

**Effective leaders have the foresight and vision to inspire others to want to lead, the will to teach them to lead, and the faith and courage to allow them to lead.**

The saints of Hebrews 11 (Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Rahab, David, and others) HAD the VISION!!

Paul consistently refocused his followers (and consequently us) toward the vision!

2 Thes 2:1-11—The love of the truth (and the vision) is what will keep us from being deceived.

Phil 3:12-16—Paul encouraged the Church (and ultimately us) to PRESS toward the goal—the prize of the upward call of God—our vision.

**Developing Vision: Important Questions to Ask Yourself (Handout 1)**

1. What is my personal vision (specific goals) for my life?
2. Do I have a *plan* for achieving my goals?
3. Are my goals bigger than me and my own life? How will they benefit others?
4. How are my personal goals *preparing me* for the Kingdom of God?
5. Have I *caught* the vision of the Kingdom of God? (intellectual)
6. Have I *bought* the vision of the Kingdom of God? Do I want to be part of it? (emotional)
7. Do others sense my commitment and excitement about this vision? *Endure - Mt. 24:9-13; Sacrifice - Heb. 12:2; joy set before him, John 15:11; 17:4-5; Luke 18:29-30*

**III. Conclusion**

Leaders in God's Church are called to LEAD—to set the pace, set the example, and lead God's people to His Kingdom—the ultimate fulfillment of the vision. The vision that God provides is the most powerful motivator ever known. If this vision is REAL and ALIVE, it will motivate people to overcome what was previously viewed as insurmountable. The vision brings joy, peace, and motivation. Leaders without vision and skills will be unsuccessful in the long run.

Godly leaders possess His vision so powerfully, that they are able to share and use it to motivate others. Godly leaders possess a vision that is so *real*, that it soon becomes reality to those who follow—they adopt the vision and begin to make it their own.

"Are you willing to go through trials and tests to prepare for the reward of eternal life in the very family of God? Is it worth it? Will you try to keep your mind on the **"Big Picture"** instead of letting the "small stuff" upset you and turn you aside?"

Meredith, R. C. (Sept.-Oct. 2004). *Living Church News* (p. 19).

***Visionary leaders are constantly working to develop ways to help others "catch" the vision!***

**Optional Homework for Next Class:** (choose one assignment to complete)

- With your spouse or another Church member, talk about the meaning of character and why an effective leader must have it.
- Begin a Bible study on one or two aspects of godly character.