusing us with more desire to run toward that mark and obtain the prize
  - o The second is perish; the New Kings James interprets perish as "*to cast off restraint*"
    - When we do not have received prophetic revelation of God's will for our lives, we have no restraints on our lives; we simply allow anything, rather than the Lord, to dictate our daily lives
    - Having no perimeters for our lives makes it easier to become unfocused with vague ambitions
    - This not only enables the devil to hinder God's plan, but *can cause us to fall behind the Lord*; He then has to wait on us to catch up to Him
    - This is why believers are often frustrated or wondering why things aren't happening like they should

- However, the Amplified tells us that when we follow God's vision for our lives: we become *happy, fortunate and enviable*
  - When we diligently follow God's vision for our lives, it blesses us to the point that the world looks at our prosperity and becomes enviable to all we have
  - The body of Christ should never be the ones envying the world, but just the opposite: the world should be desirous of our lives, seeing the peace, joy and prosperity that results from God's vision in us
- However, one of the greatest reasons believers do not reach their full potential in Christ is because *they have not sought God* to obtain revelation of God's vision for their own lives
  - Vision is something that must be sought for; it does not just haphazardly fall into your lap, but is only gotten by diligently seeking God
  - Neither can we come up with our own vision and expect God to bless it; we are not the author of our lives and should never try to be
- God has known every believer from before the foundation of the world and has sanctified us to do specific assignments for His glory
  - Galatians 1:15 - Paul sanctified to preach to the Gentiles
  - Isaiah 49:1 – Isaiah called to bring Israel back to God
  - Jeremiah 1:5 – Jeremiah ordained as a prophet to the nations
- *Ephesians 1:4* furthers this point by telling us that God has chosen us in Christ from the foundation of the world
  - God has both known us and has chosen us individually
  - We have not only been chosen in him for salvation, but He designed us as unique vessels to shine the gospel
  - We are not to be like anyone else; we must obtain God's vision for our lives because *if we try to be like someone else, we are essentially saying that we are not satisfied with who God created us to be*
  - Any believer will only experience their fullest satisfaction in life when they understand who they are in Christ and what they have been designed to do

Before believers have God's vision revealed to them, every believer needs to thoroughly understand *what they have been redeemed for*

### Matthew 5:13-16

- We were not only redeemed to have relationship with God, but also to be a witness to the world
- These verses describe believers as two important things: *salt and light*
  - The reason we are called the salt of the world is that we are to make people spiritually thirsty for relationship with God
    - The function of salt is to make the mouth dry and cause people to become parched
    - We must live our lives in such a way that people are drawn to Christ just as dehydrated people are drawn to water
    - When people are dehydrated and water is found, people will push others out of the way in order to get the water
    - This same tenacity should be seen in the world when they see the lives of believers, when they hear their words and see their actions
    - If people can't notice a difference in our lives, they will turn their face from us and keep looking for something or someone else to satisfy them
    - This requires that *believers stay salty*; the more feed on the Word and stay passionate for Christ, the more salt we have, making us more and more influential among those in the world
  - The next way Jesus describes believers is *light*
    - Once we have made those around us thirsty, they will allow the light that is in us to shine into their hearts
    - The reason our light must shine brightly is found in *2 Corinthians 4:4*; because of man's spiritually dead state, their minds have been blinded to the gospel and must have its light shined into their hearts
    - When they see the light, the darkness that has surrounded them is dispelled and they clearly see that Jesus is the only way to salvation

- But believers must understand that our light only *shines when we choose to let it shine*; we cannot try to hide the light in us and expect others to be drawn to Jesus
  - We must be just as Jesus said: *a light set upon a hill that everyone can see*; when they see us, the light of God should be shining so brightly they cannot question God's power and love
  - This comes by doing what *Romans 13:12* says: we are to *PUT ON* the armor of light in order for our light to shine;
  - This means we are to be "*clothed in*" light, just as we would put on a shirt in the morning
  - When we do, the light will illuminate our good works among them; they will turn and glorify God

