

NEXT VISION

LESSON 3: FUEL

2 Kings 6:15-17

REVIEW

1. **Assignment:** You went to a new place this past week. Show us what you brought back with you.
2. Troubled minds hear things that were never said!
3. The name Gehazi means, "Valley of a Visionary."
4. The antidote for visual paralysis is **2 Corinthians 5:7**. We live by what we believe.
5. Vision cannot be taught, it must be caught.
6. Two undeniable truths – 2 Kings 6:15-17
 - a. Not everything can be measured by visible standards.
 - b. God wants us to see more than what our natural vision allows.

Today our topic is 'Fuel.' Sharing your vision with others is like pouring fuel into the engine that powers your dreams; without this element, the vehicle will remain stationary. Grab your Bible and turn with me to **2 Kings 6:15-17**. (Read Scripture)

VISION IN 3D

Productive teams understand the power of a great vision. They start with the end in mind and build upon their early successes. The components of a vision in 3D include...

1. **Destination:** A clear vision determines our destination - it defines the desired "place" we aim to reach in the future. Andy Stanley once said, *"Everybody ends up somewhere in life. A few people end up somewhere on purpose."* ^[1]

I believe that purposeful destinations are within reach for everyone, not just the exceptionally talented or fortunate ones. The key ingredient to reaching our desired destinations is having a compelling vision! It is the vision that guides us from ending up somewhere by accident to ending up somewhere with intention.

2. **Direction:** With a clear destination in mind, we can chart our course and lay out the necessary directions to get there.
3. **Duration:** Additionally, we establish a duration - a set amount of time or deadline - within which we aim to accomplish our goals.

Bill Hybels famously stated, *"Take vision away from a leader and you cut out his or her heart."* **Vision is the invisible fuel** that drives leaders, ignites the passion of followers, and creates lasting impact.

Based on the story of Elisha and Gehazi, we will consider two steps of a shared vision:

1. SEE THE VISION

Elisha lived a life defined by vision, fixating on God's boundless possibilities instead of human limitations. With God leading the way, he was unfazed by his surroundings. Just like Moses, who fearlessly left Egypt and focused on ***"Him who is invisible,"*** people with vision can see beyond the ordinary.

It's inspiring how Eugene Peterson's translation affirms Moses' steadfastness: ***"He had his eye on the One no eye can see and kept right on going."*** Elisha demonstrated this principle as well, fixing his gaze on the ***"Him who is invisible,"*** he saw beyond the ordinary and confidently declared, ***"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."***

To believe in the impossible, we must first recognize the invisible. Elisha sees ***"chariots of fire"*** beyond the realm of the physical.

He stands alone in his vision. No other characters in the story can see the chariots of fire. No member of the massive Syrian army, not even Gehazi, can see what Elisha sees!

Your vision might require you to **stand alone**, at least for a minute. This reality should not weaken your resolve. Others will not see what you see right away. Be patient but stay focused. It's important to note that our ability to perceive things is not based on personal merit; it is through God's empowering grace that we can see.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Is it possible to **imagine** a future for our church where God favors us and we grow? Under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, Paul prophesied to the church, ***"[God] is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond what we can imagine."***

The word imagine means to 'form a mental image of' (something not actually present to the senses). In other words, you can see it even though it's not there.

Jake Schmelzer said it like this ... *"Most people don't have the ability to see what doesn't exist. Over 60% of the population are "present" thinkers. In other words, they think in the moment and have*

trouble thinking ahead. That's why leaders exist! To paint the picture of a preferred future. To lead people from here to there."

Today I will strive to help you develop a mental image of new possibilities. We view the world through the lens of our own experience and perceptions. We regularly interpret the information we receive, and we each choose different ways to respond to it. The writer **Anais Nin** was right when she said, *"We do not see things as they are. We see things as we are."* In effect, often we see only what we choose to see.

By recognizing the invisible, nurturing personal growth, and aligning our visions with our greater purpose, we can make a lasting difference in the world. God reveals these insights to us through thoughts or in the form of visual images.

God told Abram in **Genesis 15**, to **"Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them."** That vision planted the seed for Abram's future. God told Abram to **LOOK**. Get a picture in your mind.

Take inspiration from other visionaries, like Caleb, Joshua, Aaron, and Moses. They could **see** the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. It was the place God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They could envision the people of Israel inhabiting that land. This was their positive picture of a preferred future.

By nurturing that vision, they eventually achieved victory. Their dream became a reality, and **the possibility became the possession**. Empowered by God's vision, they conquered! The journey towards a purposeful destination begins with a compelling vision.

Because his vision was underdeveloped, Gehazi saw **ONLY** what was happening in the natural order. Those with a Gehazi condition tend to look at what 'is' without considering what 'could be.' I am asking God for an Elisha anointing to explode at LifePoint. Focus for a moment on what can be rather than what is. **What do you see?**

I want you to see the vision because **SEEING IS BELIEVING**. It is my prayer that you look beyond what "is" and consider what "could be." I am asking you to imagine with me what "could be" at LifePointe Church!