Once a believer understands that all believers are to be a light to the world, this is when we must seek the Lord for His vision concerning our lives; *this reveals how He plans to let His light shine through us*

### **Ephesians 2:8-10**

- This passage states the very foundation of the gospel message – that through the grace of God, we have been redeemed from sin and given new life through Christ
  - Nothing comes before this and nothing can be of more value than having our old nature removed and being made new creations in Jesus
  - This must be firmly engrafted into our inner man before we can even begin pursuing what God has planned for our lives
  - This truth is what gives us the ability to even be qualified to take hold of God's plan
- However, we can see that this passage does not stop at being saved by grace through faith; it does not say that we have been saved and that nothing comes after that
  - *This is one of the most common mistakes many in the body of Christ have made*; they assume that being a Christian means accepting Christ as Savior and then holding out until they get to heaven
  - Too often they get saved and then *put the focus on their lives rather than going beyond that to seeking God's plan for their lives*

- Every believer must go beyond verse 8 to having a revelation of verse 10
  - o Once we have been saved by grace, we must realize that God did not save us and then leave us alone
  - o We see here that we are God's workmanship created *in Christ* to do the works He preordained for each of His children
    - Because we are created in Christ, we must also understand that *even when we obtain the knowledge of God's assignments, we cannot set out to accomplish them in our own strength*
    - These are works that can only be done through abiding in the Anointed One and His anointing
    - No believer can find out what they are to do and then *sprint ahead of the Lord without obtaining His anointing to do them*
  
- These works are not general works for the Body, *but specific works that the individual must find out*
  - o We are God's handiwork, just as a potter would put clay on a table and begin shaping it into the image he desired
  - o God has shaped each of His children into a certain image through Christ so they could do works and reach people that only they were called to do
  - o This truth opens the eyes of our understanding that *everyone in the Body is important; no one part is more important than the other*
  - o Having this revelation motivates us to seek God's vision and be eager to do it because we see ourselves as important to the success of God's Kingdom
  - o We believe that we are uniquely shaped by God, showing us that God took time to put everything else aside and focus on us alone, deciding what He desired for our lives
  - o When we know this, we will seek God eagerly until that vision is revealed to our hearts

After understanding the process of redemption, having the foundation laid that we are God's workmanship with specific works for us to do, we must then take the next step: *seeking God to obtain the specific assignment we have been given*

## Habakkuk 2:2

- The first step to running with the vision is to do just what Habakkuk was told: *write down the vision*
  - Writing down the vision shows us that we are to be quiet before the Lord and take the time to see His revelation of the great works He has for each of us
    - We must not think that we can just hear the vision once and then take off with it; we must sit down, meditate on it and know what it takes to accomplish it
    - Doing this shows the Lord that we do not treat His plan as ordinary, but as costly, using discretion and care to do it well
- Next, we must make sure that *when we write the vision, we make it plain*
  - At the beginning of receiving God's vision for our lives, we must write it simply and clearly
    - We must make it detailed and clear so it can be engrafted into our hearts and minds
    - If we only have a vague picture of what we are called to fulfill in the Kingdom of God, we will only achieve vague results
    - This is how we walk a clear path and run our race with faith and patience; having a clear vision will enable us to avoid confusion as well as wrong turns on our path; this empowers us to accomplish all the good works we are ordained to do

Every believer will be unsatisfied in life without discovering the Father's plan for them and putting their hands to fulfill it. Obtaining God's best cannot be done without first receiving His vision for our lives. We will not have the level of joy that He desires us to have if we are not doing the things He desires us to do. In order to obtain this vision we must know the process of redemption does not stop at salvation, but extends into clearly leading us into both doing His will and obtaining His best.

We must know that we are uniquely made to perform good works for God – works that are specific to our abilities and gifts. This shows us the degree of importance God place on our lives, motivating us to obtain the vision. We are not attempt to complete these works in our own strength, but only through the anointing that comes in Christ. Finally, after obtaining the vision, we must write it simply and clearly, enabling us to run the race with joy. And when we do this, we can skillfully run our race, obtain the prize and hear, “well done, good and faithful servant.”