Imagine a church that is bold and innovative and will do whatever it takes to reach our community for Christ. **Imagine seeing** hundreds of people and hundreds of teenagers coming to Jesus and getting baptized.

Imagine a church that is fun for the entire family, a church where kids want to go - because they are having the time of their lives experiencing God's love. **Imagine a church** that builds successful families and helps to rebuild families that are hurt, splintered, or broken.

Imagine a church where the people are authentically happy, and smiling, and laughing together. **Imagine a church** where people support, encourage, and empower one another. **Imagine a church** where people are encouraged to worship God calmly or enthusiastically.

Imagine a church that helps every member find their ministry and lets them use their gifts and abilities to meet other's needs. **Imagine a church** where people can cultivate their faith and deepen their spiritual roots through increased Biblical knowledge.

Imagine a church that equips people for ministry work and embraces the five-fold ministry of Pastors, teachers, evangelists, prophets, and apostles. **Imagine a church** that plants churches and supports global missions with incredible generosity. **Imagine a church** that prays fervently, anoints the sick, and believes for miracles.

Imagine a church that is active, and vibrant, and growing, and expanding. **Imagine a church** who forms an army of love and compassion serving and meeting the needs of people in our church, community, and world.

Imagine a church that is beautifully landscaped with manicured ball fields, safe walking paths, beautiful trees, clean facilities, and a new family life center.

Imagine a church that raises up the Gospel of hope and uses technology to share Christ with over 100 million people in the US and around the world.

What does it take to have a church like this? In one word ... **partnership!** Bishop Mitch Corder said, "Partnership is the currency of the Kingdom."

FIRST, WE PARTNER WITH GOD

The "**Him**" in ***Ephesians 3:20*** is God, and He "***is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or IMAGINE...***"

Praying in faith and professing God's Word is how we partner with God. It involves finding scriptures that are relevant to your life and speaking them out loud.

- Take control of your finances, family, and church by speaking life over them.
- Stop describing your circumstances! Instead, speak God's Word over your situation.
- Take in God's living, breathing, active Word so that your mind has a firm foundation!

Make a list of the verses and phrases that you will proclaim today that will persuade your heart that God's promises are true for you.

SECOND, WE PARTNER WITH EACH OTHER

Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Phillipi and commended said something profound, ***"you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now."*** *Philippians 1:5 NLT*

To bring this vision to life I need your **partnership**! I need you to see what I see, and I need you to believe what I believe ... because I can't do it without you! When Nehemiah shared his vision to rebuild the walls, the people gave of their time, talent, and treasure. They believed in the vision enough to go all in. The Bible says that ***the people had a mind to work***. Together we can achieve everything we've imagined!

Can you see it? I can see it. If you are having trouble looking past what "is" to see what "can be," then I will see it for you until you can see it yourself. That's what Elisha did for his servant Gehazi. Gehazi could not see it until Elisha prayed for him. That's what I'm doing. I'm praying for an Elisha anointing. I'm asking the Lord to allow us to see everything he wants us to see.

The truth is, there's more to life than meets the eye. Beyond the natural is the supernatural ... a dimension of the spirit that is far more real than what you can see. You can have perfect 20/20 vision in the natural but be totally blind in the spirit. A pair of glasses alters the way you see. I am asking God to give you a new set of lenses that will alter the way you see! I want you to see the way God sees.

THE STORY OF EUGENE LANG

Eugene Lang, a man born into poverty and raised by an unemployed machinist, defied the odds to become a successful businessman. However, his life changed forever in 1963 when he heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver his iconic "I Have A Dream" speech during the march on Washington. Driven by King's vision of a united America, Lang embarked on a mission to empower others. ^[2]

Fast forward to 1981, where Lang found himself giving a commencement speech at his old high school, P. S. 121, situated in the vibrant Harlem section of New York City. Reflecting on Dr. King's powerful vision, Lang challenged each student to dream big and reach for their goals. For him personally, education was the key to overcoming poverty. Driven by this belief, Lang made a remarkable pledge: any student graduating from P.S. 121 and being accepted into college would receive a full scholarship funded by him.

News of the scholarships spread like wildfire, prompting the school to implement supportive systems for its students. In a short span of time, this once struggling inner-city high school, with a graduation rate hovering around 25%, transformed into a success story, boasting a remarkable 92% graduation rate.

This transformation was made possible by Lang's unwavering commitment to his vision. Today, he continues to inspire and bring hope as he operates the "I Have A Dream" Foundation, alongside a college in New York City that proudly bears his name.

A vision must be specific because it is the compass that guides us towards our goals. ^[3] There's a significant distinction between merely desiring growth and setting a precise goal, such as increasing our membership by 30% before December 31, 2025.

2. SHARE THE VISION

After seeing the vision, the Bible tells us that Elisha prayed for his servant ... that his eyes would be opened ... and then it happened. ***"When he (Gehazi) looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire." 2 Kings 6:17b***

As a result, Elisha was no longer alone. Gehazi saw the vision that shared with him. Elisha's efforts didn't end there, however. His visions continue to be shared throughout this story. He shared them with Gehazi, the King of Israel, and finally revealed his vision for future peace with everyone.

Vision is unique; it isn't until you share and articulate it that others can begin to catch a glimpse of what you see. The more passionately and clearly you describe it, the clearer the image becomes to everyone, including yourself. In a short amount of time, others will see what you see and align with your vision, even if they don't immediately agree with it.

MODELING VERSES TRAINING

A friend visited our church while in town. I had just completed greeter training a few weeks before he visited, so I was eager to hear his feedback at lunch. What was the greeting like for you?", I asked. In response, he asked, "Do you want the truth?" According to him, Walmart greets people more courteously than our church. My experience taught me the difference between training and modeling. Modeling is essential to effectively transferring our vision.

Illustration: Create a 'model' for students to recreate using various items (drinking glasses, golf balls, golf tees, etc.). Ensure the model is hidden in a different room. You should divide your students into several groups. Give each group the exact same items you used to build the model. Ask them to recreate the vision you have in your head using the items you have placed before them. Something will be made as they proceed, but it won't be like the model. Request that one member from each group examine the original model after the project is completed. The person will return with instructions on how the model should look. Since the vision has been modeled, every group can recreate the original item.

Habakkuk encouraged us to ***“Write down this vision. Write it clearly on tablets, so that anyone who reads it may run.” (Habakkuk 2:2 VOICE)***

Shared vision is your path to partnership. By embracing our vision and sharing it with others, we create a ripple effect that inspires and empowers those around us. When you share your vision, you invite others to join in its realization. Embrace the power of sharing and watch as your vision becomes a remarkable reality.

Jesus painted a picture for the future. ***“You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*** That's a bold, ambitious plan. Jesus himself had never traveled more than 90 miles from his birthplace, yet he successfully transferred an ***“ends of the earth”*** vision to his disciples. He not only shared his vision. He modeled it.

As a result of my lunch experience, I knew I needed to schedule a second meeting with our greeters ... but this time the meeting took place in the foyer instead of the classroom. Through role-play, I transferred the vision in my head. It was modeled by me. I was successful this time. Taking the time to model what I saw helped our greeting team excel in their ministry.

POURING FUEL INTO THE ENGINE THAT POWERS YOUR DREAMS

Have you ever had a vision or dream that was so compelling it kept you up all night thinking about it? Have you dreamed of creating something unique and special, perhaps even changing the world in some small way? If so, then sharing your vision with others is like pouring fuel into the engine that powers your dreams; without this element, the vehicle will remain stationary.

Your vision demands to be shared! Communicate it to your spouse, your neighbors, or your spiritual leader. When you vocalize your vision, it brings it to life. We transform abstract thoughts into something tangible that resonates in the hearts and minds of those around us.

Moreover, articulating our vision opens the doors to the ingenuity and creativity of others. Together, we can achieve far more collectively than we could ever accomplish alone.

If you fail to do so, you risk missing out on your own miracle. God will find someone who is bold enough to speak up! If you cannot see the moments, you will forfeit the remarkable wonders that God intends for your own life.

Sharing has always been part of God's grand plan. He created humans with the purpose of fostering shared fellowship. As Dr. Myles Monroe said, *"We need people to make it in life."* Eve was created by God to be Adam's companion, ensuring that he had someone to share life's journey within the garden. Because, as God declared, ***"It is not good for man to be alone."***

When you begin to share your vision, you bring it out of the dungeon of obscurity and into the realm of possibility. If you keep your vision to yourself, you deny others the opportunity to offer their assistance. Perhaps God has led someone you know to fund a project for the homeless, but you didn't receive the funding because you didn't share your vision. Unfortunately, the opportunity is lost.

It's also possible that God has directed someone you know to donate their time to assist in a program for children with special needs. You have a vision to start a clinic that specializes in caring for disabled children, but you didn't get your friend's assistance because you didn't share your vision. Again, the opportunity is lost.

Missed opportunities can hold you back! Break free from obscurity and share your vision with the world. Embrace the realm of possibility. As Andy Stanley wisely said, *"People will sacrificially contribute to a vision that carries the marks of God's involvement."* When God is involved, people will rally around you!

ASSIGNMENT

Your clay project is due by next week. Size and structure matter not, let it be a creation of your own and bring it back to class with you next week.

Resource Credits

1. Vision – Amplify Discipleship Groups. <http://www.amplifygroups.com/vision/>
2. New Report Six Decades After King's Historic Speech - Hudson Valley Press.
3. The Three P's of Self-Motivation: Passion, Purpose, and Persistence - A.B. Motivation.